

Close-out Memorandum of the
Investigation Regarding
William Paulemon
February 24, 2026



State Attorney's Office
Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Miami-Dade County
September 9, 2026



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

DATE: September 8, 2026

FROM: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO
SAO CASE #62/26/02/24/003

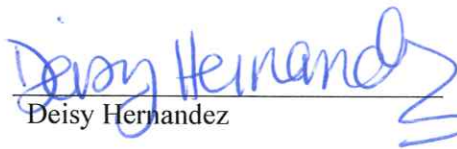
Based on the information obtained and reviewed during the investigation, the conclusion of the staffing/review team is the following:

On February 24, 2026, at about 8:00 P.M., Detective Barreto of the Miami Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) attempted to conduct a traffic stop of a black 2021 Mercedes Benz, GA tag DCF6967, at the intersection of NW 71st Street and NW 17th Avenue. The vehicle failed to stop and fled the scene at a high rate of speed. A subsequent pursuit was captured on video surveillance by an MDSO Aviation Unit helicopter. At the intersection of NW 87th Avenue and NW 17th Street, the Mercedes driver ran a red light, struck an occupied civilian vehicle, and lost control of the vehicle. Detective Barreto maneuvered around the front of the vehicle to prevent the driver from continuing to flee. William Paulemon, the driver of the Mercedes, exited the vehicle. Almost simultaneously, Detective Barreto discharged his firearm and struck Paulemon one time. Detective Barreto is heard on body worn camera stating Paulemon has a firearm. As Paulemon fell to the ground, he dropped two firearms. Crime scene collected a black Smith & Wesson .40 caliber handgun with a live cartridge in the chamber and a magazine with fourteen live cartridges, and a black Glock 23 .40 caliber handgun with a live cartridge in the chamber and the magazine with seven live cartridges. Paulemon was transported to the hospital and successfully treated for a non-life-threatening wound to the buttocks.

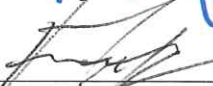
Pursuant to F.S. 776.05 and 776.012, and a review of the facts, evidence, and law in this investigation, we find that the deadly force used by Detective Marlon Barreto 30-10243 of the Miami Dade Sheriff's Office in discharging his weapon was legally justified.

The members of the staffing/review team for this case are:

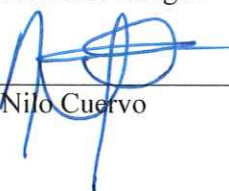

Jose Arrojo

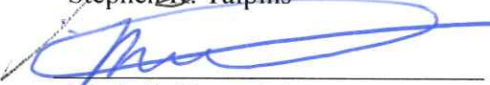

Deisy Hernandez


Kathleen Hoague

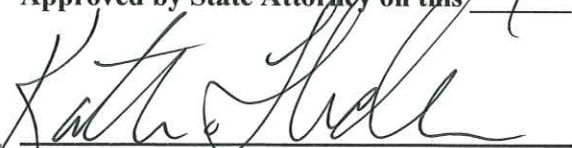

Stephen K. Talpins


Howard Rosen


Nilo Cuervo


Marie Jo Toussaint

Approved by State Attorney on this 9 day of Sept, 2026.


KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

FROM: NATALIE SNYDER
ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

SONALI DESAI
ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO

SAO Case # 62/26/02/24/003

OFFICERS INVOLVED:	DEPUTY MARLON BARRETO, ID # 030-10243 MIAMI DADE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INJURED:	WILLIAM PAULEMON
DATE & TIME:	FEBRUARY 24, 2026 at 08:04 P.M.
LOCATION:	NW 17 AVENUE AND 87 STREET (ROADWAY)
WEAPONS:	BLACK GLOCK 47, SN: CEUX098 (DEPUTY BARRETO) BLACK GLOCK 23, SN: VMN282 (PAULEMON) BLACK SMITH & WESSON, SN: FBP3388 (PAULEMON)
LEAD/REPORTS:	FDLE AGENT RICARDO MARTINEZ / RECEIVED 6/2/26
F.D.L.E. CASE #:	M1-27-0318
SAO CASE #:	62/26/02/24/003

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND EVIDENCE

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at approximately 20:04 hours, a police officer involved shooting occurred on the roadway near Northwest 17th Avenue and 87th Street. The incident occurred after Deputy Barreto attempted to conduct a traffic stop of a black 2021 Mercedes Benz, GA tag DCF6967, at the intersection of NW 71 St. and NW 17 Ave. in Miami, Florida. Deputy Barreto was driving an unmarked vehicle. The Mercedes failed to stop and fled from Deputy Barreto. The subsequent pursuit was captured by MDSO Aviation Unit's cameras. At the intersection of NW 17 Ave and NW 87 St. the black Mercedes Benz struck a civilian vehicle. The black Mercedes lost control and continued north on NW 17 Ave. and came to a stop at the incident location, where Deputy Barreto maneuvered his police vehicle around the front of the black Mercedes to prevent the driver from fleeing further. Deputy Barreto's vehicle came to a stop parallel to the black Mercedes, and his driver's side door was approximately 6 feet away from the driver's side door of the black Mercedes. Paulemon, the driver of the black Mercedes, then exited the vehicle. Almost simultaneously, Deputy Barreto discharged his firearm and struck Paulemon one time. Deputy Barreto is heard on body worn camera calling out that Paulemon had a gun. As Paulemon fell to the ground, he dropped two firearms on the street. The projectile from Deputy Barreto's weapon entered Paulemon's left buttocks and exited his scrotum. Paulemon's injuries were non-life threatening. The following is a synopsis of the relevant facts and evidence reviewed by the undersigned Assistant State Attorneys in relation to this incident:

I. Radio Transmissions

In radio transmissions at approximately 08:03 p.m., Deputy Barreto asks for information about a black Mercedes Benz traveling on NW 11th Avenue from 79th Street at a high rate of speed. At

08:04 p.m., Deputy Barreto calls out, “shots fired, he has a gun.” There were no other transmissions or 911 calls associated with the shooting.

II. Statements

Deputy Barreto declined to give a statement. All other officers arrived post-incident and did not witness the police involved shooting. No other officers were interviewed.

The civilian in the vehicle struck by Paulemon was interviewed by SA Ricardo Martinez at the intersection of the crash. The civilian stated her car was struck by the black Mercedes as she was heading south on NW 17 Ave at 87 St. The civilian stated she was driving through a green light, and Paulemon ran a red light. The civilian stated she was struck so hard she “blacked out.” When she regained consciousness, she noticed her vehicle had come to a stop in the yard of a vacant home on the southeast side of the intersection. She did not witness the officer involved shooting.

William Paulemon was transported to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery for the gunshot wound. He invoked his Miranda rights.

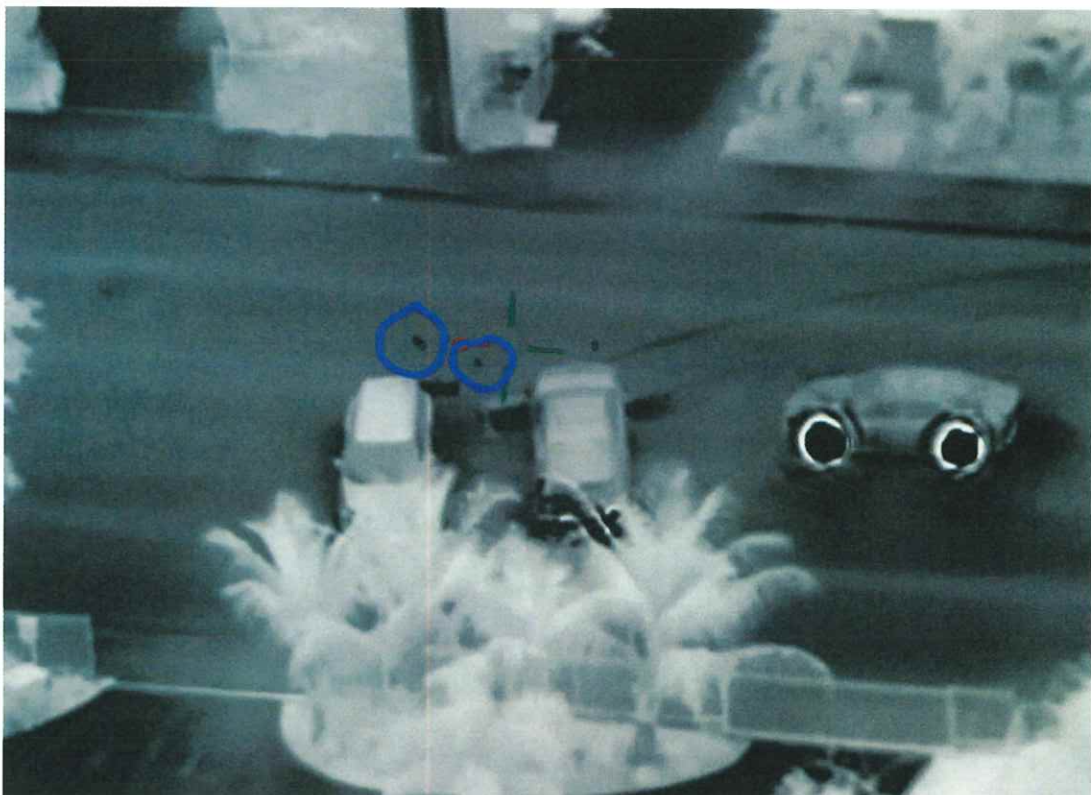
III. Video Surveillance and Body Worn Camera

The incident was captured by an MDSO Aviation unit. The aviation video shows the black Mercedes traveling at a high rate of speed as it flees from Deputy Barreto. The black Mercedes hits a civilian vehicle at the intersection of NW 87 St.. and NW 17 Av. After the crash, the black Mercedes appears to lose control and continues north where it swerves and comes to a stop near the intersection. The video shows Deputy Barreto drive around the front of the black Mercedes, parking parallel to the black Mercedes on the driver’s side. As Deputy Barreto pulls around, Paulemon is seen exiting his vehicle, where he then drops to the ground a few feet away. As he falls, two black objects also fall to the ground. Other officers arrive on scene moments after.

Deputy Barreto's body worn camera was activated at the time of the shooting, but it did not capture the shooting itself because the camera was focused on the steering wheel of Deputy Barreto's car. As Deputy Barreto exited his vehicle, he called out "shots fired" and "he has a gun." After shots were fired, Barreto's body worn camera captures Paulemon on the roadway, as well as two firearms on the roadway.

IV. Crime Scene Evidence

Crime scene searched and documented the scene located at the 8700 block of NW 17th Ave. The crime scene consisted of a black Mercedes Benz with GA tag DCF6967 and the area immediately around the vehicle in the middle of NW 17th Ave. Deputy Barreto's vehicle was parallel to the driver's side of the black Mercedes facing in the opposite direction. The driver's side doors of both vehicles were approximately six feet apart. Two firearms were located in the street in front of the black Mercedes.



One projectile was photographed and collected from the ground next to a black Smith and Wesson pistol.

Three 9mm spent casings were collected from the scene on the street outside of the Mercedes Benz. Two of the casings were on the street near the rear, driver's side wheel. The remaining casing was under the Mercedes driver's side rear wheel well area.

A total of two firearms were collected from the street near the front driver's side of the Mercedes. The first firearm was a black Smith & Wesson SD40 .40 caliber handgun SN#FBP3388. The firearm had a live .40 caliber cartridge in the chamber and a magazine with fourteen live, .40 caliber cartridges. The second firearm was a black Glock 23, Gen4, .40 caliber handgun SN#VMN282. The second firearm had a live .40 caliber cartridge in the chamber, and the magazine had seven live cartridges inserted. Both firearms were tested for DNA but, due to the complexity of the mixture of DNA on the firearm, no comparisons could be made.



Deputy Barreto was processed by crime scene on February 24, 2026. Deputy Barreto was wearing all black with a black ballistic vest with "Sheriff" across the front and back. Deputy Barreto had a police radio, body worn camera, and medical kit on his person. Deputy Barreto was wearing a black duty gun belt with a black holster. His duty handgun was inserted in the holster on the right side, and a double magazine pouch was inserted left of center. Deputy Barreto's MDSO issued Glock 47, 9mm pistol SN#CEUX098 was inspected and collected. Based on the round count, Deputy Barreto could have fired up to four rounds during the incident; however, Deputy Barreto spontaneously stated he does not top off the magazine which would indicate three rounds fired.

The spent projectile and fired spent casings were tested by the Miami Dade Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory and attributed to the department issued firearm discharged by Deputy Barreto.

The black Mercedes Benz was processed by crime scene on February 25, 2026. No property was recovered from the Mercedes Benz.

CONCLUSION AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

The role of the State Attorney in this investigation and in conducting this review is limited to determining whether a criminal violation of Florida law has occurred, whether any person may be held criminally responsible, and whether such criminal responsibility can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. The State Attorney does not establish agency policy, procedures, or training requirements. Nor does the State Attorney have any responsibility for determining disciplinary action or pursuing civil litigation in these matters. In other words, given the applicable law, the State Attorney's role is to determine whether the actions of Deputy Marlon Barreto constitute a criminal act that can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

We have reviewed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative Summary into the Police Use of Force in this incident. We have also reviewed the sworn statements, crime scene reports, lab reports, body worn camera video, aerial video footage, and other evidence compiled by FDLE under FDLE Case Number M1-27-0318. We find the summary to be complete, thorough and consistent with the witness statements and video evidence as well as consistent with our observations at the scene. We adopt and attach that Investigative Summary hereto and also offer our conclusion based on the results of our investigation and review.

Section 776.012, Florida Statutes, permits the use of deadly force when a person believes such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony. Additionally, section 776.05(1), Florida Statutes, justifies law enforcement use of any force which he reasonably believes to be necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm during the course of an arrest.

Here, Deputy Barreto was attempting to effectuate a traffic stop when Paulemon fled from him at a high rate of speed. Once Paulemon ran a red light and crashed into a civilian vehicle, his car came to a stop, and he exited the vehicle with two firearms in his possession. Aerial video shows Paulemon fall almost immediately upon exiting his vehicle. Deputy Barreto would have been approximately six feet from Paulemon as he exited the black Mercedes. Although we do not know exactly what Deputy Barreto saw, from the aerial video it appears Paulemon had two guns that flew forward from his hands as he fell to the ground. In this case, Paulemon's flight from law enforcement and simultaneous possession of two firearms constituted a clear danger. Based on a review of the law and evidence, Deputy Barreto's use of deadly force was justified.

Prepared by:

/s/ Natalie Snyder
Assistant State Attorney

/s/ Sonali Desai
Assistant State Attorney