

Close-out Memorandum of the
Investigation Regarding
Christopher Barata
December 2, 2025



State Attorney's Office
Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Miami-Dade County
October 30, 2026



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

DATE: October 29, 2026

FROM: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO
SAO CASE #62/25/12/02/001

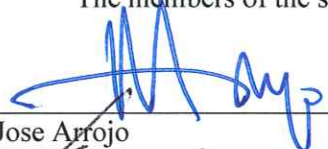
Based on the information obtained and reviewed during the investigation, the conclusion of the staffing/review team is the following:

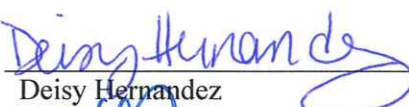
On December 2, 2025, at about 5:25 AM, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO), Special Response Team (SRT) responded to a residence to assist in the execution of a search warrant for an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigation. Upon arrival, MDSO utilized a long-range acoustic device (LRAD) to announce their presence three (3) times that they were there to execute a search warrant at the address. After the occupants failed to exit the home, the SRT team approached the door of the home yelling "Come outside!" and "Open the door!" Deputy Bryan Rodriguez spoke to the occupants inside the home through a window immediately next to the front door and instructed them to open the door, but the occupants failed to comply. Deputy Medina then forced the front door open using a breaching tool and observed three adult occupants and a toddler behind the door who were instructed to exit the home.

Once these four individuals exited the residence, Christopher Barata quickly approaches the living room from the right side of the house. He is captured on body-worn camera footage clutching a black semi-automatic handgun in his right hand. Once he reached the doorway where SRT members were plainly visible in full police issued gear including helmets, vests, and shields, Barata grasped his gun with both hands and took a planted stance as if readying to discharge his firearm. Deputy Prieto yelled "Let me see your... hey!" before gunshots can be heard. Two SRT deputies, Bryan Rodriguez and Anthony Prieto, fired their department issued firearms. Barata sustained multiple fatal gunshot wounds.

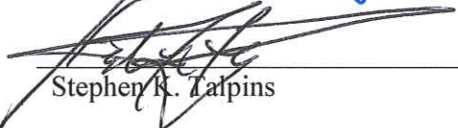
Pursuant to F.S. 776.05 and 776.012, and a review of the facts, evidence, and law in this investigation, we find that the deadly force used by Deputies Bryan Rodriguez 30-6519 and Anthony Prieto 30-4442 in discharging their weapons was legally justified.

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

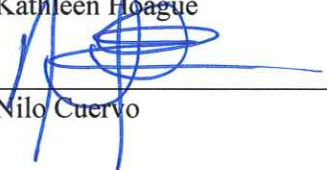

Jose Arrojo


Deisy Hernandez


Kathleen Hoague


Stephen R. Talpins


Howard Rosen


Nilo Cuervo

Approved by State Attorney on this 30 day of October, 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

DATE: 10/20/2026

FROM: MARY ERNST
ABBE RIFKIN
Assistant State Attorneys

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO
SAO Case #62/25/12/02/001

OFFICER INVOLVED:	Deputy Bryan Rodriguez, MDSO ID # 6519 Deputy Anthony Prieto, MDSO ID #4442
DECEASED:	Christopher Barata
DATE & TIME:	Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at approximately 5:26 AM
LOCATION:	15513 SW 102 Place, Miami, FL 33157
WEAPONS:	Staccato P 9x19 9mm semi-automatic pistol serial # P210703 (Deputy B. Rodriguez) Cobalt model CKPRO 300 Blackout caliber rifle serial #CK01516 (Deputy A. Prieto) Sig Sauer model P365 9 caliber pistol serial # 66E810609 (Christopher Barata)
LEAD/REPORTS:	FDLE SPECIAL AGENT MICHEL TOVAR / 4-15-2026
FDLE CASE #:	FDLE - MI-27-0311
SAO CASE #:	62/25/12/02/001

FACTUAL SUMMARY

On December 2, 2025, at approximately 5:25 AM, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO), Special Response Team (SRT) deputies responded to 15513 SW 102 Place, Miami, FL, to assist in the execution of a search warrant for an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigation. The subject of the ICAC investigation was Cristian Barata, who resided at the residence.

Upon arrival at the residence, the deputies utilized the long-range acoustic device (LRAD) to announce that the Miami Dade Sheriff's Office is executing a search warrant at the address. The announcement from the LRAD device stated "This is the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office serving a search warrant at 15513 SW 102 Place. Come out with your hands up." The information was broadcast three times and can be heard on body-worn camera (BWC) footage. After any occupants failed to exit the home, the SRT team approached the door of the residence at approximately 5:25:07 AM. All SRT members were dressed in full police-issued tactical gear, including helmets, shields, and ballistic vests with the word "sheriff" written on them.

After approaching the door, SRT members yelled "Come outside!" and "Open the door!" next to a window immediately adjacent to the door. Deputy Dennis Medina, Sergeant Javier Baez, and Sergeant Alain Cruz stated that Deputy Bryan Rodriguez clearly spoke to the occupants inside the home through the window immediately next to the front door and instructed them to open the door. They further stated that the occupants refused to do so.

Since the occupants remained unresponsive to demands to open the door, Deputy Medina forced the front door open using a breaching tool at approximately 5:26:31 AM. BWC footage revealed three adult occupants (two women and one man) as well as a toddler immediately waiting behind the door as it opened. The occupants began asking what was happening in Spanish, and SRT deputies advised them to exit the house quickly in Spanish. Each occupant exited without further incident while asking what was going on in Spanish. After the last female resident exited, a member of the team can be clearly heard identifying themselves as "policia" in Spanish.

Once these four individuals exited the residence, at approximately 5:26:44, BWC footage captures Christopher Barata, the brother of ICAC subject Cristian Barata, a Hispanic male with dark hair dressed in dark shorts and a dark t-shirt, quickly approached living room from the right side of the house. He can be seen clutching a black semi-automatic handgun in his right hand. Below is a still photo showing Barata's approach:



Once he reached the doorway where SRT members were plainly visible in full police issued gear including helmets, vests, and shields, Christopher Barata grasped his gun with both hands and took a planted stance as if readying to shoot:

Deputy Prieto yelled "Let me see your... hey!" before gunshots can be heard. Two SRT deputies, Bryan Rodriguez and Anthony Prieto, fired their department issued firearms. Barata sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Immediately after the shooting stopped, ICAC subject Cristian Barata entered the living room from the right side of the home with his hands up. He then threw himself on his deceased brother while crying. He eventually got up and was arrested without further incident.

FIREARMS EVIDENCE

A black semi-automatic pistol was located next to the deceased body of Christopher Barata. The handgun belonged to Christopher Barata. The handgun was a Sig Sauer, model P365, 9mmx19 semi-automatic pistol, serial # 66E81069, with a redlight sight, and a light attached. There was one (1) SIG 9mm Luger round in the chamber. One (1) seventeen (17) round capacity magazine was inserted in the pistol. There were seventeen (17) SIG 9mm Luger rounds loaded in the inserted magazine.

Investigators also located spent ballistic evidence in the area in front of the front door of the residence. One (1) spent 9mm WMA + P + pistol cartridge casing was found in the grass next to the east side of the walkway, a few feet south of the front porch. One (1) spent BLH 300 BLK rifle cartridge casing was found in the grass a few feet east of the first casing, slightly closer to the front porch. One (1) spent BLH 300 BLK rifle cartridge casing was found in the grass approximately one (1) foot east of the walkway and a few inches south of the front porch. One (1) spent BLH 300 BLK rifle cartridge casing in the grass, next to the front porch and aligned with third casing. One (1) spent BLH 300 BLK rifle cartridge casing was found on the front porch, east of the front door. Finally, one (1) spent 9mm WMA + P + pistol cartridge casing was located on the doorstep of the front door.

Deputy Bryan Rodriguez's Firearm:

Deputy Rodriguez's MDSO issued Staccato P 9x19 9mm semi-automatic pistol, serial number P2120703, was inspected and collected. The following was noted during the inspection:

- One (1) live WMA + P + 9mm cartridge was in the chamber.
- A twenty (20) round magazine was inserted in the weapon and contained seventeen (17) live WMA + P + 9mm cartridges.
- Two (2) spare twenty (20) round magazines were loaded with twenty (20) rounds each.

Deputy Rodriguez advised that he did not top off the magazine inserted into his pistol, after charging it. Deputy Rodriguez fired two (2) rounds during this officer-involved shooting.

Deputy Anthony Prieto's Firearm:

Deputy Prieto's MDSO issued Cobalt model CKPRO 300 Blackout caliber rifle, serial number CK01516, was inspected and collected. The following was noted during the inspection:

- One (1) live BLH 300 BLK cartridge in the chamber.
- A thirty (30) round magazine was inserted in the weapon and contained twenty-two (22) live BLH 300 BLK cartridges.
- Two (2) spare thirty (30) round magazines were loaded with twenty-eight (28) rounds each.

Deputy Prieto advised that he routinely loads his rifle magazines with twenty-eight (28) rounds and does not top off the magazine inserted into his rifle, after charging it. Deputy Rodriguez could have fired up to five (5) rounds during this officer-involved shooting.

INTERVIEWS

Miami Dade Sheriff's Office Deputy Interviews

FDLE agents and MDSO homicide detectives conducted sworn interviews of the following MDSO deputies involved in the execution of the warrant. Their recorded interviews are part of the FDLE case file.

1. Deputy Eric Crum:

Deputy Crum, a member of SRT, traveled to the residence to execute the warrant. Upon arrival, the LRAD was utilized to broadcast announcements that MDSO was executing a warrant on the residence and notifying occupants to exit the residence. When no one exited, the SRT team was deployed with Deputy Crum in the "number one" position. Deputy Crum confirmed that the residence was the correct location and heard voices coming from inside the residence. He also heard Deputy Bryan Rodriguez give loud, clear verbal commands like, "Open the door" and "Sheriff's Office: Come out."

Deputy Crum stated that the door to the residence was breached shortly afterwards. He observed a male exit the residence first, followed by screaming inside the home. He stated two females and a child also exited the residence.

Deputy Crum was against a wall with Deputy Rodriguez moving around him with the shield to gain a better view into the residence. Deputy Crum then heard Deputy Anthony Prieto state "Let me see your..." before hearing approximately four (4) to six (6) gunshots. Once entry was made, Deputy Crum saw a white male lying on the floor with a black semi-automatic pistol with what appeared to be a red-dot sight lying on the floor.

2. Sergeant Javier Baez:

Sgt. Perez, who is a member of the SRT, traveled to the location where a search warrant was to be executed. Upon arrival at the residence, Sgt. Baez ordered deployment of the LRAD. Using the device, the SRT team broadcast the announcement: "This is the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office. We are executing a search warrant at 15513 SW 102 Place. Come out with your hands up." This message was broadcast three times and was clearly audible.

When no one exited the residence, Sergeant Baez deployed his SRT team to the front of the residence. While standing by the residence's front door, Sergeant Baez observed Deputy

Bryan Rodriguez giving additional commands through a window. After allowing sufficient time for compliance and receiving no response, Sergeant Baez authorized the breaching team to manually open the front door.

Immediately after the breach, two adult females, one adult male, and an infant exited the residence and complied with commands. For safety reasons, Sergeant Baez was positioned to the side of the doorway and did not have a clear view of the interior. As deputies Anthony Prieto and Bryan Rodriguez began clearing the home using standard "slicing the pie" techniques, Sergeant Baez heard one of the deputies' issue commands believed to include "Drop it," followed by approximately four to five gunshots.

Upon entering the residence, Sergeant Baez observed a male on the ground suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. He also observed a small, dark-colored handgun on the floor, believed to belong to the subject; he did not pick up the weapon but slid it aside for safety.

3. Deputy Jose Jimenez:

Deputy Jimenez stated he is currently assigned to the MDSO SRT and was in the position of a "floater" for the team. Deputy Jimenez stated a "floater" is an extra person who does whatever is necessary to help during the search of the residence. Deputy Jimenez stated he was part of the entry team "stack" and positioned as the last man in the stack. Deputy Jimenez stated that the vehicle SRT utilized has a large and powerful public address system that they utilized to alert the occupants of the residence and the surrounding neighbors that the police are in the area conducting a search. Deputy Jimenez stated that the notification was made three (3) times.

Deputy Jimenez stated that prior to breaching the door, the team members made notifications as well. Deputy Jimenez stated he did not know who made the notifications. Deputy Jimenez stated that the occupants "denied entry" to the SRT deputies.

Deputy Jimenez stated he heard Deputy Prieto state, "Let me see your hands!" followed by gunshots. Deputy Jimenez stated he and SRT entered the residence to make sure there were no further threats inside. Deputy Jimenez stated he observed a Hispanic male on the floor, wearing shorts with a black, semi-automatic pistol next to him on the floor.

4. Deputy Dennis Medina:

Deputy Medina stated that he was part of the SRT team deployed to execute the warrant upon the residence. He stated that upon their arrival in the area of SW 102 Place, the announcement was broadcast over the LRAD, that police were executing a search warrant.

Deputy Medina stated SRT took positions outside the residence and Deputy Rodriguez spoke to the occupants through a window, instructing them to open the door of the residence. Deputy Medina stated the occupants refused to open the door. Deputy Medina stated that Deputy Rodriguez held the ballistic shield at the front of the team, armed with a pistol.

Deputy Medina stated he performed the task of "breacher" during the operation. Deputy Medina stated he pried the door open and two (2) Hispanic adult females, one (1) child and one (1) Hispanic adult male exited the residence. Deputy Medina stated he did not take control of the individuals that exited the residence. Deputy Medina stated that Deputy Rodriguez and Deputy Prieto were the first on the entry team.

Deputy Medina stated he did not see the individual with the firearm, but he did hear Deputy Prieto yell to whoever was inside the residence to show him his hands. Deputy Medina stated he saw Deputy Rodriguez and Deputy Prieto shoot into the residence but could not see

who they were shooting at. Deputy Medina stated he believed he heard approximately six (6) gunshots. Deputy Medina stated the gunshots came from both a pistol and a rifle.

Deputy Medina stated he made entry into the residence to ensure there were no other threats inside. Medina stated he observed Barata on the floor with a black, semi-automatic pistol on the floor next to Barata.

5. Sergeant Alain Cruz

Sergeant Cruz stated that he is a SRT team member. Sergeant Cruz stated he was the Perimeter Sergeant for the execution of the search warrant of the residence. Sergeant Cruz stated that upon their arrival at the residence, the announcement was broadcast over the LRAD that police were executing a warrant at 15513 SW 102 Place. Sergeant Cruz stated the announcement was made three (3) times.

Sergeant Cruz stated he approached the front door, following the entry team and heard the shield operator (Deputy Rodriguez) give commands to the occupants inside to open the door. Sergeant Cruz stated the occupants refused to open the door and the door was breached. Sergeant Cruz stated that the "Number 1 Man," Deputy Prieto, made contact with the occupants and commanded them to exit the home. Sergeant Cruz stated that two (2) adult females, an adult male and a child exited the residence.

Sergeant Cruz stated he overheard "Hands! Hands!" given to the remaining occupants of the residence. Sergeant Cruz stated he heard multiple gunshots from a pistol and a rifle but did not see who Deputy Prieto or Deputy Rodriguez were shooting towards. Sergeant Cruz stated he took custody of the two (2) adult females and the child and positioned them and himself behind the SRT vehicle. Sergeant Cruz stated he entered the residence and observed a white male lying prone position on the floor. Sergeant Cruz stated he observed a black, semi-automatic pistol next to Barata.

Both shooting officers declined to give statements under the advice of counsel.

Civilian Interviews:

FDLE agents conducted sworn interviews of the following civilians who resided in the residence at the time of the execution of the search warrant and subsequent shooting. Their statements were sworn and audio recorded. They are kept as part of the FDLE case file.

1. Yudimi Gonzalez

Yudimi Gonzalez, the mother of Christopher and Cristian Barata, was interviewed by FDLE. She stated that she was awoken by her husband yelling and heard noises coming from the front of her home. Her husband, Israel Lopez, was yelling that police were at the door, and she advised that she heard the officers saying, "Police, Police" through a loudspeaker in front of her home prior to exiting. She stated that she, her husband, and her mother, Gladys Gonzalez, were taken out of the front door of the residence by the police. She further advised that she witnessed the decedent making his way to the front door before the police "opened fire on him."

2. Gladys Gonzalez

Gladys Gonzalez, the grandmother of Christopher and Cristian and mother of Yudimi, stated that she was asleep when she heard her son-in-law, Israel Lopez, screaming that the police were at their front door. She stated that there was a lot of commotion and loud knocking coming from the front door. Gladys was told by Lopez that it was the police that were doing all the knocking and making all the noises as they tried to enter the house. Gonzalez said that she, along with Israel Gonzalez and her daughter Yudimi Gonzalez, exited the home together. Gonzalez stated that while standing in front of their home, she was able to look inside as her grandson, Christopher Barata, was trying to make his way outside the home, and she witnessed when the police officers shot him several times.

3. Israel Lopez

Israel Lopez, the husband of Yudimi and stepfather of Christopher and Cristian, stated that he was making coffee at approximately 5:23 AM hours prior to going to work. Lopez then stated that he heard loud banging at the front door of his home. He went and looked through the window and noticed that it was the police. Lopez stated that the police officers that were at the front door appeared to be dressed in "SWAT gear". He heard something sounding from a loudspeaker however, he could not say what it was other than it was very loud. He alerted the family members inside the home and said that the police were knocking on the door and trying to get in. The rest of his family came to the living room along with his wife, Yudimi Rodriguez, his young son, and his mother-in-law. Lopez attempted to open the door for the police, but they breached open the door. Once the door was opened, one of the officers placed him into handcuffs and moved him to the front yard, next to their SUV that was parked in the driveway. While standing by the SUV he heard several gunshots. Lopez stated that he did not witness Christopher Barata getting shot.

4. Cristian Barata (Subject of ICAC Warrant)

Cristian Barata was administered Miranda per form. He signed and waived his Miranda rights. In his interview, he stated that on the morning of the incident, he was awakened by his mother and grandmother screaming. As he was looking for a pair of shorts to wear, he then heard his brother Christopher state, "What the fuck is going on" and then he heard four (4) gunshots. As he exited his bedroom, he saw his brother fall to the ground, he tried to render aid, before he was removed from the residence by MDSO deputies and placed into a police vehicle. Cristian further stated that he owns a firearm, but leaves it in his vehicle, because their parents do not want any firearms in the residence. Cristian stated that he did not hear any police announcement prior to hearing mom and grandmother scream.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

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 neither establishes nor opines on agency

policy, procedures, or training requirements. The State Attorney is not responsible 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 Deputies Anthony Prieto and Bryan Rodriguez constitute a criminal act that can be proven beyond and to the exclusion of every reasonable doubt.

We, Assistant State Attorneys Mary Ernst and Abbe Rifkin, responded to the police shooting scene on the day of the incident and were present for interviews of witnesses. In addition, we have reviewed the crime scene photographs, video footage, crime scene reports, lab reports, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative Summary into the Police Use of Force in this incident. Further, the undersigned have listened to the sworn statements and reviewed transcripts and summaries. We have also reviewed extensive BWC footage. We find the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative Summary into the Police Use of Force in this incident to be complete, thorough, and consistent with the witness statements, as well as consistent with our observations at the scene. We adopt and attach the FDLE Investigative Summary hereto and offer this conclusion based on the results of our investigation and review.

Florida law mandates that use of deadly force is legally justified if "[a] person... reasonably believes that using or threatening to use [deadly] force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or another or to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony." The Statute mandates that "[a] person who uses or threatens to use deadly force in accordance with this subsection does not have a duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground if the person using or threatening to use the deadly force is not engaged in a criminal activity and is in a place where he or she has a right to be...". Fla. Stat. § 776.012(2)(2023).

The use of deadly force by Deputies Bryan Rodriguez and Anthony Prieto in discharging their weapons at and killing Mr. Christopher Barata was legally justified pursuant to Fla. Stat. §§ 776.012(2) and 776.05. Mr. Barata approached the deputies with a firearm and took a shooting stance while they were executing a lawfully issued search warrant. The MDSO SRT team utilized a Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD), to announce that police were executing a search warrant on the residence and directing occupants to come out. When the occupants did not emerge, deputies breached the door. Immediately prior to the shooting and upon seeing Mr. Barata with a firearm, deputies heard Deputy Prieto state "Hands! Hands!" All MDSO deputies were wearing department issued clothing, helmets, and had shields with the word "Police" on them.

The objective facts establish that a reasonable person in each deputy's position would have believed that using deadly force was necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to themselves, other deputies, and/or other civilian occupants of the residence.

Because Deputies Bryan Rodriguez and Anthony Prieto were legally justified in using deadly force, no charges should be filed against them

Prepared by:

/s/ Mary Ernst

Mary Ernst
Assistant State Attorney

/s/ Abbe Rifkin

Abbe Rifkin
Assistant State Attorney