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Footage of Abdi Mohamed Shooting Released

SALT LAKE CITY, UT — The Salt Lake District Attorney’s Office today released police body camera footage of the February 2016 shooting of Abdi Mohammed, who was 17 at the time. The release of the footage, for which the ACLU of Utah has been fighting since May 2016, comes less than two weeks after the District Attorney’s Office vowed to appeal a unanimous ruling from the State Records Committee that the body camera footage, as well as other media related to the shooting, be released to the public.

“While we are pleased that this footage is finally available for the public to review, it must be noted that the ACLU fought this fight for transparency across the board, not just in this case,” commented ACLU of Utah cooperating attorney David Reymann of Parr Brown Gee & Loveless. “We sincerely hope that the next time a high-profile incident like this occurs, and community members demand accountability and transparency, Salt Lake County will not force people to hire lawyers to access records that should be immediately presumed and made public.”

Abdi Mohamed, who relocated to Utah from Somalia with his family, was shot multiple times by Salt Lake City police officers on February 27, 2016, in the downtown Rio Grande neighborhood. He was in a coma for several weeks and, nearly a year later, is still confined to a wheelchair due to his injuries.

“We consider this a victory for open government and transparency. The public can finally view for themselves controversial footage that has been repeatedly described to them by government officials, and was recorded by body cameras paid for by their tax dollars,” said Brittney Nystrom, Executive Director of the ACLU of Utah. “We maintain that the footage should have been released many months ago, because these are clearly public records; however, we are glad that transparency ultimately triumphed in this case.”

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