

**Ralph Chamness**  
Chief Deputy  
Civil Division



**Jeffrey William Hall**  
Chief Deputy  
Justice Division

**Blake Nakamura**  
Chief Deputy  
Justice Division

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
SALT LAKE COUNTY  
**SIM GILL**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, March 29, 2012

**Contact: SIM GILL, SALT LAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Cell: 801.230.1209

Office: 801.363.7900

[sgill@slco.org](mailto:sgill@slco.org)

**SALT LAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SIM GILL DETERMINES WEST VALLEY POLICE USE OF DEADLY FORCE JUSTIFIED**

Salt Lake City, UT | Salt Lake County District Attorney Sim Gill recently informed Chief Thayle "Buzz" Nielsen, West Valley City Police Department that the DA's Office completed its review of the investigation of the use of deadly force against Kent Ashworth by West Valley Police Officers J. Averett, K. McLachlan, and L. Johnson on December 29, 2011 at 2805 South, 3600 West in West Valley City, Utah.

The Office of the Salt Lake County District Attorney, Sim Gill, Salt Lake County District Attorney is required by Utah State law, and operates pursuant to an agreement with participating law enforcement agencies, consistent with established protocols and applicable law, to perform joint investigations and independent reviews of officer involved critical incidents, including police officers' use of deadly (including potentially deadly) force used in the scope of police officers' official duties.

The findings and conclusions of the above referenced incident, as supported by the facts developed during the joint investigation of the incident are contained in the accompanying letter to Chief Nielsen.

Inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to District Attorney Sim Gill via the contact information above.

All persons accused of a criminal offense are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

###