

City of Richmond, California  
Community Police Review Commission

**PUBLIC CASE SUMMARY**

Case #	Date Received	Date Completed
2023-3 (McDonald)	6/29/2023	9/4/2024

**CATEGORY OF CONDUCT:** (check one)

Unreasonable Force	Discrimination	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Assault
<b>X</b>			

**FINDING OF FACT:** (brief summary of complaint and investigation)

During the execution of a search warrant for a residence, two Richmond Police Department (“RPD”) officers shot and killed Kevin McDonald. Officers were engaged in “clearing” the house from room to room. They called out repeatedly to identify themselves and to request that one of the house’s residents, McDonald, come out and show himself. As officers were opening the last bedroom door, McDonald said, “Do not come in here.” Officers opened the door and one yelled “Richmond police! Show me your hands!” Two officers immediately fired their guns at McDonald, with three bullets penetrating his head and killing him. The shooter officers claimed that when they opened the door McDonald had a gun pointed at them. This could not be verified by the Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage as the cameras were blocked by officers’ weapons. One of the shooter officers was not wearing an actively recording BWC in violation of RPD BWC policy.

The Commission found that the two officers’ uses of deadly force under these circumstances were not reasonable. The vote was 5-2, with Commissioners Cantu, Martinez, Jackson, Lorber, and Lawson, voting in favor of the finding, and Commissioners Garcia and Hegstrom voting against. Commissioner Lacy was absent.

**RECOMMENDED FINDINGS:** (check one)

**Unreasonable Force**

<u>SUSTAINED</u>	<u>NOT-SUSTAINED</u>	<u>UNFOUNDED</u>	<u>EXONERATED</u>
<b>X</b>			

**Recommendation:**

The Commission also recommended that the Richmond Police Department require officers to position their body worn camera lenses in such a way that avoids the obscuring of the camera view during such incidents. The Commission adopted this recommendation unanimously.

**Chief of Police Determination:** On December 4, 2024, the Chief of Police notified the Commission that she “disagrees with the findings” of the Commission in this matter.

**City Manager Determination:** On February 4, 2025, the City Manager “exonerated” the involved officers of the use of force allegations, and declined to adopt or mandate an updated policy that would require officers to assure that their BWCs are not obstructed during critical incidents.