

DA: Bristol Twp. officers justified in fatal - Bucks County Courier Times (Levittown, PA) - March 25, 2018 - page A4

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Two Bristol Township police officers “were fully justified” in fatally shooting a man earlier this month, according Bucks County District Attorney Matthew Weintraub.

On March 2, police responded to Edgely Road near Runway Road where they encountered 29-year-old **Jose Gomez-Burgos**, who was armed with a hatchet. He was wanted by New York City police for allegedly stabbing a woman earlier that day.

Weintraub said before arriving in the area, Gomez-Burgos called 911 and admitted to the stabbing. Family members reported that he told them he wanted to die, he added.

Two video cameras on police vehicles showed Gomez-Burgos raising the hatchet and quickly walking toward Officer David Wiser, Weintraub said. The man ignored commands to drop the weapon and when he got within 5 to 8 feet of police, Wiser and Officer Patrick Kitchenman shot at him, the DA added. A knife was found hidden in his left hand.

Gomez-Burgos was shot three times and pronounced dead at Jefferson Torresdale Hospital after attempts to save him.

“Unquestionably, the defendant disregarded lawful commands from Officer Wiser and other officers to stop and to drop his weapons,” Weintraub wrote in a letter to Bristol Township police Chief Robert Coulton on Friday. “The subject clearly placed Officer Wiser in apparent danger of death or serious bodily injury. ... **Jose Gomez-Burgos** created a situation in which it was inevitable that the officers would open fire at him in both self-defense and in defense of their fellow officers.”

The investigation was conducted by county detectives, as is the standard procedure for any fatal police-involved shooting.