



DATE: March 9, 2026
TO: City Council
FROM: City Attorney's Office
SUBJECT: *David Meray v. Christopher Laabs,*
Case No. 2025CV32838

This memorandum is to apprise you of the facts alleged in the above-referenced case as you consider the claims made against the involved officer.

NATURE OF THE CASE

Plaintiff, David Meray, filed an action in the El Paso County District Court against Officer Christopher Laabs. Plaintiff asserts claims for excessive force, wrongful arrest, and malicious prosecution under the Colorado Constitution.

The Complaint alleges Plaintiff was staying at the Best Inn located at 3920 N. Nevada Avenue on October 22, 2024. Plaintiff alleges he was misidentified as an individual being sought after by CSPD. Plaintiff fled the area where officers were located and ran onto a roof of a nearby building. Plaintiff claims Officer Laabs attempted to apprehend him there. Plaintiff claims two punches delivered by Officer Laabs caused the two to fall off the roof and suffer injury. Plaintiff claims that he was charged with Second Degree Assault and it was later dismissed.

According to Colorado Springs Police Department ("CSPD") reports, Mr. Meray's arrest warrant and court records, on the date identified above, CSPD's Tactical Enforcement Unit ("TEU") was asked to assist in the arrest of a suspect wanted for First Degree Murder. That day, the suspect was placed under surveillance and was observed taking evasive actions to avoid police. He was eventually tracked to the Best Inn motel. In the evening hours, under near-total darkness, TEU established a perimeter and observed an individual with a similar description as the murder suspect located on the northwest side of the motel. Officers then observed the suspect walking across the roof of the hotel from west to east and onto a second story walkway. Officer Laabs, and additional officers, initially located on the south end of the motel parking lot, approached the suspect, who turned and fled back onto the roof. Officers, led by Officer Laabs, pursued the suspect and commanded him to surrender. The suspect ignored commands, moved to the edge of the roof and sat down with his legs hanging off the roof, poised to slide off the roof. Officer Laabs approached the suspect and attempted to prevent him from jumping. The suspect grabbed Officer Laabs's leg as he slid off the metal roof, taking the officer with him. As he was being pulled off the roof, Officer Laabs

punched the suspect. Both individuals fell and were injured. After they fell, officers discovered that the individual who fled them was Mr. Meray and not the murder suspect. Mr. Meray was found to have outstanding warrants for his arrest and fentanyl in his pocket. He plead guilty to the drug charge. He is currently serving a sentence in the Department of Corrections.

Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages, injunctive relief, and an attorney's fees award.

RECOMMENDATION

The Civil Action Investigation Committee met on February 20, 2026 and recommended City representation for Officer Christopher Laabs as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Liability of Peace Officers Act. The officer was acting in the course and scope of his employment, and in good faith during the incident. As usual, City Council should also recommend that the City reserve the right to decline payment of any award of punitive damages.