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Good afternoon,

Last night we became aware of a story being run by ABC15 out of the Valley. The reporter is well known for his reputation of conducting "hit pieces" on Arizona Police Departments. His article, about a nearly two year old case, was riddled with inaccurate information, which has created some buzz.

Soon, another headline will take its place, in fact it already has, but it is important to me that you understand that the Prescott Police Department and all involved with this investigation conducted themselves with professionalism and integrity. They acted in complete accordance with the law and policy.

Below is a summary of the actual case, with some notes highlighting some of the issues the reporter called out.

This is to provide you with accurate information in case you are asked. At this point we do not intend to provide any additional information about this case to the media or on social media.

Thank you-  
Chief Bonney

On 7/16/23 at 2026 hrs. Malan Parra was contacted by phone by the Prescott Police Department at her request to report an aggravated assault occurring at the Shell gas station at 1325 Iron Springs Rd. Malan reported she and her family had just left the services of a deceased relative. They stopped for beer at the Shell station. Malan went inside while her family which consisted of Gunner Parra, Rylee Parra, and her husband Dustin Parra remained in their vehicle. Mr. Massucci exited the store and allegedly made verbal comments to the Parra family. Dustin Parra exited his vehicle and confronted Mr. Massucci about the comments at which time Mr. Massucci entered his vehicle and produced a gun, pointing it at Dustin Parra. Gunner had exited the vehicle and was standing next to Dustin.

Patrol Officer Astorga spoke with Gunner Parra who confirmed Malan's account of the event and described the pistol as a tan pistol that looked like a 9mm. Gunner said the suspect vehicle was a silver 4-door sedan possibly a Nissan or a Mazda. The suspect vehicle left the area turning right on Gail Gardener Way.

Detective John Hanna received a call from Dustin Parra around 2033 hrs., AFTER Malan had reported to patrol, as Detective Hanna knows Mr. Parra through community sports and public safety work. Detective Hanna informed Mr. Parra he would look at the case the following morning. Detective Hanna, who is the Investigations Section violent crime detective, was assigned the case. Mr. Parra works for an outside agency, is not a family member, and has no financial relationship with Detective Hanna. There is no established conflict of interest in reference to this case. **Any allegation of preferential treatment is false.**

Detective Hanna obtained surveillance footage from the Shell gas station which shows Mr. Massucci exit the store, walk in front of the Parra vehicle, and enter his vehicle. Mr. Parra can be seen approaching the driver side of Mr. Massucci's vehicle. Mr. Parra can be seen at the driver's side of Mr. Massucci's for a few seconds before Mr. Massucci's vehicle leaves the area. Detective Hanna notes the skip in the surveillance footage in his report. **Any allegation that members of the Prescott Police Department altered or deleted footage are false.**

On 7/20/23 Mr. Massucci's vehicle was identified as a possible suspect through the Flock camera system. A photo line up was created and presented Mr. Parra who identified Mr. Massucci as the suspect who pointed a gun at him. Detective Hanna re-interviewed Gunner Parra who stated Mr. Massucci was yelling and cussing while starring at Rylee. Gunner said he saw his dad get out of the vehicle and walk toward Mr. Massucci who was about 10 feet away at the time. Gunner told Detective Hanna he saw Mr. Massucci produce a handgun from his waistband and point it at his dad. Gunner said he got out of the truck because he thought the man was going to shoot his dad and moved his dad to the rear of the truck.



the gun at Mr. Parra. In viewing the "enhanced video", it is still difficult to tell if the door is open or shut. A presumptive observation would be the door was open and what Gunner thought was the gun being pulled from a waistband was the gun being pulled from the center console.

On 7/20/23 at 1824 hrs. Mr. Massucci's vehicle gave a Flock alert. Mr. Massucci's vehicle was stopped in the 1600 block of Iron Springs Rd. Mr. Massucci who officers believed was an armed aggravated assault suspect was directed to exit his vehicle at gunpoint. Mr. Massucci was detained and transported to the Prescott Police station where Detective Hanna attempted to interview him. Mr. Massucci invoked his right to remain silent. A search of the vehicle incident to arrest found a tan 9mm pistol inside the driver's compartment.

The removal of Mr. Massucci at gunpoint is an appropriate use of force in accordance with *Graham vs Connor* in terms of reasonableness, severity of alleged crime, posing an immediate threat, and flight risk having left the scene of the crime. **The allegation that officers would have shot Mr. Massucci if he had been alone in the vehicle is false.**

Factors establishing probable cause include statements made by Mr. Parra, Mrs. Parra, and Gunner Parra. Mr. Massucci left the scene, where now according to him, he was assaulted to the point he had to produce a weapon to protect himself. Mr. Massucci did not contact police to report the altercation. When stopped Mr. Massucci was in possession of a unique colored firearm as described by the victim and witness. The news report makes reference to the Police Department making a phone call to Mr. Massucci before stopping him. The method of contacting Mr. Massucci on a traffic stop prevented Mr. Massucci from being able to hide or destroy the primary piece of evidence, the gun.

On 10/10/25 Lt. Small spoke with County Attorney Mike Morris who informed me that this case did not go to Grand Jury due to Mr. Massucci waiving his right to a probable cause hearing. **Mr. Morris agreed that Detective Hanna had established probable cause with the information he had available at the time. Mr. Morris believed due to the inaccuracy of witness statements beyond a reasonable doubt conviction could not be achieved.**

Inaccuracies in witness accounts are common and due to a large number of factors. What is in question is the claim of self defense which Detective Hanna was not privy to due to Mr. Massucci invoking his right to remain silent. Arizona Revised Statutes 13-404 state the following.

A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, a person is justified in threatening or using physical force against another when and to the extent a reasonable person would believe that physical force is immediately necessary to protect himself against the other's use or attempted use of unlawful physical force.

B. The threat or use of physical force against another is not justified:

1. In response to verbal provocation alone; or

2. To resist an arrest that the person knows or should know is being made by a peace officer or by a person acting in a peace officer's presence and at his direction, whether the arrest is lawful or unlawful, unless the physical force used by the peace officer exceeds that allowed by law; or

3. If the person provoked the other's use or attempted use of unlawful physical force, unless:

(a) The person withdraws from the encounter or clearly communicates to the other his intent to do so reasonably believing he cannot safely withdraw from the encounter; and

(b) The other nevertheless continues or attempts to use unlawful physical force against the person.

In the news interview Mr. Massucci says he brought the gun to the low ready and never stated that Mr. Parra physically assaulted him. The Parra's dispute Mr. Massucci's account just as Mr. Massucci calls the Parra's account lies. Mr. Parra insists the gun was pointed at him. What we are left with are the elements that established probable cause for arrest. Mr. Massucci has the right to remain silent but would have been well served to explain his side of the events when he was given the opportunity.