



1800 N Harlan • 720-763-3000 • www.EdgewaterCO.gov

Press Release

December 8, 2023

The City of Edgewater Mayor, City Council Members, community, and staff continue to convey their sincerest condolences to the family of Adam Fresquez. The unexpected loss of a loved one is difficult at any time of year and especially so during this holiday season. The City recognizes the family's frustration around the time it has taken for the investigation into Adam's death to come to some conclusion.

The Edgewater Police Department presented the investigation to the First Judicial District Attorney's Office (DA's Office) in September. From the start of the investigation the Edgewater Police Department (EPD) has been working in partnership with investigators from the DA's Office. The facts of the case continue to remain confidential until the DA's Office's review has been completed. The City does not prosecute major felony cases in the City's court. Instead, these cases are prosecuted in the county court system by the DA's Office.

Related to this investigation, the City Council has received significant public comment over the past several months questioning the competency and integrity of the Edgewater Police Department (EPD). Comments have focused on both the investigation of Adam's death as well as the letter sent by DA King to the Colorado Attorney General's Office in June of 2023, seeking a "pattern and practice" review of the EPD. This letter states the District Attorney found 5 allegations from 2016 to 2021 "*where officers had questionable authority to engage with a suspect and make arrests.*" The City released a statement on June 30, 2023 concerning the DA's referral letter:

<https://www.edgewaterco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2360/638246695506370000>.

The City and EPD have been eagerly cooperating with the AG's Office to provide whatever they need to do their work, even while the City still has not been informed which particular incidents were identified as "questionable." The City and EPD remain committed to their cooperation and collaboration with both the AG's Office and the DA's Office on all matters, not merely the ones currently in the public eye.

The City takes all complaints against City employees seriously. The latest complaints heard during public comment were centered around prior incidents referenced in the DA's letter, which still have not been identified to the City, as well as the current investigation into Adam Fresquez's death. It is difficult to answer questions about either issue. The AG's Office's inquiry is confidential. The investigation into Adam's death is still on-going and cannot be compromised by releasing its details. When these matters can be publicly discussed – which is out of our hands – we trust that we can then have a more satisfying conversation about these serious complaints and concerns.

###

