

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
ON FEBRUARY 27, 2014**

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**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY DETERMINES USE OF FORCE JUSTIFIED IN  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 SHOOTING INVOLVING THE COEUR D'ALENE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney Barry McHugh announced today that officers with the Coeur d'Alene Police Department were justified in their use of force relating to the September 29, 2012 incident that resulted in the death Christian Nicholas Buquet (aka Mallon). In a letter to Detective Brad Maskell of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, who lead the investigation relating to the use of force, McHugh detailed the reasons for his decisions. See the attached letter

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**OFFICE OF THE KOOTENAI COUNTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**BARRY McHUGH**

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February 25, 2014

Detective Brad Maskell  
Kootenai County Sheriff's Office  
Interoffice Mail

Dear Detective Maskell,

I have reviewed the investigation compiled by you and other officers regarding the incidents on September 29, 2012 that resulted in the shooting death of Christian Nicholas Buquet (aka Mallon). The incidents included a gunshot wound inflicted by Mr. Buquet upon an acquaintance of Mr. Buquet, the assaults by gunfire committed by Mr. Buquet on three innocent bystanders as Mr. Buquet drove from area of the area of the initial shooting at 12<sup>th</sup> and Lakeside in Coeur d'Alene, and a pursuit by the Coeur d'Alene Police Department along Lake Coeur d'Alene. During the pursuit Mr. Buquet ignored lights and sirens from a number of police cars, fired his gun at an officer who was driving behind him, and drove in a manner that placed other people on the road and the Centennial Trail in jeopardy. Mr. Buquet's reckless driving culminated in him losing control of his vehicle and coming to a stop on the Centennial Trail, after which Mr. Buquet again fired his gun at officers. It was at that point that police officers shot and killed Mr. Buquet.

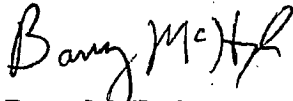
Based on all the reports and other evidence gathered during the investigation, it is my conclusion that the actions of Coeur d'Alene Police Department were justified. Mr. Buquet posed an immediate and continuing danger to the lives of anyone who he may have come into contact with. After having shot one man, randomly and without provocation firing on three others who he happened to drive past, ignoring sirens from police vehicles along with flashing lights, he drove in a manner that was dangerous to other drivers on the road. He fired at an officer in the pursuit and then, after losing control of his vehicle while in the oncoming lane of travel, came to rest on the popular and busy Centennial Trail. He again fired at officers who were following him. There was absolutely no indication at that time that he intended to stop his continuing violent conduct or surrender to officers when they fired to stop him.

The loss of life is always tragic, and I extend my condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Buquet. At the same time there is a price to be paid by those who were compelled by circumstances beyond their

control, their oath and a sense of duty to use deadly force. I hope my findings help in some way to bring closure to this incident.

I commend you and your investigative team for the thorough investigation. I also commend the involved Coeur d'Alene Police Department officers for their handling of a very unusual and dangerous situation in a manner that resulted in no injuries to innocent bystanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry McHugh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barry McHugh  
Prosecuting Attorney

cc: Chief Ron Clark, Coeur d'Alene Police Department