

***Concerned Citizens for Justice***  
***Guardians not Warriors - Transforming the Culture of Policing***  
<http://tiny.cc/CC4JWebsite>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Emily Alma, Coordinator  
Concerned Citizens for Justice  
[Chicocitizens4justice@gmail.com](mailto:Chicocitizens4justice@gmail.com)  
530 864-0714

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**Concerned Citizens for Justice Rejects DA Ramsey's Findings  
In Police Shooting Death of Stephen Vest**

**PRESS CONFERENCE / RALLY**

**Tuesday, February 9, 10:00am in front of City Council Chambers  
Followed by a Rally at the Chico City Plaza**

Concerned Citizens for Justice will hold a Press Conference and Rally addressing the fatal officer-involved shooting of Stephen Vest by Chico police. In his report on the killing, released on January 14, Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey determined that *"the shooting by the involved officers [was] justified."*

CC4J rejects these findings. We believe that if the police had followed de-escalation techniques and humane policing, Stephen Vest would be alive today.

On October 14, 2020, at 7:59 pm, Chico police officers shot Vest to death 50 seconds after they arrived at the scene in the Petco parking lot at East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. Vest was 30 years old. After reading Ramsey's report and viewing video footage, CC4J finds that the police officers failed to practice de-escalation, and made no attempt to defuse the situation.

Stephen Vest's death is the third shooting death of young men experiencing mental health crises at the hands of Chico Police in 3 ½ years. CC4J is convinced that these deaths could have been prevented by implementing CC4J's Action Plan, which mandates tried and true skills in de-escalation and involvement of mental health professionals, in addition to being armed with *non-lethal* weapons such as bean bag shotguns. A transformation of police culture is essential. The value of all lives must be our first priority.

CC4J wants an independent investigation and intends to file a formal complaint with the state Attorney General's office about conflict of interest and the unnecessary use of lethal force in the police shooting death of Stephen Vest.

*All in attendance are expected to observe social distancing and wear masks.*