

## **PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press Contact: Jill Bailey, for Concerned Citizens for Justice  
530 570-0816, [chicocitizens4justice@gmail.com](mailto:chicocitizens4justice@gmail.com)

October 19, 2020

### **Concerned Citizens for Justice Asks Questions Regarding Police Shooting Death of Stephen Vest - Calls for Independent Investigation**

Concerned Citizens for Justice extends our condolences to the family of Stephen Vest, who was shot and killed by two Chico police officers on Wednesday evening, October 14. We also offer our condolences to the officers involved in this tragedy who must now live with their decision.

We are uncertain of the circumstances leading to Mr. Vest's death and are left with so many questions. We have lost a community member, again, who needed help, not an end to his life. While we wait for more information to come from the District Attorney, we ask the following questions:

- What de-escalation techniques were used?
- Did the knife threaten the officers' safety?
- Was anyone injured by Mr. Vest?
- Were the officers' body cams activated during the incident?
- Would the outcome have been different if the Behavioral Health Intervention Team had been present?

Chief Madden has invoked the Butte County Officer Involved Shooting Protocol Team to investigate and called it an "independent investigation." The Butte County Officer Involved Shooting Protocol Team is composed of law enforcement officers from Butte County agencies. Police investigating their co-workers in a use of force killing is not impartial.

We call on Mayor Ann Schwab, City Council and City Manager Mark Orme to require Chief Madden to immediately ask the California Attorney General's office to investigate this officer involved shooting. Chico needs an impartial and transparent investigation. California state law AB 1506 authorizes the Police Department and/or the District Attorney to request the State Prosecutor to investigate officer involved shootings when death results. We believe this needs to happen now. We urge the Mayor, City Manager, City Council, Chico Chief of Police and our community to ask for the California Attorney to investigate the shooting death of Stephen Vest.

Jill Bailey, Steering Committee  
Concerned Citizens for Justice