

District Court, Arapahoe County, Colorado Arapahoe Combined Courts 7325 S. Potomac St., Centennial, CO 80111	DATE FILED JULY 31, 2020 3:42 PM COURT USE ONLY
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO vs. MATTHEW NEELY, Defendant	☐ Case No: GJ Case No.: 26 CR 1 Ctrm: 201
ARAPAHOE COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENT	

COUNT 1: MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-103(1)(a); (F2)

COUNT 2: MANSLAUGHTER, C.R.S. 18-3-104(1)(a); (F4)

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Of the 2026 term of the Arapahoe County Grand Jury; the 2026 Arapahoe County Grand Jurors, chosen, selected and sworn in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, upon their oaths, present the following indictment and described acts, all committed within the County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado, all done contrary to the form of statutes in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the People of the State of Colorado, as stated in the counts attached hereto:

COUNT 1-MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE (F2)

On or about August 30, 2025, Matthew Neely unlawfully and knowingly caused the death of Rajon Belt-Stubblefield, in violation of section 18-3-103(1)(a), C.R.S.

COUNT 2-MANSLAUGHTER (F4)

On or about August 30, 2025, Matthew Neely unlawfully and recklessly caused the death of Rajon Belt-Stubblefield, in violation of section 18-3-104(1)(a), C.R.S.

The crimes described in this indictment were committed in the following manner:

1. On August 30, 2025, the Defendant, a peace officer employed by the Aurora Police Department, was working as a police officer and assigned to a holiday weekend DUI saturation enforcement operation. Defendant was tasked with conducting heavy traffic patrols in multiple areas of Aurora while specifically looking for impaired drivers.
2. Defendant was assigned to an unmarked, black Chevrolet Caprice, equipped with interior mounted emergency lights, a side-arm spotlight. Defendant was in a full police uniform with a badge and police insignias.
3. Defendant was conducting laser speed detection enforcement at E 6th Ave and Toledo St for eastbound traffic. At approximately 7:30PM, Defendant saw a white Jeep Compass travelling towards him at a visually estimated speed of 55 MPH. He confirmed the Jeep's speed at 54 MPH via laser and decided to make a traffic stop of the car.
4. Defendant waited for a break in traffic, pulled out and began to catch up to the Jeep. While attempting to catch up to the jeep, Defendant turned on his emergency lights and siren to get around traffic at which time the Jeep accelerated away from Defendant.
5. The driver of the white Jeep, later identified as Rajon Belt-Stubblefield lost control of the Jeep, striking an eastbound car and careened over the raised median, striking an additional car in the westbound lanes.
6. Defendant pulled up to the crash at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Billings Street and drew his department issued 9mm pistol. Defendant pointed the gun at Mr. Belt-Stubblefield and ordered him to stay in his car and not to move.
7. Defendant radioed his location to the police dispatcher and said to "get a couple cars here now."
8. Defendant did not inform the dispatcher that Mr. Belt-Stubblefield eluded him or caused the crash, that there may be injured motorists at the scene, or that Defendant unholstered his pistol and was attempting to hold Mr. Belt-Stubblefield at gunpoint.
9. Mr. Belt-Stubblefield did not comply with Defendant's commands to stay in his vehicle and instead appeared to be reaching down towards the floor board of the passenger side of his car, then exited the car asking Defendant, "Don't shoot me."
10. Defendant quickly approached Mr. Belt-Stubblefield, and with his pistol still in his right hand, grabbed Mr. Belt-Stubblefield's upper body with his empty left hand.
11. Mr. Belt-Stubblefield threw a gun into the nearby grass. Defendant did not see that Mr. Belt-Stubblefield had a gun until he threw it into the grass.
12. Defendant told at least one unidentified bystander in the area near where the gun was thrown to "get away from that mother fucking gun."
13. Defendant then engaged physically with Mr. Belt-Stubblefield. Defendant fell to the ground, with his pistol still in his right hand. Defendant was unsure how he ended up on the ground.
14. When Defendant was on the ground, Mr. Belt-Stubblefield began to walk away from him.
15. When Defendant got up, with his pistol still in his right hand and pointed at Mr. Belt-Stubblefield, he commanded several times him to get on the ground.
16. Defendant told Mr. Belt-Stubblefield "I'll shoot you".
17. Zion Murphy, later identified as Mr. Belt-Stubblefield's son and was nearby in a separate vehicle, approached both Defendant and Mr. Belt-Stubblefield and told both to "chill".
18. Zion Murphy repeatedly told Mr. Belt-Stubblefield to "chill" and to listen to the Defendant and repeatedly told the officer to "chill" and to not shoot his dad.
19. Zion Murphy said that he was trying to deescalate the situation.

20. Defendant said that he never heard Zion Murphy's attempts to de-escalate the situation.
21. During most of the encounter, Mr. Belt-Stubblefield repeatedly turned in Zion Murphy's direction and said "go get that shit" Defendant believed that was direction to retrieve the gun that he had thrown onto the grass. Zion Murphy and other witnesses believed that Mr. Belt-Stubblefield wanted him to remove the gun from the scene.
22. At one point, Defendant attempted to holster his pistol so that he could transition to his retractable baton less lethal device, but he was unable to get the pistol into his holster. Defendant was not required to carry a taser and did not have a taser on his belt as a less-lethal option. The collapsable baton and pepper spray were his only less-lethal options.
23. Defendant spent approximately 7 seconds trying to holster his weapon but was not successful in doing so.
24. Defendant said that he did not have time to holster his pistol and transition to his retractable baton.
25. Defendant did not believe pepper spray would de-escalate the situation as he believed he was close enough to Mr. Belt-Stubblefield that the spray would incapacitate Defendant as well.
26. At no time did Defendant tell Mr. Belt-Stubblefield that he was under arrest.
27. Defendant did not radio the police dispatcher that Mr. Belt-Stubblefield was not complying with his commands or that he had and threw a gun into the grass when he got out of the Jeep, or that he believed Zion Murphy and at least one other unrelated man at the scene to be an "associate" of Mr. Belt-Stubblefield.
28. At one point, Mr. Belt-Stubblefield turned his back on Defendant and turned in the direction of where he earlier threw the gun.
29. Defendant, still holding his pistol in his right hand, stepped up behind Mr. Belt-Stubblefield and punched Mr. Belt-Stubblefield in the face with his left hand. Defendant stated he did this to distract Mr. Belt-Stubblefield from retrieving or directing others to retrieve the gun.
30. After this strike, Mr. Belt-Stubblefield turned around towards Defendant and raised both fists in front of him and asked the Defendant "Are you ready for this. I'm ready for this" and started walking towards the Defendant in a "boxer's stance."
31. Defendant continued to command Mr. Belt-Stubblefield to get on the ground and to stop.
32. Zion Murphy continued to ask both Mr. Belt-Stubblefield and the Defendant to "chill".
33. Defendant walked backwards as Mr. Belt-Stubblefield walked towards him with his fists raised.
34. Instead of continuing backwards on the sidewalk, Defendant stepped into the west-bound lanes of 6th Avenue with his pistol still in his right hand and pointed it at Mr. Belt-Stubblefield.
35. Mr. Belt-Stubblefield followed the Defendant into the lanes of traffic on west-bound 6th Avenue with his fists still raised toward the Defendant.
36. Mr. Belt-Stubblefield's hands appeared to be empty.
37. The Defendant did not tell Mr. Belt-Stubblefield that he was under arrest.
38. The Defendant did not tell Mr. Belt-Stubblefield that he would shoot him immediately prior to firing. Defendant said he did not give a warning before shooting because he wanted to maintain an "element of surprise."
39. Defendant fired 2 gunshots at Mr. Belt-Stubblefield's chest, and then a third gunshot at Mr. Belt-Stubblefield's head. Mr. Belt-Stubblefield collapsed to the ground and died immediately.

40. Defendant stated he fired the first two shots in attempt to "stop the threat." He stated they appeared to have no effect, so he made the decision to "change the target." He stated he chose to fire the next round at Mr. Belt-Stubblefield's head because of that decision.
41. Defendant stated a subjective belief that that there was going to be a physical assault by Mr. Belt-Stubblefield and that "he would lose" and that Mr. Belt-Stubblefield would, in the course of the assault, take his firearm and use it against him.
42. Mr. Belt-Stubblefield never verbally threatened to harm Defendant, nor made any overt acts to disarm Defendant or to rearm himself.
43. A forensic autopsy was conducted on Mr. Belt-Stubblefield. The cause of death was determined to be a three single gunshot wounds sustained during the encounter with the Defendant. The manner of death was determined to be homicide.
44. The Defendant acted knowingly and recklessly with respect to his conduct described above and was not justified in the actions he took pursuant to the affirmative defense of peace officer's use of deadly physical force.

The 2026 Arapahoe County Grand Jury presents the within Indictment, and the same is hereby ORDERED FILED this 29th day of July, 2026

Michael J. Pico
CHIEF JUDGE

WARRANT TO ISSUE

BOND SET AT: \$200,000, cash/surety

AS TO COUNT ONE:
A TRUE BILL

[Redacted]

A NO TRUE BILL

AS TO COUNT TWO:
A TRUE BILL

[Redacted]

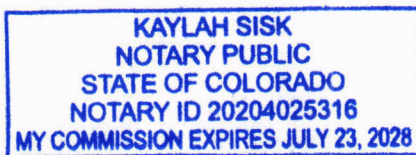
A NO TRUE BILL

I, [Redacted], the Foreperson of the 2026 Arapahoe County Grand Jury, do hereby swear and affirm that each and every True Bill returned in this Indictment by the 2026 Arapahoe County Grand Jury was arrived at after deliberation and with the assent and agreement to the existence of probable cause by at least nine members of the 2026 Arapahoe County Grand Jury

[Redacted]

FOREPERSON

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado, the 24th day of July, 2026



Kaylah Sisk
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: _____

AMY L. PADDEN
District Attorney
Eighteenth Judicial District

Amy Padden
Amy Padden, #28372
District Attorney,
Eighteenth Judicial District