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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **DA's Office Releases Report on the Death of Miguel Salas**

In a report released today involving the death of Miguel Salas on August 1, 2017, the Clark County District Attorney's Office has determined that the actions of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) officer involved was reasonable and legally justified.

On August 1, 2017, LVMPD dispatch received a call from a man who had previously reported that he had items stolen from his vehicle, including an iPhone. The caller had activated the "Find My iPhone" app for his stolen phone, and had located the person he believed had taken his phone, and other items, the night before. LVMPD officers responded to the location and found the vehicle that matched the description of the truck seen the night before in the area of the theft. They ran the plates and discovered the truck had been stolen in June of the same year.

Mr. Salas was asleep in the driver's side seat of the truck. Officers woke him up and asked him for identification. He said he had it, but didn't know where it was in the truck. As the officers spoke to him, he started reaching around in the cab of the truck. They repeatedly asked Mr. Salas to stop reaching around in his vehicle, and then asked him to get out of the truck so they could talk to him. At one point, one of the officers opened the driver's side door and Mr. Salas grabbed the door and pulled it shut again. After several attempts to get Mr. Salas to exit the vehicle, he seemed ready to comply, but instead he suddenly reached for a gun inside of the truck and pointed it at the officer closest to him. He fired at the officer, from inside the truck. As that officer ran for cover, the other officer took a position at the opposite end of the truck and returned fire. Mr. Salas then turned his weapon on the second officer, striking him in his left chest area, just above his protective vest. In the exchange, Mr. Salas was struck in the head by one of the shots. He was declared dead at the scene. It was later discovered that the weapon used by Mr. Salas was stolen a few days before the incident.

The toxicology report done at the time of autopsy revealed that Mr. Salas had a high level of methamphetamine in his system.

"I want to caution people not to take matters into their own hands when dealing with criminals. The owner of the iPhone was at the scene during this incident and could have been seriously injured, or killed," said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. "Mr. Salas clearly intended to injure or kill these officers. He fired his gun a total of nine times, striking one officer in his utility belt, and hitting the other officer in the chest. Thankfully, both officers were able to walk away from the incident. There were many witnesses in the area, and their actions saved lives.

A Police Fatality Public Fact-Finding Review was conducted in this incident on May 25, 2018. Clark County Code mandates such a review when a police-involved death occurs, and the prosecutor preliminarily determines that no criminal prosecution of the officer is appropriate

The determination that the officer acted lawfully in this situation is based upon the evidence available at this time. The case could be reexamined if new information comes to light.

The full report is available on the District Attorney's [Web page](#).