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September 9, 2025



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**Iowa Attorney General's Review  
of Officer Involved Death**

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Incident of August 15, 2025  
Denison, Iowa

Denison Police Department Sergeant Alan Romero

Subject Involved: Feglys Antonio Campos Arriba

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## **Executive Summary**

On August 15, 2025, at approximately 11:20 p.m., Denison Police Department was contacted about a person sleeping in Washington Park after park hours. Sergeant Alan Romero responded to the area and found Feglys Antonio Campos Arriba sitting under a blanket at the back edge of the bandshell stage. The two had a civil conversation in Spanish in which Campos Arriba was given the choice to leave or be arrested for trespassing. Campos Arriba chose to be placed under arrest and stood up, placing his hands behind his back.

When Romero began to apply handcuffs, Campos Arriba turned back on the officer suddenly and began advancing on him. Romero attempted numerous methods of non-lethal force to gain compliance, including use of a taser and physical force, but after each attempt, Campos Arriba continued to aggressively come at the officer, chasing him off the stage. Campos Arriba eventually bit off a portion of flesh from Romero's ear while they were physically engaged. Romero was able to get away from Campos Arriba but was chased. Romero fired his service weapon at Campos Arriba until he fell to the ground and was no longer a threat. Campos Arriba died from his injuries. The total time that elapsed from when Campos Arriba began advancing on Romero until he was neutralized was 45-seconds.

## **Detailed Factual Summary**

At approximately 11:20 p.m. on the night of August 15, 2025, the Denison Police Department was contacted by a concerned citizen who reported that there was a person loitering in Washington Park after hours. Sergeant Alan Romero responded to the scene with his flashlight and found Feglys Antonio Campos Arriba sitting under a blanket against the back wall of the bandshell stage. Campos Arriba had a number of personal items around him. Romero advised Campos Arriba that the park closed at 10:30 p.m. and he was not allowed to be in the park. Campos Arriba responded that he had nowhere to go. Romero advised

he could not remain in the park after hours. The conversation between Campos Arriba and Romero was in Spanish.

The two continued to have a civil conversation as Campos Arriba remained seated. The conversation soon became circular, with Romero continuing to advise Campos Arriba that he needed to leave the park and Campos Arriba responding he had nowhere to go. Romero finally advised that the only two options available were for Campos Arriba to leave the park or be placed under arrest for trespassing. Campos Arriba chose to be placed under arrest and stood, placing his hands behind his back.

As Romero began to place the handcuffs on Campos Arriba, the discussion shifted to the items on the stage. When Romero indicated he would not be able to take all of his belongings, Campos Arriba turned on the officer, no longer cooperating with being handcuffed. Romero took a step back to create space between them for safety, but Campos Arriba stepped toward the officer with one hand raised, repeatedly asking the officer, "What's the matter with you?" Romero stepped back and commanded Campos Arriba to put his hands behind his back. Campos Arriba did not comply, again advancing toward the officer, saying, "What's the matter with you?" and began to call him derogatory names that implied the officer was weak. He continued to advance as the officer continued backing away.

Officer Romero then drew his taser and aimed it at Campos Arriba, who continued at the officer, regardless of the show of force. Romero fired the taser at Campos Arriba and the two probes hit in his chest. The taser had little to no effect and Campos Arriba swiped the wires away. Campos Arriba then raised his fists in a fighting stance and continued at Romero. Romero called to dispatch via his radio the code for fight in progress. He got no response via radio.

Romero was able to run off the stage and into the grassy area in front of the bandshell. Campos Arriba pursued him and when Romero turned to face him again, Campos Arriba again took up a fighting stance with

fists raised. Romero went toward Campos Arriba, ducking under his arms to attempt to take him to the ground. However, Campos Arriba was larger and stronger than the officer and the efforts were unsuccessful. Campos Arriba wrapped his arms around Romero and bit into the officer's left ear, tearing a large chunk of flesh off entirely. This also dislodged the officer's earpiece that had allowed him to hear radio traffic from dispatch and other officers. Romero was able to jab his thumb into Campos Arriba's eye to get him to let go and stop the attack. While that caused Campos Arriba to release the officer, he immediately lunged forward and struck Romero in the head. Romero was able to shove away from Campos Arriba and get away from the attack. Throughout the encounter Campos Arriba continued to shout insults at the officer.

Though Romero was able to disengage and begin to run, Campos Arriba chased after the officer again. Romero pulled his handgun and turned to face Campos Arriba firing three times before the gun malfunctioned and stopped firing. Campos Arriba had been struck in the chest by one of the fired rounds. This use of force still did not end the attack and Campos Arriba continued to charge at Romero after being shot. Without his earpiece, Romero did not know if other officers were on their way to assist. He heard no sirens to indicate that they were.

Romero continued to run from Campos Arriba while attempting to clear the malfunction. He also called to dispatch "shots fired." Campos Arriba did not relent and continuously chased the officer. Once Romero was able to clear the malfunction, he turned on Campos Arriba and fired three more shots. Campos Arriba fell to the ground, no longer a threat.

Romero had called to dispatch that the suspect was down and to send emergency medical aid. He remained on scene attempting to stop the bleeding from his ear until medical personnel arrived. Both men were transported to the local hospital, where Campos Arriba died from his injuries. Romero received medical treatment and was released. Romero continues to receive medical treatment for his injury, which caused permanent disfigurement.

### **Subsequent Investigation**

Records revealed that the Denison Police Department had contact with Campos Arriba the day prior and had explained that he could not camp in Washington Park. Officers advised Campos Arriba that he could be in the park during the day but could not camp there. He argued that he should be able to stay there as it was a public park. Officers coordinated with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office to attempt to get him transported to a shelter in Omaha. Ultimately those efforts were not successful.

A review of the officer's body camera footage of the incident revealed that after Campos Arriba maimed the officer, he yelled, "I'm going to kill you, pussy!" The body camera footage shows that the total time that elapsed from when Campos Arriba began advancing on Romero until he was neutralized was 45-seconds.

The investigation also revealed that Campos Arriba had been in the United States on a temporary work visa from Cuba, which had expired in July 2025.

### **Process and Authority**

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigated the incident, and its investigation is complete. DCI interviewed the officer involved and reviewed the officer's body camera recordings where available. DCI also reviewed video camera footage of Washington Park provided by the City of Denison. DCI reviewed evidence and reports from the Denison Police Department and the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner.

The Attorney General's Office has authority under Iowa Code § 13.12 to assess any officer-involved death to determine whether criminal charges are warranted. The office has had a full opportunity to review the findings of the investigation and discuss the investigation with the assigned agent. All law enforcement reports, including audio or video recordings, will be returned to DCI when this report is issued.

## **Applicable Law**

To be justified, the force an officer uses must be reasonable. Force is reasonable if a reasonable person, in like circumstances, would judge the force to be necessary to prevent an injury or loss. It can include deadly force if (1) it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to avoid injury or risk to the person's or another person's life or safety and (2) it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to resist a like force or threat. Iowa Code §§ 704.1, 704.2, and 704.3.

In *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), the United States Supreme Court held that the use of deadly force by a police officer must be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable police officer on the scene and in the same circumstances. Under *Graham*, reasonableness of police use of force cannot be evaluated from the perspective of a civilian or the perspective afforded by 20/20 hindsight. The Court further stated that the fact that law enforcement officers are often required to react quickly in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations are factors that must be considered in determining reasonableness.

## **Analysis**

Sergeant Alan Romero was justified in the use of deadly force against Feglys Antonio Campos Arriba. Romero had tried numerous methods of less than lethal force to eliminate the threat Campos Arriba posed, none of which had been successful.

Romero was attempting to clear Campos Arriba from a closed city park. Initially the conversation was a civil one, with neither party raising their voices. When Campos Arriba refused to leave, he was placed under arrest for trespassing. He initially resisted arrest by pulling away from Romero and turning to face him when Romero attempted to place him in handcuffs. Romero attempted to de-escalate the situation by stepping back, but Campos Arriba came at the officer. Romero tried numerous efforts to manage the situation through less than lethal means. Despite having a taser drawn on him, being shot with a taser, and the

officer attempting to create distance, Campos Arriba only ever responded with an escalation of force. Once the two were off the bandshell stage, Campos Arriba indicated with his body language and his insults that he wanted to fight Romero. Romero was unable to take Campos Arriba down by physical force.

Once the two were wrapped in combat, Campos Arriba maimed the officer, ripping flesh from Romero's ear with his teeth. Romero was able to disengage but was then bleeding substantially. Romero ran, but Campos Arriba continued his unrelenting attack. After physically fighting a stronger opponent and running to evade the threat, lethal force was the only avenue left for Sergeant Romero. Even after being shot, Campos Arriba did not relent. Once Romero was able to clear the malfunction, he again used lethal force as the only means remaining to stop the threat.

Officers are trained that if they are taken to the ground by a suspect, the danger to their life and safety increases exponentially. Any weapons on their body can become a weapon for a suspect to use against them or members of the public. It was clear from his actions that Campos Arriba was not going to stop his attack on Sergeant Romero without the use of deadly force.

### **Conclusion**

The Iowa Attorney General's Office concludes that the law enforcement officer's actions in this incident were legally justified and that criminal charges are unwarranted. It considers the criminal investigation into this incident to be closed.