

NEWS SERVICE

JOHN BURRIS ZOOM PRESS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, April 14th, at 1 PM

John Burris Who Represented Rodney King And Oscar Grant Will Detail The Previously Unknown 2018 Story of How Two Redwood City Police Officers Killed A Beloved Middle School Teacher, Husband, and Father Of A Three-Day Old Baby In The Midst of A Mental Health Crisis Less Than 30 Seconds After They Responded To His Wife's Call For Help

"The family called the police to save Kyle's life but not for them to take it. This case screams for de-escalation. The officers failed to follow generally accepted police practices when confronting a suicidal person by creating time and distance. The officers had no plan consequently Mr. Hart is dead."

Civil Rights Attorney John Burris

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COMPLAINT & PHOTOGRAPHS LINK: <https://johnburrislaw.com/kyle-hart/>

What: [Zoom](#) press conference announcing the filing of a federal lawsuit on behalf of Kyle Hart shot to death by Redwood City Police Officer Roman Gomez while fellow officer Leila Velez watched **Where:** <https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/95849146997>

Who: Attorneys John Burris, Ben Nisenbaum, and Kyle Hart's wife, Kristin Hart

When: 1 PM, April 14, 2021st

Redwood City CA---On the morning of December 10th, 2018, the Redwood City Police Department received a call from Kristin Hart that her husband, Kyle Hart, was cutting himself with a knife. Kristin reported that Kyle was not harming anyone else, only himself. A few minutes later, Redwood City Police Officers Roman Gomez and Leila Velez responded to the scene. Within **29 seconds** of arriving to the Hart family home, the officers shot Kyle Hart, needlessly killing a loving family man in his own backyard when he was in need of help, not violence.

There was a total of 16 seconds between when Kristin Hart directed Officers Gomez and Velez towards the backyard and when they fired the first shot. In those 16 seconds, the Redwood City Police Department claims that Officers Gomez and Velez walked along the side of the house, entered the backyard, saw Kyle Hart standing approximately 40 feet away from them with a deep cut in his neck, determined he was still holding the knife and yelled at him to drop the knife. In these same 16 seconds, the department claims that Officer Velez then deployed her Taser, the officers determined the Taser had not worked, and Officer Gomez then fired his weapon at Kyle Hart, killing him.

When Officers Gomez and Velez arrived at the Hart's home, they immediately charged into the backyard, without even so much as asking Kyle's name. Beyond shouting at a man in the midst of a mental health crisis and attempting to Taser him while he walked in their direction, the officers made no attempts to de-escalate the situation. Instead, from behind a table that was between the officers and Kyle Hart, they shot him three times, killing him. Officer Gomez fired five times in total, missing Kyle twice—those two bullets ended up in the apartment building directly behind the Hart's home.

Kyle Hart was a beloved father, husband, brother, and son. Kyle and Kristin have two children—Liam, two years old at the time of the incident, and Ellie, who was just three days old. Kyle was raised in Redwood City and his family has deep ties to the city. It made sense, then, that Redwood City is where Kyle and Kristin Hart decided to buy a home and raise their family. He was a popular history and English teacher for nine years at Greene Middle School in Palo Alto. Kristin is also a teacher in the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Kristin Hart's attorney John Burris stated, "The family called the police to save Kyle's life but not for them to take it. This case screams for de-escalation. The officers failed to follow generally accepted police practices when confronting a suicidal person by creating time and distance. The officers had no plan consequently Mr. Hart is dead."

Kristen said that "Kyle was the rare person who could strike up a conversation with anyone he met, from waiters at restaurants to the awkward tween at a family event. Kyle was kind and truly interested in the people around him. He was my best friend and a wonderful husband. We made the most of our summers, traveling and camping. He was down-to-earth and very caring. He loved to make me handmade pasta and we enjoyed listening to the summertime Friday night concerts in the town square. He was a truly devoted father, the kind that's in the pool at baby swim lessons and a regular at the neighborhood park. Kyle was a sick person in need of help, and rather than provide the help they are trained to give, the police killed him. Kyle deserved better; the citizens of Redwood City deserve better. Kyle will be forever missed by our family and his community."

For much information contact John Burris

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