



August 26, 2024

Man Senselessly Shot In Own Home Files Excessive Force Lawsuit Against City of Austin and Officer

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Today, Edwards Law and Feltoon Law filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Austin and one of its officers for shooting and injuring a young man in his own home. During the early morning hours of April 6, 2024, Austin Police Department officers arrived to Plaintiff Avelino Medel II's apartment in response to a complaint of loud arguing. When they arrived, they banged loudly on Mr. Medel's door, prompting Mr. Medel to be concerned for his safety and pick up his lawfully owned firearm on his way to see who was at his door. Unbeknownst to Mr. Medel, another APD officer who had only recently left its Academy was watching him through his sliding glass door. Though Mr. Medel held his gun pointed up and away from his front door as he approached to see who was outside and posed no actual danger to anyone, the officer suddenly and without warning fired his service weapon at Mr. Medel, striking him several times, including after Mr. Medel had collapsed to the ground.

Mr. Medel's attorney, Jeff Edwards of Edwards Law, commented: "The Austin Police Department needs to train its officers that the presence of a legally owned firearm in a home does not authorize the use of deadly force. After all, more than 45% of Texans report they live with a firearm in their homes. Mr. Medel was lawfully armed in his home and did not constitute a threat to officers when he went to see who was violently pounding on his door in the early hours of the morning. The officer's shooting of Mr. Medel without warning was excessive and senseless. APD leadership needs to acknowledge its officer's wrongdoing and correct its dangerous practices before more individuals are injured or killed in their homes."

Jason Feltoon of Feltoon Law, another of Mr. Medel's attorneys, stated: "Everyone should feel safe in their own home. By shooting Mr. Medel when he posed no threat to anyone, the Austin Police Department destroyed Mr. Medel's sense of safety and caused lasting injuries."

A copy of the lawsuit and video of the shooting can be found at the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9kpxyr>

Jeff Edwards of Edwards Law specializes in representing people who have suffered serious injuries, and routinely litigates high-profile civil rights lawsuits. The firm has obtained numerous multi-million dollar settlements and trial verdicts, as well as achieving injunctions resulting in the provision of air-conditioning and safe drinking water in Texas prisons, and Hepatitis-C medications for Texas Medicaid beneficiaries.

For more information, contact Jeff Edwards or Lisa Snead at Edwards Law at (512) 623-7727 or at jeff@edwards-law.com, lisa@edwards-law.com.