

CCPD Officer cleared of wrongdoing in fatal shooting

June 18, 2025



Crescent City Police Officer Ethan Miller has been cleared of any wrongdoing in the fatal shooting of a resident of the Surf Apartments on the February 17th incident. The victim of the shooting was 67 year old tenant John Spencer.

Officer Miller accompanied by Sgt. Ed Wilson, responded to the Surf Apartments on H St regarding a report of an individual with a gun at approximately 4:20PM. Sgt. Wilson evacuated the building at 4:30 and Officer Miller, with a pistol pointed at his head by Spencer, attempted to talk Spencer into lowering his gun for approximately 30 minutes. Officer Miller's efforts to mitigate the situation were not successful. Officer Miller fired several shots into the lower abdomen of Spencer.

He was pronounced dead on the scene. Miller surrendered his Go Pro

The CHP conducted an investigation and released its findings to Del Norte District Attorney Katie Micks, last week who forwarded the final report to Chief Richard Griffin.

Micks responded, “Officer Ethan Miller acted in justified self-defense and his defense of others.”

CHP Officer Adriana Warner, speaking on behalf of the California Highway Patrol, concurred there was no criminal liability. Chief Griffin said there was no violation of CCPD policy.