No charges in April shooting by police in downtown Columbia

By Alan Burdziak

Monday, August 3, 2015 at 9:37 am

For the second time in 2015, a special prosecutor appointed to review a fatal police shooting in Boone County has cleared the officers involved of any wrongdoing.

Two police officers involved in an April 15 fatal shooting of a man suspected of trying to rob and assault a woman will not face criminal charges, Cooper County Prosecuting Attorney Doug Abele said Monday in a news release.

Abele said the two officers — one from the University of Missouri Police Department and one from the Columbia Police Department — were justified in fatally shooting Mark W. Adair, 51, about 11 p.m. in the Hitt Street parking garage downtown. Abele sent notice to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Columbia police and MU police about his decision. A second Columbia detective was at the scene but did not fire his weapon, Abele said.

Footage from a body camera the MU officer was wearing during the struggle clearly showed what happened and “very clearly confirms the statements of the witnesses and the officers,” Abele said in a phone interview. The two detectives flagged down the MU officer, who was in a patrol car, at Ninth and Elm streets. All three saw Adair, at that point the subject of a manhunt, enter the parking garage. The MU officer drove one block to the garage, and the detectives followed on foot.

The MU officer found Adair talking with three women in the garage, Abele said, in what the women “called an uncomfortable conversation.” The officer had the patrol car’s lights activated and told Adair he needed to speak with him, but Abele said Adair pulled what “looked exactly like a large caliber handgun” before the officer got past his door. Abele said the weapon later was found to be an air pistol.

During a struggle, the officer deflected Adair’s weapon and he and the officer struggled for the officer’s gun. One of the detectives approached, saw Adair on top of the MU officer and shot Adair twice in the back.
“That did not stop Adair,” Abele said. “He didn’t get off. He didn’t stop fighting. He was still struggle for the MU officer’s gun, so the CPD officer moved a little bit closer and fired a third shot, which struck Adair in the head.”

The MU officer finally was able to retrieve his pistol and fired more rounds at Adair, who Abele said was shot a total of six or seven times. Abele was appointed the special prosecutor in the case June 25 after Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight recused himself.

“I just wanted to be sure that I thoroughly reviewed all materials,” Abele said when asked about the length of time it took to reach a decision in the case.

Neither of the names of the officers involved in the shooting nor the name of the second detective at the scene has been released. The highway patrol investigated the officers’ use of lethal force. Adair, the second man whom law enforcement killed in Columbia in 2015, allegedly tried to kidnap a woman at gunpoint about 5:30 p.m. April 15 in the parking lot of Moser’s Discount Foods, 900 N. Keene St.

Authorities believe Adair wanted to rob the woman and sexually assault her. Adair allegedly hid in the woman’s vehicle while she was shopping, police said, but the woman was able to escape after a struggle.

Adair was a registered sex offender on parole for kidnapping and first-degree burglary from a 1988 case. He abducted a 9-year-old girl in September 1988, took her to a nearby motel and raped her. He pleaded guilty in March 1989 to the crime and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Adair was released to parole less than a week before the shooting, but the state Division of Probation and Parole issued a warrant for his arrest one day before the incident.

The county’s other fatal shooting involving law enforcement this year also was ruled justified. A Boone County sheriff’s sergeant killed 28-year-old Cornelius J. Parker on Feb. 28 after Parker allegedly shot his three roommates at a duplex east of Columbia.

Abele said the MU officer did not notice the two plainclothes detectives approaching the scene because of the ongoing physical altercation.

“I’m not sure he knew the other two guys were CPD officers,” Abele said. “He certainly didn’t know that shots had been fired. He was in a struggle for his life.”
Police release video of Mark Adair shooting after officers cleared


Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29920&zone=5&categories=5

BOONVILLE - The special prosecutor assigned to investigate the deadly shooting of an armed robbery suspect in a Columbia parking garage said Monday the officers who killed the man were justified in pulling their triggers.

Douglas Abele, the Cooper County prosecuting attorney, said charges would not be filed in the April 15 shooting death of Mark Adair in the Hitt Street parking garage. Prior to the shooting, police spent several hours looking for Adair, who was a suspect in a robbery earlier that day.

Abele said, when police confronted Adair in the parking garage, he drew a weapon on an MUPD officer, who deflected it. Adair then reached for the MUPD officer's gun and engaged him in a struggle, Abele said. The CPD released a video from the MUPD officer's body cam.

During the struggle, a Columbia Police Department (CPD) officer arrived to find Adair on top of the MUPD officer. The CPD officer fired two shots at Adair, hitting him in the back, according to the attorney's report. Adair continued to struggle with the MUPD officer. The Columbia police officer moved closer to Adair and fired a third shot, Abele said. The third shot hit Adair in the head, which allowed the MUPD officer to get free from Adair and fire additional shots at him.

Police said the MUPD officer was shot in the finger during the incident and was taken to the hospital, but later released.

Abele concluded Adair initiated the struggle, and the officers had reason to shoot him. Adele said Monday he considers the case closed.
The shooting came after an attempted armed robbery about 5:30 p.m. that day. Adair was accused of attempting to rob a woman at Moser’s Foods on Keene Street in Columbia. Police said the victim suffered lacerations to her head, and Adair fled from the store on foot.

According to Abele, witnesses reported being approached by Adair that night in the parking garage. They said Adair engaged them in "uncomfortable" conversation about 11 p.m. The witnesses said an MUPD officer asked to speak to Adair, who turned and removed what appeared to be a large-caliber handgun, according to Abele's report.

Abele said the shooting was captured on the MUPD's body camera, and the recording confirmed statements from the officers and witnesses.

At the time of his death, Adair had a warrant out for violating his parole. Abele said Adair absconded from entering into a halfway house residential program the previous day. The parole violation came after he served a sentence for rape.

Adair had been charged in a 1988 rape of a 9-year-old girl. His other offenses included kidnapping, burglary, drug possession and assault on law enforcement.

Abele said he reviewed reports compiled by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which was called in to conduct an investigation into the shooting as an independent agency, since MUPD and Columbia police officers were involved in Adair's death.

Abele said he also reviewed results of an autopsy conducted by the Boone County Medical Examiner, video and audio recordings of the incident and statements from the officers and witnesses.

Abele was appointed to the case after Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight recused himself.

Warning: the video below is graphic and may be disturbing to some viewers. It shows the MUPD officer's confrontation with Adair, the arrival of the CPD officer on the scene and the shooting that followed. Again, the video may be disturbing for some and readers should use their discretion.

Officers cleared in deadly Hitt Street parking garage incident in Columbia
COLUMBIA, Mo. - Special prosecutor Doug Abele announced Monday morning charges will not be filed against two officers who shot and killed suspect Mark Adair in April in Columbia's Hitt Street parking garage.

Abele, the Cooper County Prosecutor, says body camera video from the MUPD officer involved in the shooting confirms all of the statements from witnesses.

In a letter written Monday to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Columbia Police and MUPD, Abele determined that a Columbia police officer and a MUPD officer were justified in shooting and killing Adair on April 15, after Adair drew a weapon on the MUPD officer inside the garage. Abele tells ABC 17 News video from the the MUPD officer's body camera shows Adair drawing a weapon and charging the officer.

On April 15, the 51-year-old Adair was killed inside the garage. Earlier that day, Columbia Police say Adair hid inside a woman's vehicle at Moser's Supermarket on Keene. When she arrived back at her vehicle, detectives say Adair displayed a handgun and demanded she drive away. There was a struggle, and the woman was able to escape. Columbia Police and other area law enforcement officers searched for Adair, after the Moser's incident. The parking garage shooting happened that evening.

Abele tells ABC 17 News two Columbia Police officers saw a man who resembled Adair that night near Shakespeare's, and that they immediately flagged down the MUPD officer, who followed Adair into the Hitt Street garage. Abele says Adair had approached three females inside the garage, adding that the females described it as an "uncomfortable" conversation.

Abele says as Adair was speaking to the women, the MUPD officer drove up and asked to speak to Adair. The officer also turned his lights on. Abele's investigation found that Adair removed a weapon from his pocket, pointed it at the officer and charged. Abele wrote that the video "clearly showed that Adair had initiated the deadly struggle."

Abele says the video shows Adair on top of the MUPD officer, trying to get the officer's gun. A Columbia police officer arrived in the garage and saw the struggle. Abele says you can hear the Columbia officer firing his weapon twice, striking Adair in the back in the video. The field of view did not show the officers.

Despite being wounded, Adair continued to struggle with the MUPD officer. Abele says the CPD officer fired a third shot, striking Adair in the head. The MUPD officer also fired rounds at Adair.

Abele says the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control conducted a thorough investigation. Abele says he reviewed the Patrol's reports, autopsy reports conducted by the Boone County Medical Examiner's office, video/audio recordings, witness statements and the MUPD officer's body camera footage.
Adair had a lengthy criminal history.

In 1989, Adair pleaded guilty in Boone County to kidnapping and rape and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Missouri Department of Corrections spokesman David Owen told ABC 17 News this spring that Adair was paroled in 2005, before returning to prison in 2008. Owen says Adair was released again in November 2013, and returned to prison in April 2014. Owen says Adair was paroled again on April 10, five days before the Hitt Street parking garage incident.

The Missouri Department of Corrections declared Adair an absconder and issued a warrant for his arrest on April 14, according to Owen.

The Boone County Circuit Court appointed Doug Abele as Special Prosecutor, after Boone County Prosecutor Dan Knight filed a motion requesting a Special Prosecutor. Knight's motion noted the CPD officer has been involved in more than 900 cases that have been prosecuted by Knight's office. Knight said in June that the MUPD officer had been involved in more than ten cases that had been prosecuted by his office.

KRCG-TV (CBS) – Columbia, Mo.

Officers in parking garage shooting justified

by Mark Slavit

Posted: 08.03.2015 at 11:46 AM
Updated: 08.03.2015 at 6:25 PM

COLUMBIA, MO -- UPDATE

A special prosecutor has determined a Columbia police officer and a University of Missouri police officer were justified in the shooting death of suspect Mark Adair.

The shooting happened in the Hitt Street Parking Garage on the Mizzou campus.

Boonville Attorney and Special Prosecutor Doug Abele told KRCG that the video from a police body camera was the key to his decision not to press charges against the officers.

Abele told KRCG that body camera video from the MU police officer involved with the shooting is the most convincing evidence for his decision. Abele calls the video "compelling". The University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department gave KRCG a video that shows Adair, 51, was shot and killed in the parking garage on April 15. Adair was wanted on charges of armed robbery and sexual assault. The MU police body camera video shows Adair became aggressive and pulled out a gun. The video shows the MU police officer and Adair struggling for the officer's gun. The video then shows a Columbia police officer shot Adair in the back and in the head. Adair had a long list of prior convictions. His most recent offense was rape.
Adair was paroled from prison just 5 days before the justified shooting.

Besides the body camera video, Abele based his decision on the Missouri State Highway Patrol's investigation, autopsy reports and recorded witness statements.

ORIGINAL STORY

The shooting death of a suspect by officers of the Columbia and MU police departments in a University of Missouri parking garage in April was justified, and no charges will be forthcoming against the officers involved, according to Cooper County Prosecutor Douglas Abele.

Mark W. Adair was shot and killed in the Hitt Street Parking Garage on the MU campus on April 15, after being sought by police for several hours in connection with an attempted armed robbery and sexual assault earlier in the day.

According to Abele, the special prosecutor in the case, eyewitnesses reported that before the shooting, an MU police officer asked to speak to Adair while Adair was confronting two witnesses in the garage. The female witnesses said Adair had approached them and started what they called an "uncomfortable" conversation.

According to the witnesses, Adair then turned his attention to the MU police officer and approached him in an aggressive manner, pulling a gun and knocking the officer to the ground.

At that time, a Columbia police officer arrived on the scene to find Adair and the MU officer on the ground in a struggle for the officer's gun. The Columbia officer fired twice, striking Adair in the back. However, Adair continued struggling, and the Columbia officer then approached and fired a shot into Adair's head, allowing the MU officer to regain his feet and fire additional rounds at Adair.

Abele says the events of the shooting were captured on the MU officer's body camera, which corroborated the statements of officers and witnesses.

Adair had recently been released from prison, where he was serving time for rape. He had left a halfway house without permission the previous day.


COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Prosecutor: Officers justified in fatal shooting at Hitt Street garage

BEN LANDIS, 20 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Charges will not be filed in the death of Mark W. Adair, who was shot and killed after a confrontation with two police officers in April at the Hitt Street parking garage.
Cooper County Prosecutor Doug Abele determined that the officers were justified in shooting and killing Adair. Abele was appointed special prosecutor to review the case after Boone County Prosecutor Dan Knight recused himself.

According to a news release from the Cooper County prosecutor's office, Adair drew what appeared to be a large-caliber handgun on an MU officer and engaged in a struggle for the officer's weapon. When a Columbia police officer arrived at the second floor of the garage, according to the findings, Adair was on top of the MU officer.

The Columbia officer fired twice, hitting Adair in the back. As the struggle continued, the officer fired a third time as he moved closer, shooting Adair in the head.

The names of the officers were not included in the prosecutor's summary.

The chronology, drawn from eyewitnesses and a body camera worn by the MU officer who was assaulted by Adair, states:

Female witnesses told investigators that Adair approached them and began what they described as an "uncomfortable conversation." The MU officer asked to speak to Adair while he was verbally confronting the women, and Adair removed a handgun from his pocket and pointed it at the officer before knocking him to the ground.

The camera footage corroborated eyewitness and officer statements that Adair had initiated struggle that led to his death, according to the release.

"That was a very compelling piece of evidence," Abele said. "It makes it very clear that Adair was the aggressor."

Abele reviewed reports from the Missouri State Highway Patrol including an autopsy, witness statements and the video and audio recordings from body camera footage. The Highway Patrol conducted the investigation as an independent agency.
According to the release, Adair had been reported as having committed an attempted armed robbery and sexual assault before the confrontation with officers. Adair was a registered sex offender in Missouri for raping and kidnapping a 9-year old girl in 1988, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Adair had been released from prison after serving a sentence for rape and was on parole. He was required to be in a halfway house residential program, but he absconded the day before the shooting in the Hitt Street garage occurred.

Hamra donates $100k to Mizzou music building — in honor of his wife

A Springfield native has donated $100,000 to the University of Missouri to help fund the planning, design and construction of a proposed new School of Music on the campus.

Sam Hamra, an attorney who built a restaurant empire, made the donation in honor of his wife, June.

“I wanted this gift to recognize the efforts that my wife put forth in helping students develop their vocal talents during the time she taught voice at the University of Missouri,” Hamra said, in a news release from the University of Missouri. “She will always be recognized for her beautiful, God-given singing voice, which has been her love since childhood. June and I hope this gift will help music students achieve the goals they desire in life.”

According to the University of Missouri, the couple have supported many Mizzou programs and initiatives over the years — primarily in fine arts — including the June S. Hamra Performing Arts Showcase Endowment Fund, which supports student showcase performance opportunities in music and theater.

Sam and June Hamra are graduates at the University of Missouri. He has degrees in business and law and she has a master’s degree in music history and voice. They are the chair and vice chair of Hamra Enterprises, which owns and operates 101 restaurants.
Mizzou announced plans for a new School of Music at the northeast corner of Hitt Street and University Avenue, on the campus in Columbia. It is part of a larger $74 million project that will include renovation of the Fine Arts Building, which houses the theater and art departments.

According to a news release, the School of Music is currently spread across five buildings. The new building will house all classroom, studio, rehearsal and office space under one roof, freeing up space in those other buildings.

“In order to continue to attract the best students and faculty, one of MU’s top priorities is the construction of a dedicated School of Music building and the renovation of the Fine Arts Building,” said Michael O’Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, in the release. “Once completed, this project will facilitate continued enrollment growth, enable more students to explore the fine arts at Mizzou, attract outstanding students and faculty and enhance the aesthetics of our already beautiful campus.

“The generosity of the Hamras will help advance us toward our goal.”

Evaluate Career Help Before Applying to U.S. Colleges

International students should look for support that goes beyond finding internships or jobs.

"Learning by doing" is an idea that many college students in the U.S. have become familiar with. It has long been a hallmark of U.S. higher education, and it calls on students to not only learn the theories and techniques associated with a particular field of study, but to put that knowledge to work.

"Everyone kept telling me to ask about internships," says Luyan, an international student from China at Saint Louis University in Missouri, about his own college search process. "They were right, but I didn't really know what questions to ask."

Prospective international students concerned with how a U.S. university can help them in their career path may want to consider researching a number of areas – some of which they may not know about. A comprehensive search should include classroom teaching methods, class descriptions or syllabuses, internship, practicum, or cooperative learning programs, career
services, professional or career development programs and placement rates for jobs or graduate schools.

- **Teaching methods:** Internships extend the classroom into the working world, but they are not the only programs that prospective international students should look for.

A problem-solving-based curriculum is one such option, according to Rachel Salinas, assistant director of international admissions at Indiana University—Bloomington.

"You may find students in classrooms and labs who are conducting research for major companies or organizations. For example, you may find computer science students are working on design projects for Google or Adobe," Salinas says.

Jody Pritt, director of international student services at the University of South Carolina, says that students should research the ways that each school teaches its students. She suggests looking for opportunities to speak with currently enrolled students or faculty as a way of conducting research.

Pritt thinks many students overlook course syllabuses as valuable research tools. A syllabus provides the texts that will be used, class assignments, and projects in detail. A syllabus will show students how a class will be conducted, and provide a great deal of insight into how they'll be taught.

- **Cooperative education programs:** These programs, known as co-ops, blend the idea of hands-on learning in a classroom with the practical skill application of an internship. In recent years, these programs have extended beyond the traditional model of a classroom experience that integrates some form of employer-based experience such as an internship or practicum.

"**Increasingly, service learning and study abroad programs have been included as an important part of experiential learning,**" says Jason Kinnear, associate director of international programs at the University of Missouri Office of Service Learning.

Kinnear feels that students who are successful at working together as part of a learning group to apply their skills for the good of a community, are the same students who will be leaders in a workplace environment.

He says teaching students how to be global and community contributors will have a very direct impact on their ability to work within dynamic teams.

- **Specialized career services and professional development programs:** These have grown in importance on many U.S. campuses.

"You have to dig deeper than the admissions pages on a university website," says Katryna Snow, senior assistant director of international admissions at the University of Vermont. "Finding out what career services are available to international students is important."
Snow says that career services should go beyond assistance in finding available internships or jobs.

She says students should ask, "Does the university have a specific international student career counselor?" "Do they have programs such as resume writing for international students or international job fairs?"

She points out that career-related programs should be incorporated into students' university experience. "These specific services will give international students an advantage in the job search," Snow says.

"Do the research. Ask the questions," says Indiana University's Salinas. "University is a huge investment, and many U.S. universities understand the specific needs of our international students in terms of outcome."

Preparing to enter his final year, Luyan thinks the practical application of his business studies will give him an edge in the job search. Luyan worked over the summer with a financial analyst team at Edward Jones.

He's confident that listing work experience with a major financial company will also be advantageous to his studies.

Luyan feels his internship experience has transitioned what he's learned from concept to application. "When I'm in class now, I think I understand more what a business environment is like," he says.

State promoting financial literacy for college students

August 3, 2015  •  By Koran Addo

Of all the skills students can learn at colleges and universities, perhaps one of the most overlooked is how to be financially literate.

Students who struggle in this area just got some welcome news.
The Missouri Department of Higher Education has committed $825,000 to help 30 colleges and universities to help launch programs teaching students how to make smart financial decisions and how student loans can impact their future.

“Obtaining a degree is important, but we want to make sure students are graduating without setting themselves up to face financial burdens for years to come,” said Marilyn Landrum, a student assistance officer at the department.

A number of the programs funded by the grant will focus specifically on the difficulties students could face should they default on their student loans.

Landrum said Missouri’s student loan default rate has fallen in recent years in part because of default prevention programs. Missouri’s current default rate is 12.6 percent, compared to the national average of 13.7 percent.

Visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/defaultprevention.php for more information.