



# POLICE

## DAYTONA BEACH

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

The Daytona Beach Police Department (DBPD) has been made aware of the recent verdict in the civil wrongful death case involving Alexander Bello-Ortiz. We acknowledge the questions raised and want to provide clarity on the facts of this case.

The ruling regarding the manner of death in this case was made by the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office, which is solely responsible for such determinations. Phone records confirm that the roommate in question called 911 before contacting his father, contrary to claims made in the civil complaint. Both roommates present at the time of the incident were interviewed by the lead investigator at the scene and formal written statements were provided.

This death investigation was conducted twice by different investigators working independently of each other. Both investigations were reviewed by the State Attorney's Office and the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office, with all parties concurring on the ruling of suicide.

We acknowledge that the crime scene was not preserved as promptly as it should have been, and this is a procedural shortcoming we regret. However, this did not affect the determination made by the Medical Examiner regarding the manner of death.

DBPD remains committed to transparency and accountability. While there are no plans to reopen this case, the department will cooperate fully with any state or federal agency that may decide to review the matter further.

The Daytona Beach Police Department is dedicated to learning from past experiences and ensuring continuous improvement in our processes to best serve the community.

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*All Crime Stoppers tips are anonymous and may lead to a cash reward.*