

**From:** James Fulcher <JFulcher@volusia.org>

**To:** Editor VolusiaExposed <editor@volusiaexposed.com>, youngjakari@dbpd.us  
<youngjakari@dbpd.us>

**Cc:** Michael Ryan <MRyan@volusia.org>, Clayton Jackson <CJackson@volusia.org>, Karla Orozco <KOrozco@volusia.org>

**Subject:** Re: [EX] The 2020 Shooting Death Of Alexander Bello-Ortiz

**Date:** Fri, 20 Dec 2024 21:07:08 +0000 (12/20/2024 04:07:08 PM)

Dear Editors,

My office does not plan on revisiting this case but will fully cooperate with any state or federal agency that may decide to review the matter further. We cannot release the autopsy report to you- see below

Our office is unable to release the report you've requested as it is protected under one or more exemptions in F.S. 119.071. Only the legally authorized person may receive the report or contact our office to authorize your receipt of the report.

**406.135 Autopsies; confidentiality of photographs and video and audio recordings; confidentiality of reports of minor victims of domestic violence; exemption.—**

(c) An autopsy report of a person whose manner of death was suicide held by a medical examiner is confidential and exempt from s. [119.07\(1\)](#) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, except that a surviving spouse of the deceased may view and copy the autopsy report. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving parents must have access to such records. If there is no surviving spouse or parent, the adult children and siblings must have access to such records.

(3)(a) The deceased's surviving relative, with whom authority rests to obtain such records, may designate in writing an agent to obtain such records.

*From* <[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0406/Sections/0406.135.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0406/Sections/0406.135.html)>

As to your question about GSW, the particles are small and easily removed by simple wiping of the hands. Generally, rimfire ammunition, particularly when fired from a long rifle, will produce no to little actual residue. False negative tests are very common.

Attached is an explanation from the medical literature.

Interpretation of GSR data in suspected suicide cases is a difficult task since the victim, who was for sure present in the surroundings of the shooting, may be highly contaminated. On the other hand, the occurrence of false negatives is also quite large. Conducting a follow-up of the study by Molina et al. published earlier [28], Lucas et al. examined the presence of IGSR on the hands of victims of undisputed suicide cases by firearms [29]: 59 cases that occurred in Australia were investigated. About 50% of these cases presented no or very few (less than four) Lead-Barium-Antimony particles, confirming the results of the study conducted by Molina et al., in 2007 (i.e. a high level of false negatives). However, most of the cases presenting such low level of characteristic particles were related to the use of 0.22 calibre rifles (the most popular firearm in Australia), for which the primer of the ammunition usually does not contain Antimony. Not surprisingly, this leads to the production of IGSR particles with no (or very little) Antimony. Taking such particles into account in the statistics, the number of the cases presenting no or very few (less than four) particles of interest falls down to less than 15%. The article presents other interesting statistics, such as the difference of IGSR production as a function of weapon model (i.e. a higher number of GSR particles are produced by revolvers, compared to rifles). Zeichner commented this article, with a discussion about the possible memory effects of the weapon to the contribution of Antimony in IGSR particles [30]. Those interested in this topic may read this letter to the Editor and the author's response [31].

This is a link to the article in question.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589871X20300115>

Sincerely,  
James Fulcher

From: Editor VolusiaExposed <editor@volusiaexposed.com>

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 2:12 PM

To: youngjakari@dbpd.us <youngjakari@dbpd.us>

Cc: James Fulcher <JFulcher@volusia.org>; Michael Ryan <MRyan@volusia.org>; Clayton Jackson <CJackson@volusia.org>; Opioid - MIke Chitwood <mchitwood@volusiasheriff.gov>

Subject: [EX] The 2020 Shooting Death Of Alexander Bello-Ortiz

Jakari Young  
Chief of Police  
Daytona Beach Police Department

Dr. James Fulcher  
Volusia County Medical Examiner

Numerous others – both cc & bcc

Ref: The Death Of Alexander Bello-Ortiz

December 20, 2024

Dear Chief Young / Dr. Fulcher / Others

Our publication (VolusiaExposed.Com) is developing an article that will explore the September 2020 gunshot death of ERAU student Alexander Bello-Ortiz.

Below is a link to our non-published developing article, we invite you to review the article – and provide us with any commentary, corrections, clarifications and criticisms you deem to be appropriate. Please do so by end of business on Tuesday, December 24, 2024.

<https://volusiaexposed.com/dbpd/2024/alexbelloortiz122024.html>

Dr. Fulcher – while the DBPD has issued a public statement (see below linked copy) that they do not intend to further investigate Mr. Bello-Ortiz's death – even given the recent civil suit verdict – our publication wishes to know whether your agency intends to revisit the matter, provide a similar written response, or simply allow the DBPD statement to reflect your agency's position on the matter?  
<https://volusiaexposed.com/dbpd/2024/alexanderbello-ortiz122024/dbpdstatement.pdf>

Dr. Fulcher please consider this letter - as a public record request - for a copy of Mr. Bello-Ortiz's autopsy report. Should your agency declare a statutory exemption – please provide the codified statutory exemption you are claiming. Please use our below email address as our point of contact. Please also advise us in advance of any costs associated with our request for public records.

We are interested in any explanation you can provide - on how Mr. Bello-Ortiz shot himself – but apparently (per the lawsuit narrative) did not have any gun shot residue on his hands.

Chief Young – please accept this letter as a public record request for copies of any disciplinary action taken, regarding your staff's failure to immediately secure the Bello-Ortiz shooting scene. Also, we request a copy of the audio recording of the 911 call John Burlein made on September 6, 2020 – and any follow-up call for law enforcement service made by EMS personnel.

Please use our below email address as our point of contact. Please also advise us in advance of any costs associated with our request for public records.

Chief Young – did you ever consider requesting that the Volusia Sheriff Office conduct an independent investigation into Mr. Bello-Ortiz's death? If not, why not?

Regards,

VolusiaExposed.Com  
[editor@volusiaexposed.com](mailto:editor@volusiaexposed.com)

cc – as indicated

bcc – several, including internal and external to VolusiaExposed.Com