

Don't Miss

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SALT LAKE CITY (ABC 4 Utah) - A newly released video shows a grieving and angry Salt Lake City dog owner confronting three Salt Lake City Police officers shortly after his pet Weimaraner had been shot dead by another SLC cop.

Sean Kendall posted the 8 minute, 52 second video on the "Justice For Geist" Facebook page Thursday, nine days after Geist was fatally wounded on June 18th.

The cellphone video begins with a distraught Kendall driving home.

"About 15 minutes ago I got a call from Utah Animal Control calling to tell me that an officer had shot and killed my dog," Kendall says on the video.

When Kendall arrived home, that officer, identified as Officer Olsen, had left but three others were still there.

"I'm asking why you guys went on my property and why he felt the need to kill my dog," Kendall says.

A uniformed man identifying himself as "Officer Sear" replies, "I can explain the basic circumstances that he went into the yard looking for a lost child. He was threatened by the dog and he shot the dog. That's as simple as it gets."

The child was quickly found unharmed in his own basement. Geist lay dead in his fenced-in backyard.

"I understand it wasn't you personally but you guys killed my dog," Kendall says on the video. "I've had this dog for 3 years. He was my best friend and he was shot because an officer couldn't back the (expletive) up out of my house."

On Monday, Salt Lake Police Detective Greg Wilking told reporters, "The officer did what he did in the moment to avoid being bitten, possibly."

That officer remains on duty while Police Internal Affairs and a Civilian Review Board conduct investigations. On Wednesday, the City Council sent a letter to Chief Chris Burbank urging both investigations be "thorough and deliberate." District 5 Councilwoman Erin Mendenhall drafted the letter.

"Any time an officer fires a weapon an investigation commences," Mendenhall told ABC 4 News. "But this one is particularly different because there was an invasion as the owner feels and as many Salt Lake City residents feel."

Kendall wants Officer Olsen fired.

"I have 3 goals given this situation, number one to get justice and have this officer removed from the force where I believe he is a danger to the community," Kendall said on Monday.

The Facebook video ends with a final expression of sorrow and anger.

"As I walk to my backdoor I see my dead dog lying on the ground," Kendall says on the video. "This is the gate that the officer most likely walked through. As you can see, there's a significant amount of distance between the gate and my dog. Why didn't the officer just back up and leave? Why did he feel the need to escalate the situation to the point that he had to shoot my dog in the head?"

As of Thursday night, the "Justice For Geist" Facebook page had over 19,000 "likes" and an online fundraising campaign on GoFundMe.com had over \$3100 in pledges.