

## Don't Miss

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SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (ABC 4 Utah) – A large group of protesters rallied outside the Salt Lake Police Department, Saturday, in an effort to seek justice for a dead dog.

It is a controversy that started in Salt Lake City but has since infuriated thousands across the country. Now, people are taking a stand against an officer who shot a Holladay man's pet.

"Arrest Officer Olsen, arrest Officer Olsen," the protesters shouted.

"Utah need to pass legislation recognizing our four-legged friends as a member or an extension of the family," shouted Sean Kendall, who now mourns his dog's death.

The last time Kendall saw his dog Geist, the Weimaraner was lying dead in a pool of blood.

"I've had this dog for three years. He was my best friend," Kendall shouted, the day he found his dead pet.

A Salt Lake officer had walked into Kendall's backyard while searching for a missing child.

He allegedly felt threatened by the dog, and that is when the officer shot Geist in the head.

Kendall's loss has drawn in national attention.

"There's been thousands of friend requests and text messages and whatnot, and it's overwhelming—the number of people who have reached out to me," said Kendall.

Some of Kendall's supporters have even turned violent. Salt Lake Police called a press conference to show people how threatening the hate mail has become.

"That pig that shot the dog needs to be executed too," read one letter.

Kendall says he would never go that far.

"I would hope these people stop; they realize this officer has a family. I believe he has kids, and to jeopardize that is wrong," he explained.

Nonetheless, Kendall and his supporters continue to voice concern.

"What if [the bullet] ricocheted and went through the fence, and hit a child? Ridiculous," said one protester.

Salt Lake Police are still investigating whether or not the officer was justified in shooting Geist.

"Evidence shows that the dog was extremely close; in fact, within feet of the officer," said Chief Chris Burbank, with the Salt Lake Police Dept.

Still, Kendall remains adamant that police change their protocol.

"What was done was wrong, and I can't allow that to continue," he affirmed.

Salt Lake Police did tweet out a response to Saturday's rally. They said, "We are grateful for the peaceful nature of the rally going on at the #PSD [Public Safety Building]. It is their day/event to express themselves."