

**Beresford Police Department Shooting Summary**  
**Detailing Events That Took Place November 21, 2025**

On November 21, 2025, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was requested by the Beresford Police Department (BPD) to investigate a shooting that occurred in the parking lot of the Truck Towne Travel Plaza located at 47018 SD Hwy 46, Beresford, SD. The suspect, Christopher Pearson, was shot by one BPD Officer after threatening the Officer with a handgun. The following is a summary of the events that occurred, and the results of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

**SYNOPSIS**

On November 21, 2025, the Beresford PD Officer was on duty conducting impaired driving enforcement. At approximately 8:47 PM, the Officer met an oncoming vehicle in the 1300 block of Cedar Street (Hwy 46). The Officer observed multiple traffic violations related to improper lane driving. The Officer activated the emergency red and blue lights on the marked BPD patrol car to initiate a traffic stop. The vehicle, a maroon 2011 Ford Expedition bearing South Dakota license plates 6K6129, moved onto the shoulder but continued driving west for approximately one-quarter of a mile before pulling into the parking lot at the Truck Towne Travel Plaza.

The Officer approached the vehicle on the driver's side. The driver, later identified as Pearson, partially rolled down the driver's door window. The Officer informed Pearson that he was stopped for lane driving. The Officer detected the odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle, and Pearson was asked to exit the vehicle. When Pearson exited his vehicle, the Officer saw an open alcohol container inside the vehicle. Pearson became non-compliant, failing to follow the Officer's directions, and backup was requested. Pearson swore at the Officer and refused to walk back to the patrol vehicle.

The Officer drew his Taser and directed Pearson to go to the hood of the patrol car. Pearson refused at first but then turned, raised both of his fists in the air and slammed them onto the hood of the patrol car. While at the hood of the Officer's patrol vehicle, Pearson continued to be non-compliant. Pearson grabbed his phone and called his wife. The Officer radioed dispatch to inform them that he had an uncooperative subject.

The Officer told Pearson he was under arrest. The Officer holstered his Taser and removed his handcuffs. Pearson resisted arrest verbally and physically, taking the Officer's handcuffs from the Officer.

The Officer removed the Taser from the holster while backing away from Pearson. Pearson told his wife he was going to get tased and turned to face the Officer, still holding the handcuffs in his right hand. The Officer repeatedly ordered Pearson to drop the handcuffs. Pearson was non-compliant and still on his cell phone. Pearson told his wife, "I think I wanna be done with it. If this motherfucker tases me." The Officer radioed dispatch for backup.

Pearson then began to walk toward the open driver's door of his vehicle. The Officer, still pointing his Taser at Pearson, got between Pearson and the open driver's door. Pearson continued to walk at the Officer who was pointing a Taser at him. The Officer fired the taser

probes at Pearson, but they were ineffective. Pearson dropped the handcuffs and continued toward the open driver's door. The Officer began to walk backward in the direction of the patrol car while still aiming the Taser at Pearson. When Pearson arrived at the open driver's door, he reached into the door pocket. The Officer fired the last two Taser probes at Pearson, but they were ineffective. Pearson removed a derringer style, two-barreled pistol, from the door pocket. The Officer dropped his Taser and drew his duty pistol while giving Pearson verbal commands. Pearson threatened the Officer by pointing the pistol at the Officer. The Officer fired his duty pistol at Pearson, striking and killing him.

#### **INTERVIEW: BERESFORD POLICE OFFICER**

The involved Beresford Police Officer was interviewed on November 25, 2025, by DCI Special Agents. The Officer began his shift at 6:00 PM and was conducting impaired driving enforcement. The Officer was wearing a full police uniform complete with police patches, vest, and badge. The Officer was operating a fully marked Beresford PD police vehicle.

Shortly before 9:00 PM, the Officer was driving east on Cedar St (Hwy 46) in Beresford when he observed an oncoming vehicle cross the centerline on Cedar St between 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. The Officer turned the patrol vehicle around and as he was catching up to the vehicle, he saw it drive over a solid white lane divider near the interstate overpass. As the vehicle was traveling across the overpass, the Officer saw it cross the fog line. The Officer activated the patrol vehicle's emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop. The vehicle continued at a slow rate of speed all the way to Truck Towne Plaza where it stopped next to the gas pumps.

The Officer approached the vehicle and contacted the male driver. The Officer detected the odor of alcohol. The driver was compliant at first and handed the Officer his driver's license. Pearson was on the phone with whom the Officer assumed was Pearson's wife or a significant other.

Based on what the Officer had observed to this point, he wanted Pearson to exit the vehicle as he was going to conduct a DUI investigation. Pearson stepped out and the Officer saw an open alcohol container in the door. The Officer told him to walk to the patrol car, but Pearson started to become less compliant. He began walking back toward the patrol car but then stopped and walked back to his own vehicle.

At one point, the Officer used one hand to push Pearson away from his vehicle and toward the patrol car. Pearson yelled at the Officer for pushing him. When Pearson reached the hood, on the passenger side of the patrol vehicle, Pearson slammed both his fists onto the hood. The Officer saw a knife connected to Pearson's right front jean pocket. He pulled the knife out of Pearson's pocket and threw it behind them. Due to Pearson's behavior, the Officer decided not to have him sit in the patrol car for safety reasons.

While at the hood of the patrol vehicle, the Officer recalled that Pearson had a cell phone, a vape, and possibly something else in his hands. The Officer repeatedly ordered Pearson to leave the items on the hood of the patrol car. Pearson would not comply, and as he avoided the Officer, he moved from the passenger side of the hood to the driver side of the hood. The Officer had a Taser drawn and threatened to tase Pearson. At one point, the Officer told Pearson he was under arrest. The Officer holstered the Taser and tried to place a handcuff on Pearson's

wrist. Pearson pulled away and took the handcuffs from the Officer. The Officer backed away to create distance while he drew the Taser. Pearson then used his cell phone and called whom the Officer assumed was Pearson's wife. The Officer reported he heard Pearson say something to the effect of, "I think I'm going to end it. If he tases me, I think I'm going to end it." Pearson then began to walk back to his own car. The Officer got between Pearson and the open driver door of Pearson's vehicle. The Officer deployed the Taser, but it was ineffective. The Officer quickly deployed the Taser a second time, but it too was ineffective. The Officer was moving back toward the patrol vehicle, assuming Pearson was going to use his vehicle to flee. The Officer then saw Pearson reach into the door pocket and pull out a small, silver derringer style pistol. The Officer removed his duty pistol from the holster. The Officer saw Pearson raise the pistol and point it at him. The Officer reported he was afraid Pearson was going to shoot him. The Officer fired his duty weapon at Pearson. The Officer immediately radioed that shots were fired, and that an ambulance was needed.

### **SCENE INVESTIGATION**

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI, which produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from the BPD Officer, as well as body worn cameras, and a vehicle dash camera.

Eight (8) fired Winchester 9mm Luger casings were recovered in the parking lot between Pearson's vehicle and the patrol vehicle. Those were all identified as casings fired by the BPD Officer. A Glock pistol magazine that contained eight (8) Winchester 9mm Luger cartridges was recovered in the same area. The investigation revealed the Officer performed a reload of his duty pistol after the shooting. Two (2) Taser cartridges and Taser wires were recovered near Pearson's vehicle. An unrelated vehicle, a semi-tractor trailer, was parked on the west side of the Truck Towne Travel Plaza. It was situated in the background beyond Pearson's vehicle. An apparent bullet defect was found on the hood of the semi-tractor. The bullet was not found.

The BPD Officer was processed by DCI Special Agents. The Officer was wearing a full police uniform complete with police patches, a badge, and a vest. The words "BERESFORD POLICE" were on the back of the Officer's duty vest in large gray lettering. The Officer was carrying a Glock 17, chambered in 9mm, and a pistol magazine that contained eighteen (18) Winchester 9mm Luger jacketed hollow point (JHP) cartridges. The Officer was carrying a Taser X2 with no Taser cartridges.

Pearson's pistol, which was recovered at the scene, was identified as a two-shot Cobra ENT of Utah, Model CR9, chambered in 9mm. The firearm was loaded with two (2) 9mm Blazer full metal jacket pistol cartridges. Two (2) additional pistol cartridges of the same type were recovered from the back of the ambulance near Pearson's body.

DCI Special Agents searched Pearson's vehicle. An apparent bullet defect was located on the vehicle body near the base of the "B" pillar between the front and rear doors on the driver side. It was apparent the bullet strike occurred while the driver's door was open. The bullet penetrated the vehicle body, but did not continue through the metal body and seemingly fell out through a rust hole. No other bullet defects were observed.

During the search of the passenger compartment, an open 16oz Busch Light can was observed in the driver door pocket cup holder. The beer can was approximately one-half full. Other alcohol containers were found inside the vehicle, including two (2), 6-pack rings of 16oz Busch Light cans. One of the rings had five (5) unopened cans and the other had one (1) unopened can. There were eight (8) empty 16oz Busch Light cans, and two (2) unopened 23.5oz Mike's Hard Lemonade cans.

## **VIDEO EVIDENCE**

The BPD Officer's body worn camera and patrol vehicle dash camera captured the incident on video. A review of both confirmed the information received from the scene processing as well as the Officer's account of the events.

The dash camera and body camera both activated at approximately 8:47 PM on November 21, 2025, before the traffic stop occurs. At approximately 8:48 PM, the Officer first contacts Pearson at the driver's window. The Officer explained the reason for the traffic stop and requested Pearson's driver's license, registration, and insurance. Pearson appeared to be on his cell phone while he was looking for the requested documents. Pearson was heard telling the person on the call that he was stopped for lane driving. At approximately 8:50 PM, the call ends but Pearson continued manipulating the phone, saying his proof of insurance is stored on his phone. At approximately 8:50 PM, the Officer asked Pearson to bring his cell phone back to the Officer's passenger seat.

At approximately 8:51 PM, Pearson exited his vehicle. The Officer, after noticing an open alcohol container, asked Pearson if he has beer. Pearson responded, "Uh, probably" then he attempted to close the front driver side door. The Officer stopped Pearson from closing the door. Pearson continued to try and close the door while the Officer attempted to keep the door open. At approximately 8:51 PM, the Officer began commanding Pearson to go back to the patrol vehicle multiple times, but Pearson would not comply. The Officer used the police radio to request backup.

At approximately 8:52 PM, Pearson was still next to his open driver door facing the inside of the vehicle. The Officer again ordered him to walk back to the patrol car. Pearson turned and yelled, "That was so fucking hard!" in the Officer's face. The Officer used his left hand to slightly push Pearson away from the vehicle and toward the police vehicle while giving him orders. Pearson told the Officer three times to "push me again". The Officer unholstered his Taser and directed Pearson to the hood of the patrol car.

After the third order to get up to the hood, Pearson turned toward the patrol car, raised both fists in the air and then slammed them both onto the hood. Pearson, who was holding a cell phone and a vape, was ordered multiple times by the Officer to "drop everything". Pearson eventually complied. The Officer had Pearson spread his legs and ordered Pearson not to move his hands. The Officer removed a knife from Pearson's pant pocket and kicked it out of Pearson's reach. Pearson was ordered to put his hands on the hood.

At approximately 8:53 PM, Pearson began reaching for his phone that was on the hood of the patrol vehicle. He was repeatedly ordered to leave the phone alone and he resisted the Officer's

attempts to keep his hands away from the phone. The Officer then placed the Taser against the small of Pearson's back and gave repeated orders for Pearson to place his hands behind his back. Pearson did not comply. The Officer used the police radio to request backup.

The Officer again ordered Pearson to put his hands behind his back and threatened to Tase him. Pearson did not comply. The Officer told him he was under arrest and again ordered him to put his hands behind his back. Pearson refused and was heard saying something to the effect of, "No, I have shit to do." Pearson called a female and said he was getting arrested. The Officer attempted to handcuff Pearson, but he resisted arrest by grabbing the handcuffs and taking them from the Officer.

At approximately 8:54 PM, the Officer backed away from Pearson who is now holding the Officer's handcuffs. The Officer aimed a Taser at Pearson and ordered him multiple times to drop the handcuffs. Pearson refused to comply. Pearson was heard saying to the person on the phone, "I think I wanna be done with it. If this motherfucker tases me." The person on the phone was heard seemingly asking Pearson to comply with the Officer's commands. The Officer used the police radio and requested backup a third time. Pearson then began walking toward his vehicle while still holding the Officer's handcuffs and a cell phone. The Officer got between Pearson and the open driver door. Pearson ignored the Officer's verbal commands and continued toward the Officer.

The Officer fired the Taser at Pearson, but it was ineffective. Pearson dropped the Officer's handcuffs but continued toward the open driver door. The Officer began to walk backward toward the patrol vehicle as Pearson reached into the door pocket of the open driver door. Pearson removed the pistol from the door pocket. The Officer dropped the Taser and drew his duty pistol. Pearson pointed the pistol at the Officer, and the Officer fired eight (8) times, striking and killing Pearson. Immediately after the shooting, the Officer performed a tactical reload of his duty weapon.

The videos also show backup officers and an ambulance arriving at the scene. Medical personnel provided emergency aid to Pearson; however, he was pronounced dead at the scene.

### **MEDICAL REPORTS / AUTOPSY**

An autopsy of Pearson was conducted on November 24, 2025. Three (3) 9mm Blazer Full Metal Jacket pistol cartridges were found in Pearson's pocket. Three (3) Taser probes were removed from his clothing. The cause of death was identified as a gunshot wound to the head with a contributory cause of a gunshot wound to the back. Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on Pearson. Pearson's Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) was 0.212%. Pearson did not have any drugs detected in his samples.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on the Officer. The testing results showed that the Officer did not have any drugs or alcohol in his samples.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING**

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on Pearson's 9mm pistol, as well as the 9mm duty handgun fired by the Officer.

Pearson's 9mm Luger caliber Cobra two-barreled derringer style pistol was found to be functioning properly. The Officer's 9mm Glock duty handgun was found to be functioning properly.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY/PREVIOUS INCIDENTS**

Pearson was a convicted felon, thus making him prohibited from possessing or purchasing a firearm. In January 2024, Pearson attempted to purchase a long gun and a handgun from a federally licensed firearms dealer but was rejected due to him being a convicted felon.

Pearson had two (2) prior misdemeanor DUI convictions, one (1) prior felony DUI conviction, and one (1) prior felony Assault on Law Enforcement conviction.

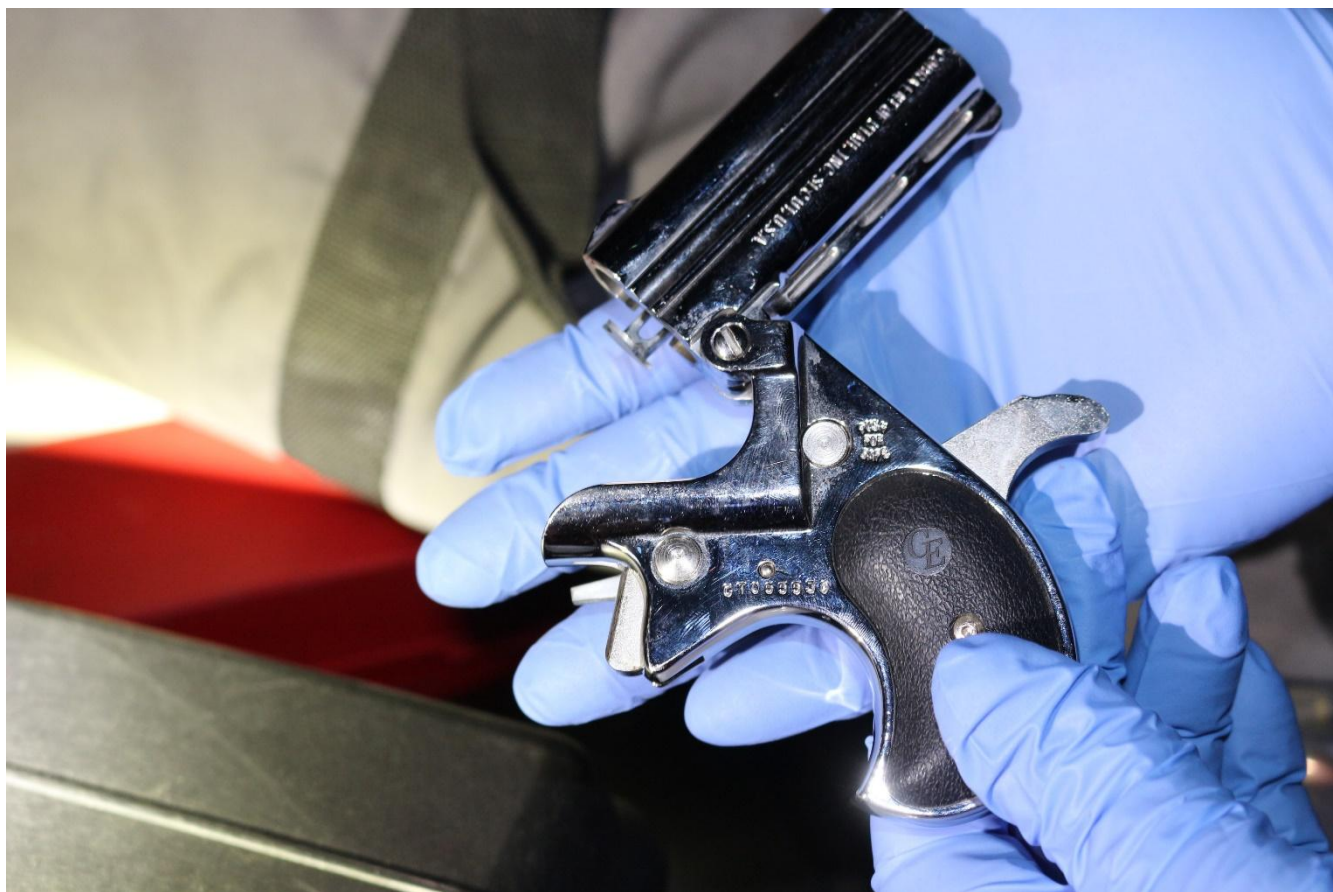
In September 2025, Pearson was arrested and charged with misdemeanor DUI and Open Alcohol Container. The court case had not yet been resolved.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the Officer present on scene utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Christopher Pearson was non-complaint with the Officer's directions, he resisted arrest and threatened the Officer with a loaded handgun. Pearson was a clear and present danger to the Officer on scene.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, the Officer's statements, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the described video evidence that occurred on November 21, 2025, in Beresford, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that the Beresford PD Officer was justified in firing his duty weapon and using lethal force.



Pearson's 9mm Cobra Two-Barreled Derringer Pistol