

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGENDARY CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER JOHN BURRIS ANNOUNCES THE FILING OF A WRONGFUL DEATH AND CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CLAIM AGAINST THE CITY OF POCATELLO FOR THE FAMILY OF 17 YEAR OLD VICTOR PEREZ

WHAT: Family of Victor Perez Files Claim Against City of Pocatello For Wrongful Death and Civil Rights Violation | 17-Year Old Teen Shot Nine Times by Officers of Pocatello Police Department, Pocatello Idaho

WHO: John Burris, Ben Nisenbaum and James Cook of Bay Area Civil Rights law firm Burris, Nisenbaum, Curry & Lacy

WHEN: 6:00 p.m. Community meeting with in-person and zoom availability of the attorneys for the family of Victor Perez.

#### PRESS STATEMENT

Burris Nisenbaum Curry & Lacy (BNCL) represents Luis Alicea, guardian ad litem to Decedent Victor Perez; Wanda Alicea, mother to Decedent Victor Perez; Monica Perez, sister to Decedent Victor Perez; Ana Vazquez, aunt to Decedent Victor Perez, the family of Victor Perez. They were present when Pocatello police officers shockingly killed him in front of their eyes. Victor was a non-verbal autistic teenager, who suffered from cerebral palsy. He was seventeen years old. The lawyers of BNCL have represented numerous families and victims of wrongful police shootings caused by the failure of police to follow basic legal, Constitutional standards of policing.

On April 05, 2025, at approximately 5:30 P.M. Pocatello Police Department officers responded to calls of a domestic disturbance at 703 North Harrison Avenue. Four officers arrived on scene. Within moments of arriving the officers discharged their weapons. The officers shot Mr. Perez nine times. When the shooting started, Victor's sister and mother were standing in close proximity to Victor and in the line of fire. Moreover, no de-escalation methods were attempted. Perez possessed a knife at the time of the incident. Mr. Perez was located behind a chain link fence. Mr. Perez presented with obvious disabilities and appeared incapable of posing an actual threat to the officers, who were on the other side of the approximate 4 foot fence. Moreover, Mr. Perez's own family who were present were able to keep a distance from the knife Mr. Perez held, and he never attacked them with the knife. Mr. Perez's back was to his family members, and he moved away from his family, towards the fence, before the officers killed him. He posed no significant threat to the officers to justify lethal force. After multiple surgeries, Perez was declared brain dead. He was taken off life support and died.

Ben Nisenbaum said: “The officers had obvious alternatives to the unconscionable decision to open fire on Victor, shooting him 9 times within seconds of arrival. Not once did they tell his family members that they would shoot if they didn’t move away from Victor, and there’s no chance that they really believed Victor was able to stab them from behind the fence. If the officers actually thought that, they would have stepped back, away from the fence, when Victor started to move toward them.”

Nisenbaum went on to say: “The way Victor was moving was consistent with a person who was developmentally and physically disabled, not some superman who would bound over the fence at them. We hope the investigation being conducted by the Idaho Attorney General recognizes the obvious: These officers criminally failed at their jobs and should be held to account for their actions in criminal court.”

Additionally, John Burris, an attorney with 40 plus years of representing victims of police abuse including representing Rodney King in his case against Los Angeles Police officers, Tupac Shakur, and the family of Oscar Grant, called it the most outrageous use of deadly force by police offices when called to assist with a particularly vulnerable 17 year-old. Burris says “the family wanted the police to help their son, not kill him. The officers’ conduct shocks the conscience of all families needing assistance with developmentally disabled kids.”