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Colorado Ceasefire Mourns the Passing of Deputy Derek Geer

On Monday in Grand Junction, a 17-year-old boy was walking through the Fruitvale area. His face was hidden with a bandana and he was carrying a handgun. Alert citizens called 911.

Sheriff's deputy Derek Geer responded and was shot numerous times when he attempted to Taser the young man. Geer's wounds were mortal, but his family made a last act of service by donating his organs so that others could live. Deputy Geer will be remembered and honored in memorial services Monday that will be attended not only by friends and colleagues in Grand Junction, but also by law enforcement officers from across the country.

We at Colorado Ceasefire join all in our state in grieving the loss of Deputy Geer's life. We hold in our thoughts his wife and two children, as they mourn their beloved husband and father.

Deputy Geer is the third Colorado law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in a little over 3 months and the second in two and one-half months to die from a gunman with an openly carried firearm. University of Colorado campus police officer Garrett Swasey was shot and killed in the Planned Parenthood attack and Colorado State Patrolman was killed by a driver under the influence.

Geer is also the fifth on-duty law enforcement officer to die from gunfire this past week in our country, adding to three others shot and killed earlier this year. Other officers shot and killed this past week are two sheriff's deputies in Maryland, a police officer in Georgia and a police officer in North Dakota.

There are many questions to yet be answered. Why was the teen masking his face? What occurred between the teen and the officer that led to the shooting? Eileen McCarron of Colorado Ceasefire noted that "Colorado prohibits the sale of handguns to anyone under the age of 21." She then asked "Just how did the shooter obtain the handgun?"

Each and every day, law enforcement officers put themselves in danger to protect the populace. When one of them is felled, it grieves an entire community and reminds us all of the dedication and selfless service of all men and women in uniform.

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has been fighting for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws, which included universal background checks, a high capacity magazine ban, and domestic violence firearms relinquishment.

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