

Olivia Simpson

Criminal Justice

Dr. Harvey

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The Case of Ronell Foster

A policeman spotted Ronell Foster swerving in and out of traffic when he was riding his bicycle through the streets of Vallejo, California. The bike was also missing its lights. With his siren blaring and the spotlight of the car focused straight towards Foster, the cop, Ryan McMahon, pursued Foster. Foster paused. Foster, who was under probation for a car theft conviction from a month prior, exchanged insults with the officer before running away and eventually abandoning the bicycle. Foster was jumped on by McMahon once he came up to him. The two battled and Foster was tased by McMahon then hit repeatedly with a flashlight. Seven rounds were fired during the incident, and Foster was shot.

The way Officer McMahon handled the Foster incident, in my opinion, needed to be changed. He had no right to kill an unarmed individual, let alone employ lethal force. McMahon might have handcuffed Foster while they were still fighting instead of shooting and killing Foster. Not unless they were in possession of a weapon, like a gun or another object, and sought to use it against someone else, but most of the time, police officers do not need to use force to take someone into custody. In order to ensure that police personnel are capable of defending those around them, police departments ought to increase their training requirements.