



Experts: Officers likely won't be charged despite recording

October 4, 2016

Legal experts say a dashboard camera recording of two California police officers discussing hitting a suspect with their police car does not make it more likely that they will face criminal charges in the fatal shooting of the man that ended the encounter.

Philip Stinson, a criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, said Tuesday the officers may have reasonably feared for their lives or public safety, justifying any possible decision to use their vehicle to hit the man.

Jonathan Blanks, a researcher at the Cato Institute, said police have leeway in the use of lethal force.

Sacramento police have said the man police shot and killed, Joseph Mann, was waving a knife.

The officers can be heard on the recording saying, "I'm gonna hit him" and "OK, go for it."

Mann's family wants prosecutors to charge the officers with murder.