

A man who was working at a Leavenworth Taco Bell when he discharged his firearm is going to jail

OFFICE OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY

TODD THOMPSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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CASE #: 2019-CR-000181

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A man who was working at a Leavenworth Taco Bell when he fired a handgun in the direction of a man who had previously pointed a gun at him inside the fast food restaurant is going to jail for **unlawfully discharging a firearm within the city limits**.

According to court documents, on March 30, 2019, Chester L. Doyle IV was inside the Taco Bell on South 4th Street when a man named Stephen Charlton approached him and pointed a gun at him. Doyle ducked, retreated to a backroom inside the Taco Bell, and got his gun. By the time Doyle armed himself, Charlton had left the store and was walking to his car. Doyle opened the south door of the Taco Bell and fired multiple shots in the direction of Charlton. Charlton had his back turned to Doyle and was walking to his car when Doyle fired shots. Doyle was not injured, and he drove from the scene. The handgun Doyle used was recovered on the scene, in the ceiling above the employee storage area.

During a sentencing hearing on January 17, 2024, Doyle, who is now 29 years old, was sentenced to serve six months in jail on a single count of **unlawfully discharging a firearm within the city limits**. Doyle pled guilty to the charge on August 11, 2021.

Stephen Charlton, the victim in this case, served prison time for **aggravated assault** as a result of pointing a gun at Doyle. Charlton died following his prison sentence and before Doyle's trial; his death was unrelated to this incident.

Leavenworth County Todd Thompson said, "This wasn't a case of self-defense." Thompson continued, "The defendant had no right to fire shots when he did – he placed others in harm's way."