



For Immediate Release, November 7, 2014

WICHITA, KAN. – April 1, 2012 Officer-Involved Shooting:

The Office of the District Attorney, 18th Judicial District, has conducted an investigation and review of a former police officer's use of deadly force resulting in the death of Mr. Troy Lanning occurring on April 1, 2012, in the 3500 block of South Everett in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

Consistent with protocol, the Office of the District Attorney reviewed the results of the investigation conducted by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Wichita Police Department and Investigators from the District Attorney's Office. The evidence reviewed includes but is not limited to the following: evidence gathered by crime scene investigators from the Wichita Police Department; civilian and law enforcement witness interviews; the results of the autopsy conducted on the body of Mr. Lanning by the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center; the results of the forensic examination of the bullets and shell casings as well as the officer's firearm by the Forensic Science Center.

The determination as to whether the officer acted reasonably in his use of deadly force under Kansas law requires a thorough assessment of the facts and evidence. Standing alone, the forensic evidence in this case—firearm/ballistics, crime scene analysis and the assessment of trajectory included in the autopsy—is not dispositive. The process of assessment requires the weighing of all available witnesses' statements.

As has already been reported in the media, approximately five months after the death of Mr. Lanning, the officer in question filed a police report in which he made false statements. As a result, the officer was charged by this office and later pled to filing a false report and criminal damage to property. The officer today stands guilty of having made false statements during the performance of his employment as a law enforcement officer.

The conviction for filing a false report has impacted both the investigation into the shooting death of Troy Lanning and its length.

Based on the above, the Office of the District Attorney cannot and will not clear the officer of responsibility in the shooting death of Troy Lanning.

Conversely, the available evidence does not provide a sufficient basis to establish that the officer did NOT act reasonably under Kansas law.

Before the Office of the District Attorney issues a public finding that an officer was justified in the use of deadly force, there must be credible, objectively reliable evidence that the officer acted reasonably. In its absence, this office will not dilute the meaning of the phrase “justifiable use of deadly force” simply to conclude an investigation.

The investigation into the death of Troy Lanning on April 1, 2012 remains open.

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