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Date: September 6, 2019
To: John Mina, Orange County Sheriff
From: Deborah Barra, Chief Assistant State Attorney
Re: Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative Case # OR-27-0323, Use of Force Review regarding the following Law Enforcement Officers from the Orange County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Gabriel Ortiz, Deputy John Kirkland, Deputy Brandon Arnold, Corporal Ronald Raslowsky, and Sergeant Christopher Gunn

I have completed a review of the investigation into the use of deadly force used by Deputy Gabriel Ortiz, Deputy John Kirkland, Deputy Brandon Arnold, Corporal Ronald Raslowsky, and Sergeant Christopher Gunn. All five of these members of the Sheriff's Office fired their agency issued firearms at Landon Wooten. Mr. Wooten died as a result of his injuries during this encounter.

The incident occurred within the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida on August 2, 2018. The case was submitted to the Office of the State Attorney by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on January 22, 2019. Based upon the sworn statements of the people present and the physical evidence at the scene, the following facts have been established.

On the date of the incident, members of the Orange County Sheriff's Office SWAT team were called to barricaded gunman in a residence in the city of Apopka. The subject, Mr. Wooten, had a warrant for various violent crimes and had pointed a gun at deputies earlier in the day.

Members of the SWAT team surrounded the house and verbally called for Mr. Wooten to exit the residence. They verbally identified themselves as law enforcement and continuously called for Mr. Wooten to exit for a minimum of 30 minutes. Due to Mr. Wooten's failure to comply, the decision was made to breach the front door and bring in an Avatar (an electronic device with a camera attached) to determine where Mr. Wooten was located within the house. The Avatar was able to determine which room Mr. Wooten was in and gas was deployed through the windows closest to his location. Shortly after the gas was deployed, Mr. Wooten appeared at the front door. AS he exited the home he was again provided with verbal commands. Mr. Wooten again ignored the verbal commands from members of law

enforcement. Instead of complying, Mr. Wooten began pacing back and forth and appeared as if he was about to run.

To get Mr. Wooten to comply, non-lethal rounds were fired by members of SWAT. At least one round struck Mr. Wooten in the abdomen. Mr. Wooten remained on his feet and retrieved what appeared to be a pistol from his waist. He then pointed the weapon in the direction of several members of law enforcement. Shots were fired by members of SWAT. In response to being fired at, Mr. Wooten ran back into the house. He was inside for only a few seconds before he ran back out the front door with what appeared to be a pistol extended in his hand. Additional rounds were fired at Mr. Wooten. He was shot six times and fell to the ground. Medical attention was provided but was not successful.

The pistol was located underneath his body. It was later determined to be a pellet gun.

Approximately 18 total shots were fired by 5 members of SWAT.

- Deputy Gabriel Ortiz fired approximately 3 rounds
- Deputy John Kirkland fired 1 round
- Deputy Brandon Arnold fired approximately 5 rounds
- Corporal Ronald Raslowsky fired approximately 2 rounds
- Sergeant Christopher Gunn fired approximately 7 rounds

Given the totality of the circumstances, it is my opinion that each time the law enforcement members listed above fired their weapons, they were firing in response to what they reasonably believed was a deadly threat to themselves and others. Therefore, no criminal charges will be filed as a result of this incident.


Deborah Barra
Chief Assistant State Attorney