



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

MARK A. BERNSTIEL

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

BRIANNA L. RINGWOOD

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INVESTIGATION CLEARS OFFICERS INVOLVED IN HATFIELD TOWNSHIP SHOOTING

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (July 1, 2022)—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced today that the investigation of the non-fatal shooting incident on June 17, 2022 by a Hatfield Township Police Officer has concluded and has determined that the shooting was a lawful use of force.

The investigation of the shooting was conducted by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau, as is protocol for any officer-involved shooting in Montgomery County. The shooting took place on Friday morning, June 17, 2022, in a residential backyard in Hatfield Township. At 7:32 a.m., Hatfield Township Police were dispatched by the 911 operator for a call from a resident reporting that a suspicious male had run through his property and was hiding in the neighbor's backyard. It was the second 911 "suspicious male call" as Hatfield Police had been dispatched to the same general area a few hours earlier but had found no one.

A Hatfield police officer located the suspicious male between two rows of stacked firewood and issued verbal commands to come out from where he was hiding and "show his hands." The male, later identified as Sircar Brown, did not comply, and he was tased. Brown stood up wielding a knife, then advanced at the officer, and an officer deployed his service revolver, striking Brown. Brown advanced again toward the officers, still holding the knife, and an officer discharged his weapon and Brown fell to the ground. Police immediately rendered aid to Brown, and he was transported to Grandview Hospital, where he was treated for multiple gunshot wounds.

At the time of the shooting, Brown, 28, of Lansdale, was being sought by Upper Gwynedd on an arrest warrant for unauthorized use of a vehicle related to a June 4, 2022 arrest. On June 4, Brown was found unresponsive in the driver's seat of a running vehicle, with a loaded gun and a knife on the passenger seat. As EMT's attempted to revive him, Brown assaulted a medic. He was charged with Aggravated Assault, Person not to Possess a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm with a Manufacturer's Number Altered and other charges. Following the arrest, the vehicle's owner contacted police regarding Brown's unauthorized use of the vehicle, which led to the additional charge.

“After police located Brown hiding in the backyard of a Hatfield home, they repeatedly commanded him to stop and in excess of sixty times told him to drop the knife he was wielding, he repeatedly refused, instead advanced at one of the officers,” said Steele. “Our investigation determined the facts of this case supported the use of deadly force and therefore did not warrant any criminal charge against the officer involved.”

In Pennsylvania, the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer is governed by Section 508 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. A law enforcement officer is “justified in using deadly force only when he believes that such force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself or such other person...” 18 Pa.C.S.A. §508(a). In addition, the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers is justified to defeat...the escape of a person who possesses a deadly weapon, or otherwise indicates that he will endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury unless arrested without delay. 18 Pa.C.S.A. §508(a)(1)(i)(ii).

Brown is in stable condition at Grandview Hospital. His long-term prognosis for recovery is unknown at this time.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele