

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

2/2/22

STATEMENT FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO REGARDING JANUARY 4, 2022 OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA – On January 4, 2022, Fairfax County Police Department patrol units were dispatched to a home in Chantilly to serve an Emergency Custody Order on Robert Jablonski. This Emergency Custody Order was obtained by Mr. Jablonski's parents after Mr. Jablonski threatened the father with a knife and indicated he would harm himself. Upon entering the residence, officers announced their presence and began to speak with Mr. Jablonski who remained in the basement of the home. In response, Mr. Jablonski verbally threatened the lives of the officers and his mother. Law enforcement decided to leave the residence and establish a perimeter around the home. Shortly after law enforcement left the home, Mr. Jablonski exited the front door, armed with a compound bow, a lethal weapon with sufficient force to penetrate an officer's bulletproof vest. Mr. Jablonski drew back the bow and, while in a ready-to-fire position, aimed the bow at three separate officers. The uniformed officers loudly issued voice commands directing Mr. Jablonski to drop the compound bow, but Mr. Jablonski refused and continued to aim the drawn bow at officers. In response, one officer fired one round from his issued duty rifle and struck Mr. Jablonski in the chest. Officers immediately provided emergency medical, and Mr. Jablonski survived the incident.

These facts were established by a review of dispatch records, radio and mobile data communications, reports, interviews, body worn camera footage, photos and accounts from neighbors and physical evidence.

On these facts, the officer in question was reasonable in fearing that Mr. Jablonski intended to either kill or cause serious bodily injury to him or the two other officers, and it was therefore legally permissible for him to use the level of force he employed. Accordingly, I decline to bring any criminal charge against the officer.

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