

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

8/6/2021

STATEMENT FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO REGARDING JULY 19, 2021 OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA – On July 19, 2021 Fairfax County Police Department patrol units were dispatched to a home in Springfield. Dispatchers advised responding police units that a resident of the home was “being violent, throwing things in her room, running up and down the house, threatening to kill staff and herself.” Upon entering the residence, officers observed the resident standing in the kitchen with a knife. The uniformed officers loudly issued voice commands directing the resident to drop the knife. The resident did not comply with the officers’ commands to drop the knife, and instead verbally threatened to stab the officers. As the verbal commands to drop the knife continued, the resident advanced toward one of the officers with the knife raised and gripped in an overhand position. In response, the officer fired one round from his issued duty handgun. The resident was struck in the abdomen and fell from standing to her knees. The officer immediately requested that Rescue respond to the scene. Immediate medical aid was provided by several police officers and the resident’s care was eventually turned over to Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel. The resident was treated and survived the incident.

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

On these facts, the officer in question was reasonable in fearing that the resident intended to either kill him, or cause him serious bodily injury, and it was therefore legally permissible for him to use the level of force used to repel the assault. Accordingly, I decline to bring any criminal charge against the officer.

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