

Commonwealth of Virginia

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

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Contact: Laura Birnbaum, PIO
571-396-1179

CA DESCANO ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT IN TYSONS MALL SHOOTING

Former Officer Wesley Shifflett indicted by a special grand jury on charges of manslaughter, reckless discharge of a weapon

Fairfax County, VA – Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that a special grand jury has indicted Wesley Shifflett for shooting and killing Timothy McCree Johnson, 37. Shifflett was indicted on felony charges for involuntary manslaughter and reckless discharge of a weapon.

On the night of February 22, 2023, officers at the Tysons Corner Center Mall pursued Johnson on foot after allegations that he had stolen a pair of sunglasses. Body-worn camera footage shows a pursuit into a wooded area near the mall, where Johnson is then shot and killed.

"As the elected head of Fairfax County's justice system, my primary goal is to keep this community safe, and I have the utmost respect for the police officers throughout Fairfax County who work tirelessly to protect our community," CA Descano said.

"The work of public safety includes charging officers for crimes when such actions are legally warranted. After reviewing the evidence in this case, I believe that probable cause existed that Shifflett committed a crime, and that the entirety of the evidence should be put to a jury of community members. Seeking justice blindly in cases involving officers improves public trust in the law enforcement agencies that serve and protect our communities; failing to do so disgraces the role of prosecutor and ruins the public's trust in the justice system.

"Our nation's justice system has historically been stacked in favor of protecting powerful institutions and individuals, and it is no small feat that the grand jurors returned a true bill after reviewing this matter."

Descano added, "I cannot imagine the pain Timothy's family has felt through the months after his death. Though the grand jury returned an indictment for this incident, this will not heal the

wound in the Johnson family. I join the rest of the Fairfax County community in grieving for Timothy and his family.”

A court date will be set on Friday, October 20. A criminal indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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