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10/4/24

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**STATEMENT FROM COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO
ON CONVICTION OF WESLEY SHIFFLETT FOR TIMOTHY JOHNSON SHOOTING**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that a jury convicted former FCPD Sergeant Wesley Shifflett, 36, of reckless discharge of a firearm regarding the shooting of Timothy McCree Johnson, 37, outside Tysons Corner Center on February 22, 2023. Shifflett was found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

Statement from CA Descano:

"Before I talk about what happened in court today, I want to take a moment to thank the Johnson family for putting their trust in us and in the justice system. We've been in close touch over the last two years, and I know how deep their pain is after losing Timothy.

Earlier today, Wesley Shifflett was found guilty of recklessly discharging a firearm on the night that he shot Timothy Johnson outside of the Tysons Corner Center Mall. I hope it gives the Johnson family some closure to know that they are not alone in seeing that Mr. Shifflett did not act in accordance with the law that evening.

But the outcome of a single case doesn't mean that we can overlook the inequities that persist in our justice system.

Unfortunately, we have a two-tiered system of justice where some people's lives and liberty are worth more than others'. And certainly, there are still institutional barriers to holding law enforcement officers accountable when they break the law.

Among other things, Virginia law permits officers, but not prosecutors, to present evidence to a regular grand jury – giving more power to police at a critical stage of prosecution. The criminal code provides a level of deference to police officers that is not provided to other individuals.

I want the people of Fairfax County to know that whether it is in the community, in the courtroom, or in the halls of power in Richmond, we will continue to fight for a fair and just system that meets the needs of all our community members.

I'd also like to extend my appreciation to the attorneys who handled this case: Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Jenna Sands, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Barry Zweig, and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys Natheena Tyler and CJ Kim."

Shifflett faces up to 5 years for felony reckless discharge of a firearm. A sentencing hearing is set for February 28, 2025.

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