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GWEN MARSHALL
CLERK & COMPTROLLER
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

GRAND JURY, SUMMER TERM 2021

IN RE: Officer Involved Shooting involving suspect Raheem Reeder in the area of
the 111 Valencia Drive on or about April 8-9, 2021.

IN THE NAME OF AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

NO TRUE BILL PRESENTMENT

THIS MATTER came before the Grand Jury on July 15, 2021 to review the facts and circumstances of the officer involved shooting of Raheem Reeder on or about April 8-9, 2021 in Tallahassee, Florida. This Grand Jury inquiry is to determine if the use of deadly force by Tallahassee Police Department

, was a justifiable use of deadly force and thus lawful under the provisions of Florida Statutes Sections 843 and 776. The Grand Jury heard testimony from FDLE Inspector Ronald Gilligan, an expert on law enforcement's use of force training and protocols as well as the investigator of this shooting incident, Investigator Dan Warren. We heard from law enforcement witnesses including Officers Robert Amos and , who was struck by a vehicle driven by Reeder when he fled from law enforcement minutes before the shooting. We also heard from one of the civilian victims and reviewed video that was secretly recorded during their ordeal. Finally, we reviewed multiple officer body camera recordings. This included; law enforcement's earlier interaction with Reeder, the escape of one hostage and rescue of another, and the shooting incident itself.

FACTUAL SUMMARY

On April 8th, 2021 at 11:03 pm, Tallahassee Police Officer Hoover had

contact with a silver Volkswagen sport utility vehicle at the Northern drive to 800 Ocala Road. During the contact, the initial driver and front seat passenger were positively identified. Officer body worn camera video footage recorded the likeness of suspect Reeder and his actions. During Officer Hoover's initial contact, he developed probable cause to search the vehicle and conduct a drug investigation.

responded as a backup officer. At the request of Officer Hoover, ordered the occupants from the vehicle. During the contact, suspect Reeder exited the vehicle and initially complied. Thereafter, Reeder entered the front driver's compartment. Reeder was given verbal lawful commands by to stop. Reeder chose not to obey the commands. Now driving, he reversed the vehicle which struck and injured . After this occurred, Reeder was ordered by Officer Hoover to stop. Reeder chose to disregard the lawful command and used the vehicle to flee from officers with an adult and her child still in the car.

After was struck by the vehicle at 800 Ocala Road, information was provided via police radio about the suspect vehicle. Officers responded to the area to search for the suspect vehicle. Citizens contacted the Consolidated Dispatch Agency after they witnessed the suspect's vehicle strike and flee. Gained from their account was the vehicle's direction of travel and location. Officers located the vehicle parked at 105 Valencia Drive at 11:39 PM; it was located approximately a quarter of a mile from the last location it was observed by the witnesses.

learned via radio that Officer Martin located the vehicle in the parking lot of a nearby apartment complex located at 105 Valencia Drive. responded to the complex with other officers and spoke with residents in an effort to locate the involved suspect. This was recorded on body worn camera. During his efforts, a car alarm was activated, and a victim fled from apartment H and relayed there was a "hostage" situation to officers. This was captured on multiple body worn cameras. Officers Martin, Harvey, Yeager, Amos, and Sergeants Goram and positioned themselves outside the entrance to apartment H. then moved from the front entrance to cover the back of the apartment. During his interview, described the area behind the apartments as "extremely dark." He noted he did not have a place of cover available behind the apartment building. recalled being made aware there was a firearm involved.

At the entrance to apartment H, officers gave verbal commands inside and a victim relayed the suspect was armed with a gun. Another victim, who

unsuccessfully fought suspect Reeder inside the apartment for control of the firearm, escaped from the apartment. Reeder, while armed with the stolen handgun, jumped through the rear second level window to the ground. This was believed to be an overt effort to escape law enforcement.

After Reeder landed on the ground, he held the firearm in his right hand. [redacted], wearing a department class B uniform, pointed his handgun at Reeder and ordered, "don't move, don't move. Get on the ground!" Despite his commands, Reeder pointed a firearm at [redacted].

[redacted] fired twice at the suspect; both gunshots struck Reeder and Reeder dropped the firearm. Based on [redacted] body worn camera footage, the entire encounter with Reeder which began when he jumped through the window and ended after [redacted] discharged his firearm lasted 4 seconds. TPD immediately rendered medical aid to the suspect and requested EMS.

Subsequent forensic analysis was done both of Reeder and of the gun he pointed at [redacted]. Upon autopsy, the Medical Examiner found significant levels of active methamphetamine in Reeder's blood. Furthermore, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Ballistics section examined the gun that Reeder dropped when he was shot. They found that the unfired round that was in the chamber of the pistol had a dimple on the primer. While it is uncertain how or when this indentation was created, it is consistent with the pistol having been fired by the operator and the cartridge having misfired rather than firing a projectile.

APPLICABLE FLORIDA STATUTES

Florida Statute 843 states one may not knowingly and willfully resist, obstruct, or oppose any officer in the lawful execution of any legal duty. Once probable cause for an arrest occurs, Section 776.05 Florida Statutes states that a law enforcement officer need not retreat or desist from efforts to make a lawful arrest because of resistance to the arrest. The officer is justified in the use of any force which he reasonably believes to be necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making the arrest. Florida Statute 776.051(1) states a person is not justified in the use of force to resist an arrest by a law enforcement officer who is known, or reasonably appears, to be a law enforcement officer. Florida Statute 776.012 states a person is justified in the use of deadly force only if he reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or another.

CONCLUSIONS

We the Grand Jury, unanimously find that the law enforcement officers in this case were lawfully attempting to arrest Raheem Reeder and that he posed a clear threat of imminent death or great bodily harm to

This case began as a simple welfare check of a car in the Publix parking lot near Tennessee Street and Ocala Drive. Tallahassee Police found the car stopped in the driveway and inquired if they were in distress. The driver explained that they had just left a gas station and were waived down by a good Samaritan for leaving the gas cap open. While speaking to them, the officer noticed some marijuana on the dash and began an investigation of whether other drugs may have been in the car.

Before this could be accomplished, Raheem Reeder inexplicably brought violence to the situation. He chose to enter the driver seat and then threw the car into reverse. The open door knocked to the ground where he was nearly crushed under the wheels. He then fled with a woman and her child in the car.

Reeder and his accomplice fled less than a mile away and found two innocent homeowners. They were able to gain entry into the innocent's home under the guise of needing help. Once inside, Reeder chose to be violent. He stole a firearm from the home and took the victims hostage. While holding them at gunpoint he took their personal belongings while planning an escape. Eventually, a fight broke out between one of the hostages and Reeder. This allowed the other hostage to escape and summon help from the Tallahassee Police who had converged on the area and found the abandoned car.

Officers began to attempt to rescue the remaining hostage and arrest Reeder. While ordering his surrender at the front door, the remaining innocent was able to flee to the police. These officers showed tremendous professionalism and restraint in safely allowing an unknown man to run directly to them as they waited, with guns drawn, at the door. Upstairs, Reeder again chose the path of violence.

He inexplicably ran through a closed second floor window and crashed to the ground. Still holding a loaded .380 pistol, he was both illuminated and confronted by the lone officer covering the back, Tallahassee Police

showed tremendous tactical skill and bravery as he recognized the lethal threat and ordered Reeder to not move and get on the ground. Reeder then pointed the gun toward and forced the officer to use deadly force to defend himself. He stopped Reeder's actions by firing two accurate rounds within four seconds of the window breaking.

We find Raheem Reeder's death was solely the result of his actions on April 8, 2021. He chose to drive over one Tallahassee Police Sergeant, take hostages and then pointed a gun at a second police officer. Such violence could only be stopped through the heroic and skilled response of the Tallahassee Police Department. Within an hour, they found where Reeder had fled, rescued two innocent hostages, and stopped him. We are thankful that _____ was not more seriously injured and we appreciate his service. We are also thankful that Reeder's gun did not fire when he pointed it at _____ and wish to thank him, and all of our members of law enforcement, for their selfless sacrifice in keeping our community safe.

THEREFORE, with a quorum present, we unanimously find that the conduct of law enforcement, and specifically the conduct of _____ in reference to the shooting of Raheem Reeder, was a lawful and justifiable use of deadly force pursuant to Florida Statutes.

Your Grand Jurors say nothing further in these premises.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 15th day of July 2021.

Foreperson

Attest: _____
Grand Jury Clerk