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GRAND JURY RETURNS "NO CAUSE OF ACTION" IN NON-FATAL NEWARK POLICE DIVISION OFF-DUTY OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING ON APRIL 5, 2022

On January 28, 2026, an Essex County Grand Jury found that a Newark Police Division officer's use of deadly force was legally justified and there was no cause for action. This means that no criminal charges were filed against the officer.

On April 5, 2022, a Newark Police officer discharged his service weapon while off duty. The Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability was notified pursuant to the New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2019-4 ("the Directive"). A comprehensive conflicts inquiry was conducted and no actual or potential conflicts of interest were identified. The Essex County Prosecutor's Office was designated as the independent investigator for this non-fatal officer involved shooting.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Professional Standards Bureau investigated this incident, obtaining and reviewing relevant evidence including statements of civilian and law enforcement witnesses, video footage, and physical evidence.

The investigation found that members of the Newark Police Division responded to 10 Hill Street on a report from an off-duty officer whose personal vehicle was struck by gunfire. An Audi motor vehicle had been following closely behind the off-duty officer's vehicle when it was fired upon by an occupant of the Audi. The off-duty officer exited his vehicle and pointed out the Audi to responding officers who attempted to engage the Audi. The Audi then eluded the responding officers, traveling at a high rate of speed back towards the off-duty officer's location. The off-duty officer fired multiple rounds at the Audi as it drove past him.

The Audi was struck twice as a result of the officer's use of force. None of the occupants of the Audi nor any other individuals were injured as a result of the officer's use of force.

Responding officers pursued the Audi into the City of Elizbeth, terminating pursuit when the Audi became disabled after striking multiple objects including a fence and parked vehicles. The five occupants of the Audi fled on foot and were apprehended after a brief foot chase. A Taurus model handgun was recovered from the scene of the Audi's collision. A forensic examination concluded that the Taurus handgun was a ballistic match to two shell casings recovered from the scene of the shooting.

Consistent with the Directive, the officer's use of deadly, but non-fatal, force was presented to an Essex County Grand Jury. After hearing the details of the investigation and being

instructed on the applicable law, the Grand Jury found that the officer's use of deadly force was legally justified. Under the laws of the State of New Jersey, the use of deadly force is justified when an individual reasonably believes it is immediately necessary to protect oneself from imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm.

At the conclusion of this investigation, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office referred the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency for administrative review in accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policy & Procedures.

This statement was prepared and disseminated to the public in accordance with the Directive.

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