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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
19-C PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT**

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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In re: Mr. Paul Jones, III Death Investigation

Introduction:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-61, my office has reviewed the investigation surrounding the death of Mr. Paul Jones, III that occurred on November 9, 2017. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the conduct of Salisbury Police Officers Basinger, Colvin, and Martinez was unlawful. Agents with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (“NCSBI”), an independent agency, conducted the investigation into this matter. The FBI and The Salisbury Police Department assisted in the investigation of the bank robbery. Immediately preceding the officer involved shooting, Mr. Jones, III was a suspect in a bank robbery, two separate shootings, a carjacking, and a police chase.

Synopsis:

Based upon the NCSBI investigation, Mr. Jones, III was armed with a handgun and while committing a bank robbery, did shoot Victim #1 and flee the bank. Once Mr. Jones, III exited the bank, he shot Victim #2 and stole his vehicle, a 4-door Acura sedan. Law enforcement officers identified the 4-door Acura sedan as the stolen vehicle and the police pursued the driver, Mr. Jones, III. After a brief chase, the stolen Acura sedan being driven by Mr. Jones, III, struck another vehicle near the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard and Highway 150. Officers yelled commands at Mr. Jones, III to drop his weapon and to exit the vehicle. An eyewitness observed a gunshot being fired from the Acura sedan. One officer believed Mr. Jones, III was re-loading his gun, and as a result of this continued immediate threat, Salisbury Police Officers Basinger, Colvin, and Martinez fired their service weapons, which resulted in the death of Mr. Jones, III. A Springfield .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun, with one empty magazine, three live .45 caliber rounds in another magazine, and one live .45 caliber round in the chamber, was found in the driver’s floorboard of the black Acura sedan that Mr. Jones, III was operating at the time of the vehicle crash. Black gloves, a black sweatshirt, and a ski mask were collected from the crime scene. Three spent .45 caliber shell casings were found inside the black Acura. The NC State Crime Lab determined that the three spent .45 caliber shell casings were fired from the

Springfield .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun found in the vehicle that Mr. Jones, III was driving.

Details of Investigation:

On Thursday, November 9, 2017, at approximately 5:02 p.m., members of the Salisbury Police Department were dispatched to a bank robbery in progress at Wells Fargo Bank, 866 Jake Alexander Boulevard West, Salisbury. When officers arrived at the location, employees inside the bank were assisting a male victim (Victim #1), who had been shot by Mr. Paul Jones, III.

Wells Fargo bank employees stated that a masked man came into the bank through the front door and jumped over the counter. A bank employee stated that the masked man immediately brandished a black handgun and demanded cash from the tellers. Once the masked man received the cash, employees stated that he demanded keys from people inside the bank. A bank employee stated that the masked man continued to point the gun toward customers before shooting a hispanic male customer (Victim #1).

Another bank employee stated that a black male came into the bank with his face covered and told everyone to put their hands up. He stated that once the black male had received money from the tellers, the black male told Victim #1 to give him his keys. The bank employee stated that it did not appear that Victim #1 understood what the black male was asking for, at which point the black male shot Victim #1. The employee stated that the black male then shot at a second customer before fleeing the scene.

A Wells Fargo Bank customer stated that she was standing at the counter when a black male who had his face covered and who was carrying a black bag told everyone to put their hands up. She stated that the black male jumped over the counter, took money, and then ordered Victim #1 to give his keys to the black male. She stated that the suspect then shot Victim #1 and fired at her, but he missed.

Witness #1 stated that she was on Brenner Avenue and observed a person wearing a ski mask and carrying a book bag run toward the front of Wells Fargo Bank. She stated that she then saw the suspect quickly come out of the bank and run toward traffic on Brenner Avenue. After this, she heard several gunshots.

Witness #2 stated that he was stopped at the light at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard West and Brenner Avenue. He stated that he heard a gunshot and saw a black male standing outside a dark sedan holding a gun. He stated that the black male shot into the vehicle twice and then the black male got into the vehicle.

Witness #3 stated that he was at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard West and Brenner Avenue and observed a male wearing a ski mask with a gun raised in his right hand. The male, later identified as Mr. Jones, III, ran from the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot toward a black car and grabbed the driver's side exterior door handle and attempted to open the door. The witness stated that Mr. Jones, III then fired at least one shot into the window of the black vehicle.

Witness #4 stated that she was sitting at a stop light near the intersection of Brenner Avenue and Jake Alexander Boulevard and heard approximately three gunshots. She stated that she looked in her rearview mirror and saw a male wearing a hoodie holding a handgun. She stated that the male was leaning into a dark car (the glass was shattered) and appeared to be pulling something or someone out of the vehicle.

Witness #5 stated that she was at the stop light at the intersection of Brenner Avenue and Jake Alexander Boulevard. She stated that she observed a male run from the parking lot of Harris Teeter toward Wells Fargo Bank. The witness stated that the male, who was carrying a backpack, was wearing a hoodie, gloves, and a mask. She stated the male went into the front door of the bank and came back out shortly thereafter. She stated the male ran to cars that were stopped at the traffic light. She observed the male point a handgun at the driver's side window of a black sedan. She then heard gunshots and saw the male break out glass from the window with a handgun.

Witness #6 stated that he was at the Wells Fargo Bank drive-through line. He stated that he heard one gunshot, then observed a black male hitting the driver's side door of a vehicle in traffic. The witness stated that the suspect was facing the driver's door of an Acura sedan and fired two shots into the driver's side window. He stated that although he didn't see the gun, he did see the suspect motion as if he was shooting and then the window was shot out. He stated that the suspect got into the driver's side of the Acura sedan and he did not see anyone get out. The witness stated that the suspect then took a left turn onto Jake Alexander Boulevard. At this time, the witness called 911.

Witness #7 stated that he was at a stop sign at Brenner Avenue and observed a male wearing a mask running near Wells Fargo Bank with his face covered. The witness drove his vehicle to the front entrance of the bank and saw people with their hands up in the air. He stated that he called 911, and then he saw the male fire a gun. He stated that the male ran onto Brenner Avenue and pointed a gun at a driver in a black car. The witness stated that he began to follow the black car, and saw the vehicle strike another vehicle near Lincolnton Road. He stated that he observed a black male (Victim #2) come out of the black vehicle. The witness stated that he then picked up Victim #2 and drove him to the hospital.

Victim #2 stated that he was sitting in the driver's seat of his black Acura sedan at the intersection of Brenner Avenue and Jake Alexander Boulevard West. He stated that while he was waiting for the stop light to turn green, he saw a handgun pointed at the glass of his driver's side window. He stated that he heard a gunshot and he yelled to the suspect that he didn't have anything. Victim #2 stated that he heard another gunshot and the suspect was able to get into his vehicle. He stated that he jumped into the back seat and started feeling woozy. He stated that he was able to get out of the vehicle and a man and woman picked him up. He stated that he woke up in the hospital.

Officer Basinger stated that on November 9, 2017, he was on duty with the Salisbury Police Department and responded to an armed robbery in progress at Wells Fargo Bank on Jake Alexander Boulevard West. Officer Basinger stated that he activated his blue lights and siren. While he was traveling to the bank, he stated that he observed a black sedan near Lincolnton

Road that drove around several cars and went through a stop light. Officer Basinger stated that he turned around and the black sedan turned right towards South Main Street, then turned onto Jackson Street where the vehicle ran another red light. He stated that the black sedan then turned onto Mooresville Road toward Jake Alexander Boulevard. He stated that he reached speeds over 100 m.p.h. and Sgt. Colvin, who was driving an unmarked Chevrolet Caprice, began pursuing the black sedan as well. He stated the black sedan swerved and hit another vehicle at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard West and Mooresville Road. Officer Basinger stated that Sgt. Colvin pulled up behind the black sedan and he (Officer Basinger) pulled next to the passenger side of the black sedan. Officer Basinger stated that he exited his vehicle and heard two pops, then saw possibly two bullet holes at the bottom passenger's side of the front windshield of the black sedan. He stated that he fired two or three rounds toward the area where the bullets came out of the windshield. He stated that he saw Sgt. Colvin approach the black sedan so he moved to the back of his vehicle. Officer Basinger stated that Officer Martinez then approached the black sedan and he believed he heard someone say, "he's reloading." He stated that Sgt. Colvin and Officer Martinez fired into the back of the black sedan and he (Officer Basinger) believed that he shot one more round. He stated that he observed officers pull a black male out of the driver's side window of the black sedan. Officer Basinger stated that he provided someone a gunshot wound kit from his vehicle and paramedics arrived.

Sgt. Smith stated that on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at approximately 5:00 p.m., he heard a radio call about an armed robbery at Wells Fargo Bank involving a man armed with a gun. He stated that he responded to the scene in his marked Chevrolet Tahoe and activated his blue lights and siren. He stated that as he approached Jake Alexander Boulevard and Mooresville Road, he heard gunshots. Sgt. Smith stated that he heard all the shots together and could hear multiple weapons being fired; however, he was not sure how many shots were fired. He stated that officers surrounded a vehicle and were giving commands to "get out of the car." Sgt. Smith stated that he observed a large amount of money in the driver's seat of the suspect vehicle. He stated that once the suspect was removed from the vehicle, Sgt. Colvin and another officer rendered aid to the suspect.

Officer Martinez stated that he heard on the radio that a bank robbery was in progress and he responded to the area. He stated that he received information that the suspect had fled the scene in a vehicle and had shot at people. He stated that once he arrived at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard and Highway 150, he got out of his vehicle. Officer Martinez stated that officers were requesting that the suspect comply with their commands. He stated that the suspect vehicle's airbags were deployed, which made it difficult to see inside the vehicle. He stated that the black male driver suspect was wearing a ski mask and kept looking back at the officers. He stated that Sgt. Colvin said, "he's reloading" and suddenly there was gunfire. Officer Martinez stated that he fired three rounds at the suspect. He stated that officers continued to yell at the suspect to "show me your hands." Officer Martinez stated that the suspect, Mr. Jones, III, was removed from the vehicle and officers rendered aid to him. He stated that he observed two gunshot wounds to Mr. Jones, III, who was wearing gloves.

Lt. Efird stated that at approximately 5:05 p.m., communications dispatched a robbery in progress at Wells Fargo Bank. He stated that as the suspect vehicle began approaching heavy congestion, it began weaving in and out of traffic then collided into another vehicle. Lt. Efird

stated that he stopped his vehicle and Sgt. Colvin was almost directly behind the suspect vehicle. He stated that Officer Basinger went to the right side of the suspect vehicle. He stated that he observed Sgt. Colvin shoot toward the suspect vehicle. He stated that he observed the driver, who was possibly wearing a hoodie and black gloves, with a handgun in his right hand. Lt. Efirid stated that he heard shots over his right shoulder and could no longer see the driver because the back glass had shattered.

Officer Taylor stated that dispatch advised that a bank robbery was in progress and shortly thereafter advised that a suspect had left the bank and was armed with a gun. She stated that Sgt. Colvin and Officer Basinger were in pursuit of the suspect vehicle, which ended when the suspect vehicle rear-ended another vehicle. Officer Taylor stated that Sgt. Colvin, Officer Basinger, Officer Martinez, and Lt. Efirid positioned themselves behind the suspect's vehicle. She stated that officers gave multiple commands to the suspect to "drop the gun, and show me your hands." She stated that she heard two gunshots, then three more. Officer Taylor stated that she did not see who fired the gunshots. She stated that officers removed the suspect, later identified as Mr. Jones, III, from the vehicle and began rendering aid to him.

Witness #8 stated that she was on Mooresville Road, next to the Shell gas station, and heard sirens. She stated that the vehicle driven by Mr. Jones, III, hit another car in the rear, which caused the vehicle being driven by Mr. Jones, III, to push another vehicle to the right. She stated that she heard officers calling for assistance and believed someone from the area where Mr. Jones, III was located, fired shots toward the officers. She stated that two or three officers then fired shots in Mr. Jones, III's direction. The witness stated that her view of Mr. Jones, III was obstructed.

Witness #9 stated that he was driving on Jake Alexander Boulevard and saw several police cars drive by. He stated that a black Acura crashed into another vehicle and a police officer approached the vehicle and commanded that the person get out. The witness stated that he then heard two gunshots and did not know where they came from. He stated the police officer stepped back and then fired. He stated that he then heard multiple gunshots.

Witness #10 stated that he was at a stoplight at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard and Highway 150 (Mooresville Road) and saw a black Acura sedan spinning and the air bags had deployed. He stated that he saw three or four police cars with blue lights. He stated that he heard three to four gunshots, a pause, and then seven to ten additional gunshots. The witness stated a truck was blocking some of his view and the area was well lit.

Witness #11 stated that he was at Jerry's Shell Station located at 600 Jake Alexander Boulevard West and heard police sirens. He stated that he observed a Salisbury Police Department Chevrolet Impala with blue lights and siren on drive through the gas station's parking lot. He stated that he then observed a black Acura drive west on Jake Alexander at a high rate of speed. The witness stated that five or six police cars, with their lights and sirens activated, were chasing the black Acura. He stated that the black Acura crashed into a vehicle, then came to a stop near the gas station. He stated that officers immediately surrounded the black Acura and most of the officers were wearing uniforms. The witness stated that officers were saying, "Put the gun

down” and “Get out of the car.” He stated that he heard two gunshots which were followed by six to twelve gunshots. He stated that he never saw who fired any of the gunshots.

Witness #12 stated that he was at Jerry’s Shell Station and observed a black Acura run into another vehicle at a very high rate of speed. He stated that once the black Acura came to a stop, police officers were out of their vehicles and yelling, “Let me see your hands” and “Get out of the vehicle.” The witness stated that he then heard two to three gunshots, which were followed by approximately fifteen to eighteen additional gunshots. He stated that he did not see who fired the gunshots, but the first two to three gunshots sounded different from the other ones.

Witness #13 stated that he was at Rushco Service Station located at 601 Jake Alexander Boulevard West and heard a vehicle crash. He stated that he then heard two gunshots which were followed by approximately ten to fifteen additional gunshots. He stated that he did not see who fired any of the gunshots.

Witness #14 stated that she was on Highway 150 between Food Lion and McDonald’s when a vehicle approached from behind her at a high rate of speed. The witness stated that this vehicle hit the vehicle that was directly in front of her vehicle. She observed 4-5 officers surround the vehicle, heard two small muted pops, and then heard several louder pops of gun fire.

Witness #15 stated that he was stopped at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard waiting to make a left turn onto Highway 150. He stated that a silver car had just turned onto Jake Alexander Boulevard when a black car ran the red light and hit the silver car in the rear. He stated that he heard officers yelling “Stop” and “Get out of the car” to the driver of the black car. The witness stated that as officers were approaching the black car he heard two pops; he believed the driver of the black car shot at officers because the two pops were muffled as if they were shot from inside a car with the windows up. He stated that he did not observe any officers shoot until after he heard the two pops.

Witness #16 stated that she was at the Rushco Service Station and observed police officers driving down Jake Alexander Boulevard with their blue lights and sirens activated. She stated that she observed a black vehicle hit a silver vehicle at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard and Highway 150. She stated that the black car came to a stop and she then heard two gunshots. The witness stated that at the time of the gunshots, she observed police officers approaching the black vehicle. She stated that once the initial two gunshots were fired, the police officers began firing at the driver in the black vehicle. She stated that she could only see one occupant inside the black vehicle. The witness stated that the initial two gunshots sounded different from the six to ten gunshots the officers fired at the black vehicle.

Witness #17 stated that he was at the stoplight of Jake Alexander Boulevard West when he observed a black vehicle being followed by police. He stated that he observed the black car hit another vehicle, then come to a stop. He stated that he observed a gunshot come from the black car. He stated that police officers surrounded the black vehicle and started to shoot into the back windshield. He stated that the police vehicles had their blue lights and sirens on. The witness stated that he could hear gun noise coming from inside the black vehicle. He stated that the guy in the black car was shooting at officers and then the officers shot back at him.

Victim #1 and Victim #2 were treated at the hospital for gunshot injuries. Paramedics stated that when they arrived at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard and Highway 150, a black male, identified as Mr. Jones, III, was on the ground. He was transported into the ambulance for assessment, and paramedics pronounced him deceased at 5:29 p.m. He was then transported to Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.

Crime Scene Investigation (Bank and Surrounding Area):

A crime scene investigator located areas of blood inside Wells Fargo Bank. A .45 caliber spent shell casing was located on the floor inside the bank a few feet away from the front entrance and was collected. A bullet hole was observed on an "employee only" access door with a bullet lodged in the wall; this evidence was removed and collected as well. Another .45 caliber spent shell casing was located on an employee desk.

Two spent .45 caliber shell casings were located near Brenner Avenue across from Wells Fargo bank, along with shattered glass.

Crime Scene Investigation (Near Shell Station):

The crime scene was located in the west travel lanes directly in front of Jerry's Shell Station, 600 Jake Alexander Boulevard West, near the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard West and Highway 150 (Mooresville Road).

A Chevrolet Tahoe registered to the Salisbury Police Department was located partially in the right travel lane and partially in the middle travel lane. Approximately nine spent .40 caliber Winchester shell casings were located on the ground at or near the driver's side door or running board.

A green Kershaw brand knife was located on the hood of a Chevrolet Caprice registered to the Salisbury Police Department. Approximately three spent .40 caliber Winchester shell casings were found on the ground near this vehicle.

Two spent .40 caliber Winchester shell casings were located on the ground near the rear of a 4-door Acura sedan, the vehicle that Mr. Jones, III was operating. This vehicle belonged to Victim #2, who had been shot earlier by Mr. Jones, III. The crime scene investigator observed five areas on the front windshield which appeared to be bullet holes. Suspected projectile fragments were found on the passenger side exterior windshield and glass shards were visible on the passenger side of the vehicle's hood. A suspected projectile was located in the seal of the vehicle's hood and there was damage to both the front and rear passenger side doors.

Crime scene investigators searched the 4-door Acura sedan that Mr. Jones, III was operating and located \$12,347 in U.S. Currency, belonging to Wells Fargo Bank, in the driver's seat and floorboard. A Springfield .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun with two magazines, one live .45 caliber round in the chamber, one magazine with three live .45 caliber rounds, and one empty magazine were found in the driver's floorboard. Three suspected projectiles and bullet

fragments were found in the vehicle, along with three spent .45 caliber shell casings. There were four suspected bullet holes in the driver's seat, two suspected bullet holes in the driver's headrest, and a suspected bullet hole in the driver's side rear seat headrest.

A suspected projectile was found on the ground underneath a first aid kit near the concrete median. A navy blue ski mask with a suspected projectile inside was located in this same area, along with an unfired .40 caliber cartridge. Two spent .40 caliber Winchester shell casings and a suspected projectile were found on the ground near another Chevrolet Caprice, registered to the Salisbury Police Department. One spent .40 caliber Winchester shell casing was located in the grassy area of a curb. Another vehicle, a 2-door Honda Accord, which was struck by the vehicle Mr. Jones, III was operating, had damage to the windshield and rear areas.

A crime scene investigator collected Sgt. Colvin's issued firearm, a Glock .40 caliber handgun. The handgun contained a magazine with five Winchester .40 caliber rounds of ammunition. Officer Basinger's issued firearm, a Glock .40 caliber handgun, contained a magazine with eleven Winchester .40 caliber rounds, and one Winchester .40 caliber round was also collected. Officer Martinez's issued firearm, a Glock .40 caliber handgun, contained a magazine with ten Winchester .40 caliber rounds of ammunition, was collected as well. In addition, a crime scene investigator collected the three Glock magazines.

NC State Crime Laboratory:

Several items collected during the investigation were analyzed at the NC State Crime Laboratory.

The STR/DNA lab analysis confirmed that:

- The DNA profile obtained from the swabbing from the ski mask and filter mask is consistent with a mixture of two contributors. The major contributor profile matches the DNA profile of Mr. Paul Jones, III.
- The DNA profile obtained from the swabbing from the Springfield .45 caliber handgun is consistent with a mixture of four contributors. The DNA profile obtained from Mr. Paul Jones, III cannot be excluded as a contributor to the multiple major profile of this mixture. The minor profile of this mixture is inconclusive due to insufficient quantity and/or quality of recovered DNA.

The firearms examination and identification lab analysis confirmed that:

- Three .45 caliber shell cases found inside the Acura sedan were fired from the Springfield .45 caliber handgun that was also found inside the Acura sedan Mr. Jones, III was driving.
- Seven .40 caliber fired bullets and jacket, along with test bullets fired from Officers Basinger, Colvin, and Martinez's service handguns, had agreement of all discernible class characteristics; however, the comparison of individual characteristics was inconclusive. Therefore, the seven .40 caliber fired bullets and jacket could not be identified or eliminated as having been fired from the officers' service weapons or identified or eliminated as having been fired from the same firearm.
- A fired jacket fragment and a .40 caliber fired bullet collected from the Acura sedan had agreement of all discernible class characteristics with the analyzed .40 caliber fired

bullets and jacket, along with the test fired bullets from Officers Basinger, Colvin, and Martinez's service handguns, but they had little individual detail for comparison purposes.

- A .45 caliber fired jacket collected from the Acura sedan and the test bullets fired from the Springfield .45 caliber handgun had agreement of all discernible class characteristics; however, the comparison of individual characteristics was inconclusive. Therefore, the .45 caliber fired jacket could not be identified or eliminated as having been fired from the Springfield .45 caliber handgun.
- A lead fragment collected from the Acura sedan, a bullet core collected during the autopsy examination, and a lead fragment collected from the ski mask contained no marks of value for forensic firearms comparison.

Autopsy Report:

The medical examiner concluded that the cause of death for Mr. Paul Jones, III was multiple gunshot wounds. The autopsy report documented five penetrating gunshot wounds of the torso and a superficial gunshot wound of the head.

Five projectiles and some irregular metal fragments were recovered. The medical examiner noted that a sixth (superficial) gunshot wound was consistent with a flattened projectile recovered from a ski mask. Toxicological testing of Mr. Jones, III revealed the detection of both alcohol and THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) in his system.

Legal Standard Analysis:

In general, a law enforcement officer, or any other person, is justified in using deadly force if the officer or person reasonably believed that he or another person was in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death from the actions of the person who is shot. It is lawful for an officer to take action before it is too late to repel a deadly attack. Under North Carolina law, the burden of proof is on the State to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a person did not act in self-defense. Pursuant to *State vs. Norris*, 303 NC 526 (1981), a killing is justified under North Carolina law if it appeared to a person that it was necessary to kill in order to save himself or another person from death or great bodily harm.

Conclusion:

Our office has a duty to objectively analyze the totality of the evidence and circumstances. Our office has reviewed the NCSBI investigation and consulted with the investigating SBI agents.

Based upon the NCSBI investigation, all of the credible, available, and believable evidence supports the conclusion that Mr. Paul Jones, III committed an armed robbery at Wells Fargo Bank and shot Victim #1, an innocent customer who was inside the bank at the time. After this incident, Mr. Jones, III shot Victim #2, who was sitting in his vehicle, waiting on a traffic light, on Brenner Avenue, and then stole his vehicle.

As a result of these incidents, officers with the Salisbury Police Department located the stolen vehicle that Mr. Jones, III was operating and attempted to detain him before he could harm anyone else. After a police chase in which Mr. Jones, III refused to stop the stolen vehicle he was driving, he crashed into another vehicle. Law enforcement officers surrounded the 4-door Acura sedan and yelled commands at Mr. Jones, III to drop the gun and get out of the vehicle. A civilian eyewitness, who was in a position to see the front of the black Acura sedan, stated that the person in the black car was shooting at officers. After the gunshots were fired from the vehicle Mr. Jones, III was in, an officer believed that Mr. Jones, III was re-loading his gun and officers fired into the vehicle, which resulted in his death. Under the law, when using deadly force, the justification of using force includes all force necessary to end the threat.

The physical evidence supports the conclusion that Mr. Paul Jones, III had a firearm and had fired it from the stolen vehicle following the vehicle crash. The NC State Crime Lab determined that the three spent .45 caliber shell casings, located inside the 4-door Acura black sedan that Mr. Jones had stolen and was operating, were fired from the Springfield .45 caliber handgun that was in the same vehicle.

We have concluded that based upon the totality of the evidence, Officer Basinger, Sgt. Colvin, and Officer Martinez did not violate any criminal laws. Therefore, criminal charges are not warranted against them for the shooting death of Mr. Paul Jones, III.

Brandy L. Cook
Rowan County District Attorney