

VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NUMBER: IA-19-012

PERIOD COVERED: December 24, 2019

DATE REPORTED: December 24, 2019

SUBJECT(S) NAME: Sergeant Jason Stickles #6849
Deputy Jacob Bissonnette #9065
Deputy Michael Sawicki #7633

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Detective Andrew Calkins #7929

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

On December 24, 2019, Volusia Sheriff's Deputies responded to 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona in reference to a suspicious incident. The caller, Jennifer Trynock advised her aunt, Gretchen Knowles, was located at the address and had a gun pointed at her by Harvey Cantrell. Upon Volusia Sheriff's Office deputies arrival, contact was made with Knowles who left the residence via the front door. Cantrell followed Knowles out the front door, in possession of a firearm, and fired his weapon in the direction of Knowles. Sergeant Jason Stickles, Deputy Bissonnette, and Deputy Sawicki utilized deadly force to stop the threat from Cantrell. *(See Tab B for Official Correspondence)*

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:

On December 25, 2019, Chief Deputy Joseph Gallagher assigned the above described incident to the Internal Affairs Unit for investigation. This report details the investigation conducted by Detective Andrew Calkins. The following is a summary of the incident and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigative report.

On December 24, 2019, the Volusia Sheriff's Office (VSO) requested the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) conduct an investigation into the use of deadly force by VSO Deputies Jacob Bissonnette, Michael Sawicki, and Sergeant (Sgt.) Jason Stickles, which resulted in the death of Harvey Eugene Cantrell. The incident took place at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona, FL 32725.

FDLE Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Lee Massie, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Rich Piccininni, Special Agent (SA) Christopher Deardoff, SA Bradley Lewis, SA Christopher Shephard, and SA Ted Silberstein responded to the scene and assisted with various investigative

activities.

The preliminary investigation revealed that on December 24, 2019, the VSO communications center received a call from Jennifer Michelle Trynock. Trynock advised that her aunt, Gretchen Knowles was located at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona and had a gun pointed at her by Cantrell. She further advised that Cantrell was Knowles' brother. Knowles had contacted Trynock earlier via phone and stated that Cantrell was yelling and had pointed a gun at her. VSO deputies responded to the area.

Once on scene, communication between the VSO deputies outside of the residence was established with Knowles via phone. Knowles was advised to walk out the front door and make contact with deputies directly to the north of the residence. While Knowles was outside the front door of the residence, Cantrell followed her. Cantrell possessed a handgun and fired the handgun at Knowles, which resulted in him being shot by deputies. Cantrell died on scene. Knowles was then transported to the Central Florida Regional Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, for medical treatment. The area where the confrontation took place was secured by VSO. VSO Crime Scene Unit responded to the area and processed the scene, under the direction of the FDLE.

Interview of Sergeant Charles Hillyard

On December 24, 2019, SA Deardoff responded to the shooting incident and obtained a sworn and recorded statement from VSO Sgt. Charles Hillyard. The following is a summary of Sgt. Hillyard's statement:

On December 24, 2019, Sgt. Hillyard was assigned to road patrol as the supervisor. Sgt. Hillyard heard a dispatched call for service, which advised that a male, later identified as Cantrell, was threatening his sister, later identified as Gretchen Knowles, with a firearm at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona. Sgt. Hillyard, along with additional VSO deputies, responded to the area and established a perimeter. Sgt. Hillyard initially positioned his patrol vehicle several houses to the south of the incident location before positioning himself in the driveway of 1000 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona across the street from the incident location. Sgt. Stickels was with Sgt. Hillyard at the 1000 West Gaucho Circle address.

Sgt. Hillyard and Sgt. Stickels discussed trying to establish communication with Knowles, who was inside the residence. Sgt. Hillyard returned to his patrol vehicle and retrieved his department-issued cell phone to call the residence. As Sgt. Hillyard was returning to his original position, he heard Deputy Sawicki give verbal commands to Knowles to walk towards him. Sgt. Hillyard did not see this but recognized Deputy Sawicki's voice. Sgt. Hillyard then heard two initial gunshots followed by multiple gunshots. Sgt. Hillyard did not see who fired any of the gunshots.

Sgt. Hillyard saw multiple deputies converging on the incident location and followed. He observed Knowles and Cantrell lying on the ground. Sgt. Hillyard remained outside of the residence while additional deputies were searching it. After the incident, Sgt. Hillyard's actions pertained to establishing and preserving the scene along with supervisory duties.

Interview of Deputy Jeffrey Lee

On December 24, 2019, SA Deardoff responded to the shooting incident and obtained a sworn and recorded statement from VSO Deputy Jeffery Lee. The following is a summary of Deputy Lee's statement:

On December 24, 2019, Deputy Lee was assigned as a road patrol deputy and was partnered with his Training Officer Deputy Sawicki. Deputy Lee was the passenger and Deputy Sawicki was driving. During their shift, Deputy Lee heard a call for service dispatched that pertained to an individual, later identified as Cantrell, at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona threatening another individual, later identified as Gretchen Knowles, with a firearm. Deputy Lee and Deputy Sawicki responded to the area. Deputy Lee retrieved a ballistic shield and followed Deputy Sawicki to the area just north of the residence. A perimeter was established around the residence with additional deputies.

While Deputy Lee and Deputy Sawicki were positioned north of the incident location, they received information about movement in the residence from Deputy Bissonnette and Sgt. Stickels. Communication was established with Knowles while she was inside the residence. Knowles was instructed to walk out the front door of the residence and meet with deputies. Deputy Lee saw Knowles exit the residence and saw Deputy Sawicki give her verbal commands to come towards him. Deputy Lee could not hear what Knowles was saying; however, it appeared that she had mobility issues as she was walking with the assistance of a cane.

As Deputy Sawicki was addressing Knowles, Cantrell exited the residence behind Knowles. Deputy Lee observed an object in one of Cantrell's hands. Deputy Lee was unsure of what the object was or which hand it was in. Deputy Lee heard Deputy Sawicki give verbal commands to Cantrell to show his hands. Deputy Sawicki also identified himself as law enforcement. Cantrell refused to show his hands to Deputy Sawicki. Deputy Lee saw Cantrell appear to walk back to the front door of the residence.

Deputy Lee positioned the ballistic shield in front of him and was able to see Knowles through the porthole in the front of the shield. Deputy Lee heard a single gunshot come from the area Cantrell was but did not see him shoot. Deputy Lee saw Knowles fall to the ground. Deputy Lee and Deputy Sawicki moved towards the residence, at which point Deputy Sawicki fired his rifle at Cantrell. Deputy Lee heard Deputy Sawicki fire. Deputy Lee was unsure of how many times Deputy Sawicki fired but advised it was more than once.

As Deputy Lee approached the residence, he was instructed to provide medical aid to Knowles. Deputy Lee provided aid until paramedics arrived on scene.

Interview of Deputy Thomas Hachenberger

On December 24, 2019, SA Bradley Lewis responded to the shooting incident and obtained a sworn and recorded statement of VSO Deputy Thomas Hachenberger. The following is a summary of Deputy Hachenberger's statement:

On December 24, 2019, Deputy Hachenberger was assigned as a patrol deputy in 45 zone and was scheduled to work from 1800 hours until 0600 hours. Deputy Hachenberger received information via VSO Communication Center of a disturbance from "a relative" of the deceased. The female caller reported that a disturbance "possible involved a firearm" and that a male named Harvey was preventing a female from calling 911.

Deputy Hachenberger, Deputy Bissonnette, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Sawicki, Deputy Lee, and Deputy Tyler St. John responded to the residence and arrived within approximately seven to eight minutes. The deputies parked a short distance from the residence and formed a "receiving team." About this same time, Sgt. Hillyard and Sgt. Stickels arrived in the immediate area.

Deputy Hachenberger heard via radio that Bissonnette met with the sergeants and the deputies who assumed positions across the street from the residence. Deputy Hachenberger positioned himself behind a house next to the residence, during which he heard police radio traffic that a male and female were observed inside the residence. A "couple of minutes" after positioning himself behind the residence next door, Deputy Hachenberger heard unintelligible yelling and rapid gunfire that lasted an estimated three to five seconds.

Deputy Hachenberger and other deputies responded to the front of the residence shortly after that. After arriving at the front of the residence, Deputy Hachenberger observed a wounded male and female lying on the ground near the front of the residence. Deputy Hachenberger also observed a black handgun on the ground, approximately one to two feet from where the male was lying. Deputy Hachenberger observed deputies render aid to the female and additional deputies searched the residence for additional occupants, none of which were found. The female was transported to the hospital for medical treatment. Deputy Hachenberger did not hear any of the shooting deputies or the wounded female make any statements pertaining to the shooting.

Interview of Deputy Tyler St. John

On December 24, 2019, SA Bradley Lewis responded to the shooting incident and obtained the sworn and recorded statement of VSO Deputy Tyler St. John. The following is a summary of Deputy St. John's statement:

On December 24, 2019, Deputy St. John was assigned as a patrol deputy in 41 zone and was scheduled to work from 1800 hours until 0600 hours. VSO received a call from an individual located in Virginia. The caller reported that there was an armed subject inside a residence and the subject wasn't allowing an individual inside the residence to leave or call 911.

Deputy St. John, Deputy Hachenberger, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Sawicki, and Deputy Lee responded to the immediate area of the incident. After they arrived, they formed a "receiving team." The deputies progressed towards the residence and staged at a nearby residence that was located on the same side and one house from the target residence. Deputy Bissonnette and Sgt. Stickels arrived in the area and assumed positions at a residence across the street from where the incident occurred.

Police radio traffic indicated that the reporting person was communicating with one of the individuals inside the residence. The individual inside the residence was encouraged to exit the residence and turn towards the receiving team located outside the residence on the north side. Radio traffic also indicated that an individual opened the front door, closed the front door, and initially remained inside the residence.

Deputy St. John then observed a female exit from the front door of the residence and stop. Deputy Sawicki began issuing verbal commands for the female to move towards the deputies. A male exited from the residence and walked towards the female. Sgt. Stickels and Deputy Sawicki repeatedly directed the male not move and to put his hands up. The male turned and started to walk back inside the residence, and as the male walked towards the interior of the residence, Deputy St. John lost sight of the male. Approximately two to three seconds later, Deputy St. John heard the sound of a single gunshot and then an estimated 20 plus gunshots. "Almost immediately" after Deputy St. John heard the single gunshot, he observed the female fall to the ground.

Deputy St. John and Deputy Sawicki advanced on the residence shortly after the gunfire ceased and observed the male lying outside the residence near the doorway and a black semiautomatic handgun near the unresponsive male. The female was moved to safety and medical assistance was requested. A check of the residence was conducted for additional occupants, none of which were found. Deputy St. John subsequently assisted with the crime scene log and crime scene preservation while waiting to be interviewed.

Interview of Deputy Devon Barrett

On December 25, 2019, SA Christopher Shephard responded to Central Florida Regional Hospital (CFRH) and obtained a sworn recorded statement from VSO Deputy Devon Barrett. The following is a summary of Deputy Barrett's statement:

On December 24, 2019, Deputy Barrett was performing her duties as a deputy sheriff. She was patrolling 48 zone in district four. Deputy Barrett heard a dispatched call for service, which advised that a male, later identified as Cantrell, was threatening his sister, later identified as Gretchen Knowles, with a firearm at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona.

Deputy Barrett, along with additional VSO deputies, responded to the area and established a perimeter. Deputy Barrett had positioned herself at a residence north of Knowles' residence. She was part of a four-person stack to be the receiving team for Knowles. Knowles was using a cane and had trouble walking. Deputy Barrett and other deputies called to Knowles in an attempt to get her to walk to the receiving team. Knowles stayed near the front of her residence and motioned that she could not walk through the grass. Cantrell came to the open door but did not exit the residence. Deputy Barrett could not see a weapon at this time.

Cantrell then exited the residence and walked near Knowles. Deputy Barrett then heard Sgt. Stickels from across the street challenge Cantrell by yelling, "Put your hands up." Cantrell threw his hands up and walked back to the front door. Knowles remained standing near the front door. Cantrell was behind a pillar and out of the view of Deputy Barrett when she heard a gunshot. Following the single gunshot, she heard several gunshots by deputies on the scene.

Deputy Barrett and other deputies moved to the residence to assist with Knowles and Cantrell. Sgt. Stickels moved Cantrell and while doing so, a firearm fell from Cantrell's hand. Deputy Barrett assisted with clearing the residence. Deputy Barrett then responded to the CFRH to sit with Knowles who had been transported by ambulance.

Interview of Deputy Jacob Bissonnette

On January 2, 2020, SA Deardoff and SA Christopher Shephard obtained a voluntary, sworn, recorded statement from Deputy Bissonnette. The statement was obtained at 428 N Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118, which was the law office of Michael H. Lambert who was also present. The following is a summary of Deputy Bissonnette's statement.

Deputy Bissonnette has been employed by the VSO for approximately 10 months as a Deputy Sheriff. At the time of the incident, he was assigned to road patrol. Deputy Bissonnette was wearing a green VSO uniform consisting of long pants, a short-sleeve shirt, duty belt, exterior tactical vest, and a body-worn camera (BWC). The uniform had agency patches and a badge that identified Deputy Bissonnette as a law enforcement officer. Deputy Bissonnette drove a VSO marked patrol vehicle.

Deputy Bissonnette utilized his department approved Springfield .223 caliber model AR-15 rifle at the time of the incident. The rifle was equipped with a 30-round magazine, which Deputy Bissonnette loaded with 28 rounds.

On the day of the incident, Deputy Bissonnette was on patrol and heard a call for service dispatched that pertained to a female at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona that was threatened by a male in the house who had a firearm. Deputy Bissonnette responded to the area with additional VSO deputies.

When Deputy Bissonnette arrived, he parked approximately two houses to the south of the incident location. Deputy Bissonnette retrieved his rifle and positioned himself in the driveway of 1000 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona which was across the street from the incident location. From Deputy Bissonnette's position, he was able to see the front door and front window of the incident location. Deputy Bissonnette could see into the residence through the front window, as it was not obstructed. Deputy Bissonnette also observed Deputy Sawicki and additional deputies positioned directly to the north of the residence.

While Deputy Bissonnette was positioned in the driveway, he observed a male, later identified as Cantrell, open the front door and look around. Cantrell then went back into the residence and stood in front of the front window. While he was there, Deputy Bissonnette could see that he was doing some motion with his hands but could not make out what. Deputy Bissonnette relayed this information to the other deputies. Sgt. Stickels arrived on scene and positioned himself to the left of Deputy Bissonnette in the same driveway.

Deputy Bissonnette observed the front door of the residence open and a female, later identified as Gretchen Knowles exit. Knowles began to walk towards the street and was given verbal commands to walk towards Deputy Sawicki, who was to the north of her. Knowles yelled that she was unable

to walk to Deputy Sawicki. At that moment, the front door of the residence opened and Cantrell exited. After Cantrell exited, Sgt. Stickels identified himself as a deputy and began to give him verbal commands to show his hands. Cantrell did not comply. Deputy Bissonnette observed Cantrell turn away from deputies and made a motion with his right hand as if he were going into a pocket. Deputy Bissonnette could no longer see Cantrell's right hand at that time.

Cantrell raised his right hand up, and Deputy Bissonnette could see a black handgun in Cantrell's hand. As soon as Cantrell brought the handgun up, he fired one time at Knowles. Deputy Bissonnette was able to see a plume of smoke coming from the barrel of Cantrell's handgun and the motion of recoil as well. Knowles then fell to the ground. At that moment, Deputy Bissonnette was in fear that Cantrell would continue to shoot Knowles or shoot the deputies directly to the north of him. Deputy Bissonnette fired at Cantrell approximately 10 to 12 times with his rifle. Deputy Bissonnette then saw that Cantrell had fallen to the ground.

Deputy Bissonnette and Sgt. Stickels approached Cantrell to see if he was still armed. Deputy Bissonnette pointed his rifle at Cantrell as Sgt. Stickels moved Cantrell to expose his hands. Deputy Bissonnette could see a handgun lying directly next to Cantrell and that he had died. Deputy Bissonnette provided first aid to Knowles until paramedics arrived. Deputy Bissonnette waited for direction from his supervision.

Deputy Bissonnette was able to mark on a Google Maps diagram of the location where he and Sgt. Stickels were located at the time of the incident.

Interview of Deputy Michael Sawicki

On January 2, 2020, SA Deardoff and SA Christopher Shephard obtained a voluntary, sworn, recorded statement from Deputy Sawicki. The statement was obtained at 428 N Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118, which was the law office of Michael H. Lambert who was also present. The following is a summary of Deputy Sawicki's statement.

Deputy Sawicki has been employed by the VSO for approximately 8 years as a Deputy Sheriff. At the time of the incident, he was assigned to road patrol. Deputy Sawicki was wearing a green VSO uniform consisting of long pants, a short-sleeve shirt, duty belt, exterior tactical vest, and a body-worn camera (BWC). The uniform had agency patches and a badge that identified Deputy Sawicki as a law enforcement officer. Deputy Sawicki drove a VSO marked patrol vehicle.

Deputy Sawicki utilized his department-issued Colt .223 caliber model AR-15 rifle at the time of the incident. The rifle was equipped with a 30-round magazine, which Deputy Sawicki loaded with 29 rounds.

On the day of the incident, Deputy Sawicki was assigned a Deputy trainee, Deputy Jeffery Lee. During their shift, Deputy Sawicki was driving the marked patrol vehicle and Deputy Lee was in the passenger seat. Prior to the incident, Deputy Sawicki and Deputy Lee were at the VSO district office when Deputy Sawicki heard a call for service dispatched that pertained to a female at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona that was threatened by a male in the house who had a firearm. Deputy Sawicki and Deputy Lee responded to the area with additional VSO deputies.

When Deputy Sawicki and Deputy Lee arrived, Deputy Sawicki parked north of the incident location in the area of Elanor Avenue. Deputy Sawicki then retrieved his department-issued rifle and Deputy Lee retrieved a ballistic shield. Deputy Sawicki then coordinated with other deputies on scene and approached the residence from the north. Deputy Sawicki, Deputy Lee, and the additional deputies positioned themselves in front of the residence directly to the north of the incident location in a "stack" formation with Deputy Sawicki positioned in front. Deputy Sawicki had established that he and the deputies with him would be a "receiving team" for the female to come to when she exited the residence.

Deputy Sawicki was communicating with Deputy Bissonnette via radio and learned that Deputy Bissonnette was positioned across the street in front of the residence. Deputy Bissonnette was relaying information to Deputy Sawicki with details about the residence that he observed. Communication was established with the female inside the residence, later identified as Gretchen Knowles. Knowles was instructed to exit the residence through the front door and walk to the north towards Deputy Sawicki. As Knowles exited the residence, Deputy Sawicki gave her verbal commands to walk towards him. Knowles advised that she was unable to walk to him through the grass. It was at this time; Deputy Sawicki realized Knowles was an elderly person that was utilizing a walker/cane to walk. Deputy Sawicki decided he would go to Knowles and attempt to assist her with moving away from the residence.

As Deputy Sawicki approached Knowles, he was notified by other deputies that the male, later identified as Cantrell, was exiting the residence through the front door. Deputy Sawicki observed Cantrell walk out the front door towards Knowles. Cantrell was wearing a robe with long sleeves. Deputy Sawicki and other deputies began to give verbal commands to Cantrell to show his hands. Cantrell did not comply and began to walk back towards the residence. Cantrell stopped near the entryway of the residence and began to raise his right arm up towards Knowles, whose direction he was facing. Deputy Sawicki observed an object in Cantrell's hand but could not make it out. Deputy Sawicki transitioned to the optic on his rifle. As Deputy Sawicki was raising his rifle in the direction of Cantrell, he heard a single gunshot. Deputy Sawicki then observed Knowles stumble and fall to the ground.

Deputy Sawicki believed Cantrell had just shot Knowles and was in fear that he would continue to shoot her or shoot Deputy Sawicki and the other deputies. Deputy Sawicki heard multiple gunshots come from across the street, where Deputy Bissonnette and Sgt. Stickels were positioned. At the same moment, Deputy Sawicki fired at Cantrell approximately four to five times. When Deputy Sawicki observed that Cantrell had fallen to the ground, he stopped firing.

Deputy Sawicki and the other deputies then approached Cantrell and Knowles. Deputy Sawicki pointed his rifle at Cantrell as Sgt. Stickels moved him in order to determine if he was still armed. As Sgt. Stickels moved Cantrell, Deputy Sawicki observed a black semi-auto handgun lying on the ground next to Cantrell. It was determined that Cantrell had died. Deputy Sawicki assisted with clearing the residence to determine if any other threats or victims were inside. He located none. Deputy Sawicki exited the residence and observed multiple deputies providing medical aid to Knowles.

Deputy Sawicki was able to provide a hand-drawn diagram of the scene. The diagram illustrated where he and additional deputies were positioned during the incident.

Interview of Sergeant Jason Stickels

On January 2, 2020, SA Deardoff and SA Christopher Shephard obtained a voluntary, sworn, recorded statement from Sgt. Stickels. The statement was obtained at 428 N Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118, which was the law office of Michael H. Lambert who was also present. The following is a summary of Sgt. Stickels' statement.

Sgt. Stickels has been employed by the VSO for approximately 15 years as a Deputy Sheriff. At the time of the incident, he was assigned to road patrol as a sergeant. Sgt. Stickels was wearing a green VSO uniform consisting of long pants, a short-sleeve shirt, duty belt, exterior tactical vest, and a body-worn camera (BWC). The uniform had agency patches and a badge that identified Sgt. Stickels as a law enforcement officer. Sgt. Stickels drove a VSO marked patrol vehicle.

Sgt. Stickels utilized his department approved Smith and Wesson .223 caliber model AR-15 rifle at the time of the incident. The rifle was equipped with a 30-round magazine, which Sgt. Stickels loaded with 30 rounds.

On the day of the incident, Sgt. Stickels was on duty and heard a call for service dispatched that pertained to a female at 1003 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona that was threatened by a male in the house who had a firearm. Sgt. Stickels responded to the area with additional VSO deputies.

When Sgt. Stickels arrived, he parked to the south of the incident location. Sgt. Stickels retrieved his rifle and positioned himself in the driveway of 1000 West Gaucho Circle, Deltona which was across the street from the incident location. From Sgt. Stickels' position, he was able to see the front door and front window of the incident location. Sgt. Stickels could see into the residence through the front window, as it was not obstructed. Sgt. Stickels also observed Deputy Sawicki and additional deputies positioned directly to the north of the incident location.

While Sgt. Stickels was positioned in the driveway, he observed a male, later identified as Cantrell, open the front door and look around. Cantrell then went back into the residence. Sgt. Stickels observed a female, later identified as Gretchen Knowles; exit the residence through the front door. Sgt. Stickels advised Deputy Sawicki that Knowles was exiting the residence and that he should call her over to him. Deputy Sawicki began to call to Knowles, but Knowles advised that she could not walk through the grass.

As Deputy Sawicki continued communications with Knowles, Sgt. Stickels observed Cantrell exit the residence through the front and walked towards Knowles. Sgt. Stickels identified himself as law enforcement and gave verbal commands for Cantrell to show his hands. Cantrell ignored the commands. Cantrell retrieved a handgun from the right front pocket of a robe he was wearing, with his right hand. Cantrell pointed the gun at Knowles and fired one shot. Knowles fell to the ground. Due to the angle of the way Cantrell was facing, Sgt. Stickels could not initially tell if Cantrell was pointing the handgun at Deputy Sawicki or Knowles. After Knowles fell to the

ground, Sgt. Stickels was in fear that Cantrell would try to shoot her again or shoot Deputy Sawicki. Sgt. Stickels fired at Cantrell approximately 10 to 15 rounds. Sgt. Stickels advised that he fired the first shot after Cantrell fired. Cantrell then fell to the ground.

After Cantrell fell to the ground, Sgt. Stickels and Deputy Bissonnette approached Cantrell, with other deputies, to see if Cantrell was still armed. Sgt. Stickels cleared the residence with other deputies to check for additional suspects or victims. Sgt. Stickels assigned duties to other deputies in relation to crime scene preservation.

Sgt. Stickels was able to mark on a Google Maps diagram of the incident location where he and Deputy Bissonnette were located at the time of the incident.

Interview of Gretchen Knowles

On December 26, 2019, SA Deardoff, SA Christopher Shephard and VSO Detective Sean McGuire responded to Central Florida Regional Hospital (CFRH) and obtained a sworn and recorded statement from Gretchen Knowles. The following is a summary of Knowles' statement:

On December 24, 2019, Knowles' niece, who lives in Virginia, called and requested Knowles to walk outside. Knowles had called Laura Wilson and asked her to call a local friend to come try to calm down her brother [Cantrell]. Wilson told Knowles to walk outside and turn right. Knowles did not understand why Wilson would say that because she does not know the person to the right of the residence. She walked outside and saw multiple deputies. A deputy spoke to her "very loudly" and told her to walk to him. Knowles had trouble walking and could not walk across the grass. She then heard someone shout, "Drop the weapon right now" and then heard multiple gunshots, but did not know where they were coming from or who had fired them. Knowles turned around to head back into the house but fell to the ground. Knowles did not know that she had been shot or that she was bleeding. An officer pulled her by her wrist away from the scene and told her that she was bleeding. She was told that an ambulance was on the way to provide her medical attention. Knowles did not feel that she had been shot. Once the ambulance arrived, she was transported to the hospital. Once Knowles arrived at the hospital, her next memory was waking up in a hospital room.

Knowles had been at Cantrell's residence for three weeks after the death of their mother. Cantrell has been aggressive towards her in the past. He usually would call her names but has never escalated to pointing a gun at her. Knowles called Wilson to ask a local friend to calm down Cantrell. Knowles did not know Wilson was going to call law enforcement.

Special Agent Deardoff completed an investigative report of the incident. The report was forwarded to the Office of the State Attorney for review.

On May 14, 2020, Detective Calkins received a final disposition letter from the Office of the State Attorney. The letter stated, "Based on the review of the investigation and the information provided, no further action is warranted by this office."

Subsequently, Detective Calkins reviewed the incident and determined no violations of Volusia

County Sheriff's Office Standards and Directives were noted.

CONCLUSION:

On May 20, 2020, this investigation was presented to the Sheriff and command staff.

The Sheriff and Command Staff determined Sergeant Stickles, Deputy Bissonnette and Deputy Sawicki's use of force was justified and concurred with no violations of department policy.

EXHIBIT(S):

- A) Report of Investigation
- B) Official Correspondence
- C) Drug and Alcohol Screening
- D) Copies of VSO Incident reports and Supplements
- E) CAD history of call #P193581937
- F) FDLE Report of Investigation #OR-27-0362
- G) Firearm Qualification Records
- H) Digital Media

WITNESSES:

Sergeant Charles Hillyard
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Deputy Jeffrey Lee
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Deputy Thomas Hachenberger
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Deputy Devon Barrett
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Gretchen Knowles
82 Blake Road, Epping, New Hampshire 03042

I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under the penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the suspect of the investigation of any rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

INVESTIGATOR:  DATE: 6/29/20
Detective Andrew Calkins
Internal Affairs Investigator

APPROVED BY:  2267 DATE: 07-02-2020
Chief Deputy Joseph Gallagher
SHERIFF MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA