

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT NUMBER: IA-17-009**

**PERIOD COVERED:** March 16, 2017  
**DATE REPORTED:** March 16, 2017  
**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Deputy Shawn Adkins #8479  
**INVESTIGATING OFFICER:** Lieutenant Thomas Tatum

**BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:**

On March 16, 2017, Deputy Shawn Adkins and Deputy Kyle Walter responded to 716 Teather Avenue, Deltona, FL for a mentally ill person. Deputies made contact with Leticia Donarski outside her residence. Mrs. Donarski advised that her husband, Daniel Donarski, was going through a medication change for his mental health issues, and had become violent within the residence. Mrs. Donarski elaborated by saying her husband was punching holes in the walls, and acting irrational.

Deputies approached the front door and announced their presence to Mr. Donarski. Deputies requested Mr. Donarski to come to the front door and talk to them. Mr. Donarski told the deputies to get out of his residence and leave him alone. Deputy Walter continued his attempt to establish a verbal dialog with Mr. Donarski, when he and Deputy Adkins heard the distinct sound of a shotgun slide being cycled. Both deputies moved away from the front door. Deputy Walter quickly escorted Mrs. Donarski to a neighbor's house out of concern for her safety.

As Deputy Adkins was moving away from the front door, Mr. Donarski appeared from his residence holding a shotgun in his hands. Mr. Donarski raised the shotgun. Deputy Adkins gave commands to drop the shotgun, which he refused and pointed the firearm at Deputy Adkins. Deputy Adkins discharged his duty weapon multiple times, striking Mr. Donarski mortally wounding him. Deputy Adkins waited for additional deputies to arrive and before handcuffing Mr. Donarski. Deputies cleared the interior of the residence to ensure there were no victims inside. Mr. Donarski was later pronounced deceased on scene. *(See Tab – D for VCSO Police Report 17-007265)*

Special Agent Ryan Bliss, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) conducted the criminal investigation into the use of deadly force by Deputy Adkins that resulted in the shooting of Mr. Donarski. The completed FDLE Investigative Summary is documented under FDLE case # DB-27-0286. *(See Tab – C for FDLE Investigative Summary)*

**OFFENSE(S):** NONE

**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:**

On March 16, 2017, Sergeant Justin Sawicki, Detective Glen Bennett and Detective Jim Gabriel responded to 716 Teather Lane, Deltona, FL, where Deputy Shawn Adkins had been involved in an officer involved shooting.

Deputy Adkins, accompanied by his Teamster's representative met with Investigator Gabriel at the Volusia County Risk Management office in DeLand, FL where he submitted to a drug and alcohol urinalysis screening per department policy. The results of the drug and alcohol screening were negative. *(See Tab – F for Drug and Alcohol Screening Results) (See Tab B for Official Correspondence)*

On March 17, 2017, Chief Deputy John Creamer assigned the above-described incident to the Internal Affairs Unit for investigation. Deputy Adkins was served with a Notice of Internal Investigation and placed on Administrative Leave with Pay. The notice was served by Sergeant J. Sawicki, who, at the time, was a Sergeant in the Internal Affairs Unit. Sergeant Sawicki was promoted to Lieutenant shortly after this incident and Sergeant Tatum came to the Internal Affairs Unit in April 2017. This report details the investigation conducted by Sergeant Thomas Tatum.

Sergeant Sawicki obtained Deputy Adkins' firearms qualification records for 2017 from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Training Section. Deputy Adkins was qualified with his department issued Glock 35 serial number WXB418 on January 25, 2017. The weapon that Deputy Adkins qualified with is the same weapon used in the officer involved shooting incident on March 16, 2017. *(Firearms Qualification Records see Tab –H)*

On March 21, 2017, a fitness for duty examination was conducted by Dr. Gregory Landrum, Psy.D., DABPS. The finding of the examination was that Deputy Adkins was fit to return to duty without restriction.

Special Agent Bliss delivered his completed FDLE Investigative Summary along with a complete copy of the related police use of force case file referenced by OR-27-0286. The case file was comprehensive and the FDLE conclusion read:

*FDLE has completed a comprehensive investigation into the use of deadly force by Volusia County Deputy Shawn Adkins. This presentation of facts is based on law enforcement witness, civilian witnesses, and physical evidence. FDLE submits this investigative summary to the Office of the State Attorney for their review and disposition.*

On November 30, 2017, Sheriff Chitwood received a letter from State Attorney R.J. Larizza regarding the Office of the State Attorney's review of Deputy Adkins' use of deadly force on March 16, 2017. State Attorney Larizza wrote:

*"Based on our review of the investigation, and application of relevant Florida Law, Deputy Shawn Adkins exercised a justified use of force and no further action is warranted by this office."*

**CONCLUSION:**

On December 20, 2017, this investigation was presented to the Sheriff and his administrative staff. After review, the Sheriff and his staff determined the use of deadly force was **JUSTIFIED** to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to the deputy and found no violations of policy.

**EXHIBIT(S):**

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. FDLE Summary OR-27-0268
- D. Incident/Supplement Reports
- E. CAD Report
- F. Drug Testing
- G. Use of Force Review Board Documents
- H. Firearm Qualification
- I. Misc Documents
- J. Digital Media

Attached and made part of this case file is the Florida Department of Law Enforcement case file OR-27-0286.

**WITNESSES: Per FDLE**

Russ Daughtery  
706 Colchester Ave  
Deltona, FL

April McVicar  
714 Colchester Ave  
Deltona, FL

Stephanie Russell  
171 Colchester Ave  
Deltona, FL

Jennifer Finnegan  
725 Colchester Ave  
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Brian Finnegan  
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Nicole Carter  
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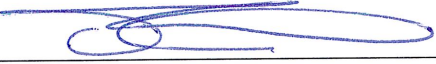
Tamieka Fowler  
705 Teather Ave  
Deltona, FL

Iris Ortiz  
708 Teather Ave  
Deltona, FL


Christel Baker  
713 Teather Ave  
Deltona, FL

Richard and Terista Harrod  
3630 Trade St.  
Deltona, FL

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: 12/28/17

**Lieutenant Thomas Tatum  
Internal Affairs Detective**

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 1/2/18

**Chief Deputy John Creamer  
SHERIFF MICHAEL CHITWOOD  
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA**