

JEFFREY L. ASHTON STATE ATTORNEY

NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ORANGE AND OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

LINDA DRANE BURDICK
CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

RICHARD I. WALLSH CHIEF-ASSISTANT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 14, 2013

Chief Paul Rooney Orlando Police Department 100 South Hughey Avenue Orlando, Florida 32802-0913

Dear Chief Rooney:

As you know, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement has delivered the results of their investigation of the use of deadly force, as described in Florida State Statute 776.02, by members of the Orlando Police Department on January 16, 2013. The FDLE *Investigative Summary* provided a great deal of information regarding the events which resulted in the death of Karvas Gamble and injuries to Cordaryl Wilson. During the course of our review, it was determined additional witness interviews were necessary for the purpose of clarification. In an effort to conduct a thorough review of the events which occurred at the time deadly force was utilized, this investigation now includes interviews conducted jointly by agents of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, my Chief Investigator and the Chief of my Intake Bureau.

The use of deadly force by members of all Law Enforcement Agencies within the Ninth Judicial Circuit, because of the inherent risks they pose to the officers, suspects and the general public, is a matter of the utmost importance. The recent increase in deadly force encounters occurring within the Central Florida area is of grave concern to this office as well as the community we jointly serve. I have instructed my staff that as the elected State Attorney, I will be personally reviewing all cases involving the use of deadly force by Law Enforcement Agencies which result in fatalities.

Based on my review of the matter, I feel an independent review by the Orange County Grand Jury will be necessary. This review will examine all aspects of the case, including the investigative and tactical decisions leading up to the contact with the subjects present at the scene, the use of deadly force, and the actions of the officers themselves. Due to the complexity of the topics to consider, I expect this examination may require more than one meeting of the Grand Jury. I want to assure you we will proceed with all deliberate speed. I understand the pendency of this matter will be very stressful for the officers involved and the Department as a whole. To ensure the public remains confident in our review process, I feel this is a necessary step. I would like to express my appreciation in advance regarding the future cooperation of the Orlando Police Department as we work through this process of our review.

Sincerely

Jeff Ashton (State Attorney