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DEADLY FORCE REVIEW PANEL

6 STATE HOUSE STATION · AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

May 10, 2024

The Hon. Anne M. Carney, Senate Chair
The Hon. Matthew W. Moonen, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Deadly Force Review Panel completed its 30th examination of a law enforcement officer's use of deadly force. Under Title 5, section 200(K)(7), “within 30 days of the conclusion of the examination of the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer . . . the panel shall submit a report on the panel's activities, conclusions, and recommendations about the incident to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.” The report is enclosed.

The Panel examined the July 31, 2022, incident in Stockholm, the details of which are part of the Panel's enclosed report.

For the Deadly Force Review Panel:

Fernand Larochelle, Chair
Stephen Burlock, Vice Chair

Enclosure

#31 – Stockholm

Deadly Force Review Panel - Consideration of an incident in Stockholm on July 31, 2022, during which Sgt. Nathan Chisholm of the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office discharged his weapon at Michael Baron.

At approximately 6:00 PM on July 31, 2022, a resident called 9-1-1 and reported that a man unknown to him man approached him outside his home in Stockholm, fired a handgun, threatened him with the gun, and demanded his car keys. The man was still outside and reportedly firing shots while the resident was on the phone with the dispatcher. The caller reported that the man paced back and forth in front of his home with a handgun and then ran into a garage across the road. The man was later identified as Michael Baron. Sgt. Nathan Chisholm and another deputy sheriff were the first to arrive on the scene. While standing outside of their police vehicles a short distance away from the caller's residence, Mr. Baron emerged from around the front corner of a residence across the street and pointed his handgun at the deputies. Sgt. Chisholm fired his pistol in the direction of Mr. Baron. Mr. Baron was not struck by gunfire, nor was he otherwise injured. A standoff ensued over the next several hours, with Mr. Baron ultimately surrendering. He was arrested and charged with attempted murder, possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, aggravated reckless conduct, criminal threatening with a dangerous weapon, robbery, burglary, theft of firearms, and creating a police standoff.

The statute (Title 5, § 200-K) governing the Panel states that the Panel “shall examine deaths or serious injuries *resulting from the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer.*” [Emphasis added.] In this incident, although the law enforcement officer used deadly force, no death or serious injury resulted from his actions. Accordingly, the Panel declined to review this incident as it was not within its statutory authority to do so.