



## Press Release



On December 9, 2012, after having received the file of the Virginia State Police's investigation into the officer-involved shooting on November 2, 2012, the Stafford and Fauquier Commonwealth's Attorneys issued a formal report containing their findings and conclusions of law. That report has been turned over to the Virginia State Police and the Sheriffs of both Stafford and Fauquier Counties.

That report contains the following summary and conclusions:

**On November 2, 2012, deputies from both Fauquier and Stafford Counties responded to the scene of an assault and encountered an apparently highly intoxicated and violent subject, Evan Newsom, who was armed with a knife.**

**Upon seeing the deputies, Newsom immediately attacked SSO #1 with the knife cutting his sleeve and arm. The attack was a clear, direct and imminent attempt to kill or do grave bodily harm to the deputy, and was obviously so perceived by the deputies. In response, SSO #1 and SSO #2 opened, fire killing the assailant. Under the circumstances the killing constituted a justifiable homicide in self-defense.**

**Leading up to this encounter with the police, the deceased had assaulted, threatened, and detained his mother and assaulted a neighbor. He also brandished a knife and made statements such as "It's over," "I'm not going to jail," "just shoot me," and "I'm not going down like that." In the past he had assaulted his mother with a knife, he had a history of self-injuring behavior and had made a clear and unequivocal statement to his mother that he would never go back to Department of Juvenile Justice, saying "They would have to kill me." Prior to his encounter with the deputies he wrote a note suggesting that something was going to happen and asking others to "carry on my dream." The facts strongly suggest that the subject had a clear prior intent to have a fatal encounter with the police and that he acted in conformity with that state of mind.**

**The death of any young person is a tragedy. Unfortunately on November 2, 2012 Evan Newsom placed the deputies responding to his violent acts in a position where it was necessary for them to use deadly force. His death was a justifiable homicide in self-defense.**

A copy of the full report is available from either Commonwealth's Attorney Office, upon written request.

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