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Officers cleared in fatal shooting

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Article Text:

Second Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Mike Walden determined two Paragould police officers acted in self-defense when they fatally shot a Paragould man Nov. 6.

In a letter to Arkansas State Police Special Agent Ron Hitt dated Wednesday, Walden wrote that it was his opinion "no criminal charges are warranted" against Lt. Chuck Boone and Det. Sgt. Scott Snyder in connection with the shooting of William Beasley, 45, at his residence at the Napier Trailer Park, located at Country Club and Reynolds roads.

The officers were placed on administrative leave pending the results of the ASP investigation. Hitt said in a previous interview Beasley made a call to the Paragould Police Department at about 4 p.m. Nov. 6 and made a threat against police. When Boone and Snyder responded to Beasley's residence, Beasley confronted them with a knife and refused to comply with officers instructions to drop the knife, Hitt said.

Walden wrote that after reviewing the ASP's investigative file on the incident, it appeared the two officers "acted in self-defense in response to deadly force about to be used upon one of them."

A copy of the letter was also sent to Paragould Police Chief Todd Stovall. Neither Hitt nor Stovall were available Wednesday for comment.

Cpt. Phillip Faulkner of the Paragould Police Department confirmed that Boone and Snyder were back on duty as of Wednesday. He declined to comment on Walden's decision, saying police administration would meet Monday regarding the matter.

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