



Date: June 28, 2019

To: Rock Island County Integrity Task Force  
From: Patricia Castro, State's Attorney

RE: Whether East Moline Police Officers Ryan Clark and Logan Wolfe were justified in their use of force, the discharge of their duty weapons, when they encountered Darold Strunk on May 25, 2019

I conducted a review of the Rock Island County Integrity Task Force Investigation involving Darold Strunk and East Moline Police Officers Ryan Clark and Logan Wolfe. I determined that both officers, Clark and Wolfe, were justified in their use of force, the discharge of their duty weapons, in their encounter with Darold Strunk on May 25, 2019. There will not be any charges filed against either officer. Strunk was charged with Class X Felony Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm.

This incident occurred on May 25, 2019, after East Moline Police Officer Ryan Clark attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle, a white 2005 Hyundai Elantra with Iowa registration, with an active BOLO alert issued by Moline Police Department for fleeing and almost colliding with a squad car. Officer Clark activated his overhead emergency lights to conduct a traffic stop of the vehicle in the 900 block of Avenue of the Cities. The vehicle did not stop as it was approaching 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The vehicle disobeyed the stop sign at Avenue of the Cities north frontage road and 7<sup>th</sup> Street and turned north onto 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Clark activated his emergency siren. The vehicle turned west onto 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street which is a dead end street. Officer Clark followed the vehicle west on 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue where it turned around and went back east towards 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Clark notified additional responding officers that the vehicle was heading east towards 7<sup>th</sup> Street. As the vehicle fled from Officer Ryan, Officer Wolfe who was in the area was able to block the fleeing vehicle by blocking it with his squad in the area of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street, at which time the vehicle came to a stop.

Both Officers exited their respective squads and drew their guns. Officer Wolfe began giving verbal commands to the occupants of the vehicle. Officer Wolfe observed a female white in the driver's seat and a male white in the front passenger seat. Officer Wolfe commanded the driver to shut off the vehicle. The female white driver, Mackenzie Paxton, immediately complied with the officer's commands. Officer Clark drew his attention to the passenger side of the vehicle after observing the passenger door open. The front seat passenger, Darold Strunk, exited the vehicle, drew a firearm, aimed it at Officer Clark and discharged it. Fearing for his life and that of others, Officer Clark discharged his weapon.

Officer Wolfe observed the passenger of the vehicle a male white, Darold Strunk, to have a black

handgun in his right hand while opening the passenger door. He ordered the male passenger to STOP! And PUT THE GUN DOWN! Strunk ignored Officer Wolfe's commands, exited the vehicle and began firing the gun in the direction of Officer Clark. Fearing for his life and that of Officer Clark, Officer Wolfe discharged his weapon at Strunk. Strunk fled on foot while carrying the firearm. After a short foot pursuit, Strunk was subdued and taken into custody. The firearm was recovered on scene.

Both Officer Clark and Officer Wolfe, used their training and experience to respond to the rapidly evolving situation involving the discharge of a firearm in the direction of Officer Clark. Strunk was a danger to Officer Clark, Officer Wolfe and to the general public. A police officer has the right to use force he reasonably believes is necessary to effectuate an arrest. The officer may use deadly force against a person using a deadly weapon that is resisting arrest. (720 ILCS 5/7-5) Based on the totality of the circumstances and the specific facts outlined above, both officers discharging their duty weapons was reasonable and justified in their encounter with Darold Strunk on May 25, 2019.

On June 17, 2019, an order was entered prohibiting the release of evidence related to this matter including all video evidence, reports, and other items which contain specific details of the incident while the charges of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, a Class X Felony, against Darold Strunk are pending. For this reason, no further details about the matter will be released.

This concludes my review of the Integrity Task Force Investigation into this matter.

Sincerely,



Patricia Castro  
State's Attorney