

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutor Determines Self Defense, Deputy Justified in Use of Lethal Force

Marquette, Michigan June 15, 2016

Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney, Matt Wiese, has completed his review of the evidence in the shooting death of an Ishpeming Township man which occurred on Thursday, June 9, 2016, in Ishpeming Township at approximately 9:00 a.m. The Michigan State Police conducted a thorough investigation of the incident. According to the investigative reports Marquette County Sheriff's Deputy Keith Romback was dispatched to Clifford Leroy Tucker's residence at 245 Silver Street, Ishpeming Township, because Mr. Tucker was reported to have been making suicidal statements.

At the scene Mr. Tucker eventually grabbed a shotgun and advanced toward Deputy Romback. Deputy Romback gave repeated commands to Mr. Tucker saying, "don't do this." As Mr. Tucker advanced he continually said, "just shoot me." Deputy Romback discharged his service weapon four times, fatally wounding Mr. Tucker.

Mr. Tucker, age 68, was taken to U.P. Health Systems, Marquette where he was pronounced dead.

Under Michigan law a person has the right to use force or even take a life to defend himself under certain circumstances. If a person acts in lawful self-defense, that person's actions are justified and he is not guilty of a crime. The evidence supports the conclusion that Deputy Romback was in danger of being killed or seriously injured by Mr. Tucker. Although he ultimately received back up from other law enforcement personnel, Deputy Romback was the only law enforcement officer at the scene at the time of the shooting. Under the circumstances it appears that he was justified in his action as he was in imminent danger and acted immediately to defend himself.

Matt Wiese, the Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney, after a full review of the available evidence, has determined that this tragic incident resulting in the loss of life is not a criminal matter and no criminal charges will be authorized.

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