



Prosecutor: Officers Acted Appropriately In South Lebanon Shooting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2014

**DAVID P. FORNSHELL
(513) 695-1325**

Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell concluded that members of the Warren County Tactical Response Unit acted appropriately in their use of deadly force in the April 21, 2014 shooting death of Warren Gary Cook. Fornshell released the results of his investigation today in a letter to Warren County Sheriff Larry Sims.

Law enforcement officers arrived at 4871 Lebanon Road in South Lebanon at approximately 5:30 p.m. on April 21st to serve a civil protection order against Cook that had been obtained by his family members. Upon seeing the officers, Cook donned a bullet-proof vest, grabbed a shotgun, and began making various threats toward the officers. The Warren County Tactical Response Unit (WCTRU) was deployed to extract the original officers, who were trapped in their initial positions. Negotiators and family members made contact with Cook and attempted to speak with him, without any success.

During the almost two-hour standoff, Cook made threatening statements toward the officers and ultimately raised the shotgun in a firing stance toward members of the WCTRU. In response, three WCTRU officers fired a total of five shots at Cook, striking him twice. Cook was pronounced dead at the scene. Cook's shotgun was recovered with one round in the chamber and one round in the magazine. The autopsy report also indicated that Cook's blood-alcohol content was .257, that he was taking anti-depressant drugs, and had morphine and oxycodone in his system.

"Based upon my review of the reports of the investigation, as well as the statements of numerous witnesses, I believe that the officers acted appropriately under the circumstances. Their use of deadly force was in response to the actions of Cook which placed these officers, and others, in immediate danger of death or serious physical harm.

I do not believe there is any evidence of criminal conduct or the criminal use of force on the part of anybody other than Warren Gary Cook," Fornshell said.



Warren County Prosecutor

David P. Fornshell

(513) 695-1325

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