

CASE REPORT/CLOSING

CASE NO: 2009-009
DATE: April 16th, 2009
INVESTIGATOR: Chief Investigator Kevin Smith
SUBJECT: Officer Involved Shooting, Lee County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Bryan Perera
George Vincent, Deceased

On Friday February 15th, 2009, Deputy Bryan Perera of the Lee County Sheriff's Office used deadly force upon W/M George Orin Vincent. The incident occurred at 8164 Sandpiper Road, Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida..

I have reviewed the investigative Case Summary 2009-067014 conducted by the Lee County Sheriff's Office regarding the use of lethal force by Deputy Bryan Perera on February 15th, 2009. This report received March 11th, 2008, and additional information provided through April 15th, 2009, is representative of a thorough and complete investigation as required for our purpose of a legal review.

In summary, the report indicates that on February 15th, 2009, at about 9:36 pm Deputies responded to a call for assistance to the aforementioned location. The Caller, Deborah Lynn Bess reported that her husband, George Vincent was armed with a gun and threatening suicide. George Vincent had become intoxicated, caused damage to their home, and shoved his wife Deborah several times. Deborah had retrieved her mother-in-law, Janet Lynn Vincent to help with the situation.

Upon their arrival, Deputies Bryan Perera, James Divis, and Michael Ronga, made contact with the caller Deborah Bess away from the residence. Hearing Mr. Vincent yelling, they approached finding him and his mother, Janet Vincent in the garage area of the home. The deputies observed a pistol in Mr. Vincent's waistband and attempted to remove Janet Vincent from harm's way while taking Mr. Vincent into custody.

As the Deputies began issuing verbal commands to George Vincent, he retrieved a Ruger 357 Caliber pistol from his waistband and held it to his side. The deputies continued attempts at compliance with more verbal commands to which George Vincent raised the firearm and pointed at Deputy Perera. Fearing for his life, Deputy Perera discharged his agency issued Glock 40 Caliber pistol at Georger Vincent until the threat had ceased. It was determined that Deputy Perera fired five (5) rounds striking Mr., Vincent three (3) times. Mr. Vincent fell to the ground still holding the pistol in his hand. Deputies secured the scene and with the assistance of Emergency Medical Services attempted life saving first aid. Mr. Vincent died on-scene as a result of his injuries.

In an Autopsy of George Vincent on February 16th, 2009, by Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D. reports the cause of death as "Homicide, Gunshot wound to Thorax". Mr. Vincent's Toxicology report indicates a 0.306 vitreous ethanol level.

Based on the contents of this report it is my opinion that Deputy Bryan Perera used deadly force as justified by law in order to defend his own life.

This case is closed.



Kevin L. Smith
Chief Investigator