

February 14, 2011

INVESTIGATION OF BISMARCK POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOOTING INCIDENT COMPLETED

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem released the results of an investigation his office reviewed, involving the shooting of Glenn Lovgren by two Bismarck Police Department officers serving on the West Dakota SWAT team following a standoff at a Bismarck mobile home court in early January. Stenehjem’s review of the incident was done at the request of Burleigh County State’s Attorney, Richard Riha.

“It is standard procedure for a State’s Attorney to ask this office to conduct a review of the use of deadly force by a police officer,” stated Stenehjem. “Determining whether the use of deadly force is justified is a two-step process. The first step is to determine whether force is justified. The second is whether that force is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances,” continued Stenehjem.

To determine whether the use of deadly force was appropriate, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation reviewed the preliminary information provided by the Bismarck Police Department and McLean county state’s attorney, Ladd Erickson. Erickson had reviewed the case for Richard Riha, who had a conflict because of his agency’s close association with the officers involved in the incident. BCI conducted an independent review and investigation.

“The facts show that the police officers had a reasonable belief that their actions were necessary to protect other law enforcement officers or civilians from death or serious injury. Eyewitness testimony and the weight of the evidence support their belief that the use of force was reasonable and necessary. It is my conclusion that in discharging their weapons, the officers’ actions were both lawful and justified,” said Stenehjem.

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