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**OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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# Press Release

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## **Washington County Attorney's Office decline charges against police in Forest Lake fatal shooting**

STILLWATER, MN --- Officers involved in the shooting death of an armed Forest Lake man last November will not be charged, the Washington County Attorney's Office announced.

In a memorandum to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension dated April 28, 2021, Criminal Division Head Nick Hydukovich and Assistant County Attorney Tom Frenette determined the use of deadly force by officers was justified in the shooting of 47-year-old Bradley George Erickson on November 28, 2021.

"While the death of an individual by deadly force is never to be taken lightly, there is no question that the actions of the officers in this matter were wholly justified," said Hydukovich. "The need to take a human life deeply affects all of those involved, and these officers made every effort to avoid having to take that action," he added.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., officers from the Forest Lake Police Department and Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call on the 8300 block of 224<sup>th</sup> Street North after Erickson arrived armed at the home of a family member who had obtained an order for protection against him. During the 911 call, the individual reported Erickson had threatened to shoot her as well as any responding law enforcement.

When officers arrived, they saw Erickson walking with a rifle near the caller's residence. From a distance, officers attempted dozens of negotiations with Erickson, using their squad car public address system to offer help and resources while directing him to put down his weapon. Erickson ignored commands and inaudibly shouted at officers while retreating to his vehicle with his rifle.

Erickson then fled from the residence in his vehicle, and police quickly engaged in a pursuit. Knowing Erickson was armed, officers used a pursuit intervention technique, or PIT maneuver, to force Erickson's vehicle to a stop after a short distance. After Erickson's vehicle came to a stop, officers exited their squad cars with weapons drawn. Erickson raised his rifle and pointed it directly at a deputy, and at that time two Forest Lake police officers and one Washington County sheriff's deputy fired their duty weapons.

After determining Erickson was no longer a threat, officers immediately rendered medical aid and he was transported to Hennepin Healthcare where he later died.

The Washington County Attorney's Office has found that under the totality of the circumstances, the officers reasonably feared death or great bodily harm and were left with no means to deescalate the situation other than the use of deadly force.

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