

**OFFICE OF THE  
PROSECUTING  
ATTORNEY**



**THEODORE F.  
ADAMS**  
Brown County  
Prosecuting Attorney

P.O. Box 1008  
Nashville, IN 47448  
812-988-5470  
fax 812-988-5521

**Robert C. Seet**  
Chief Deputy

**Brent Cullers**  
Child Support Deputy

**William Hamilton**  
Investigator

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

On April 20, 2022, a full-time merit deputy employed with the Brown County Sheriff's Office was involved in an officer-involved shooting on Mount Liberty Road. Brown County Sheriff's Office dispatch received a call regarding a suicidal male. Deputies responded to render assistance with the first deputy arriving at approximately 8:32 p.m. After speaking with the suicidal male's wife, the deputy went into the backyard to make contact with the suicidal male. The suicidal male's daughter arrived at approximately the same time as the deputy. While approaching, the suicidal male told the deputy that he was "close enough." The deputy stopped. The suicidal male had, in plain view, a holstered revolver. The daughter pleaded with her father to allow her to approach and give the suicidal male a hug. When the suicidal male's wife attempted to approach, the suicidal male drew his holstered revolver. In response, the deputy drew his department-issued firearm and commanded the male to drop his weapon. The suicidal male then pointed the firearm directly at the deputy while physically striking the officer's hand and weapon; the deputy exercised extraordinary restraint and did not fire on the male and shouted at the male to put down the revolver. The suicidal male then held his own revolver to his head, asking to be shot by the deputy. The suicidal male then shoved his wife out of the way while recklessly waving around the revolver, pointing it again at innocent bystanders and the deputy. According to eye witnesses to the incident, the suicidal male then pointed his revolver at the deputy yet again and the deputy fired his service-issue handgun three times, striking the suicidal male twice. Once the suicidal male was disarmed, the deputy immediately began rendering assistance to the suicidal male, who was transported to IU-Methodist for treatment. The suicidal male survived his injuries. The suicidal male's firearm, a Ruger .357 magnum revolver, was later found to be unloaded. The entire episode was captured on the deputy's bodycam recording device and witnessed by several civilians.

This matter was fully-investigated by the Indiana State Police. The Indiana State Police submitted the matter to the Brown County Prosecutor's Office for review of the deputy's actions and that of the suicidal male on June 3, 2022. After reviewing the evidence and reviewing the bodycam footage, the Brown County Prosecutor's Office finds that the deputy exercised remarkable restraint. The suicidal male pointed his firearm three separate times at the deputy prior to being shot, and recklessly pointed the firearm at other eyewitnesses. The fact that the revolver was later found to be unloaded was found to be unpersuasive in the Brown County Prosecutor's Office's determination as it is unreasonable to require the deputy, or any other Hoosier, to have such knowledge when there is a reasonable fear for one's life. In short, neither the deputy nor the eyewitnesses knew whether or not the revolver was loaded. The deputy additionally gave at least 14 commands, including to "drop the gun," and "get back," prior to firing his weapon. The deputy's actions were completely lawful as he had a reasonable fear for his life and for the life of others on the scene.

The Brown County Prosecutor's Office and the Indiana State Police has had the luxury of watching and re-watching the deputy's bodycam innumerable times. The deputy had mere seconds to make drastic decisions in an exceptionally stressful, life-or-death situation. The entire episode, from the time the suicidal male drew his revolver to the time the deputy fired the first shot was a mere 14 seconds. It is clear to the Brown

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County Prosecutor's Office that the suicidal male's intent and actions were to commit suicide by cop.

The Brown County Prosecutor's Office intends to file criminal charges against the suicidal male. The bodycam footage, which will be used as evidence in that criminal proceeding, will be released to the public once the criminal case against the suicidal male is resolved.

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