



## Rosemary Lehmburg ☆ Travis County District Attorney

P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 • Telephone: 512-854-9400 • Fax: 512-854-9534

e-mail: [district.attorney@traviscountytx.gov](mailto:district.attorney@traviscountytx.gov) • [www.traviscountyda.org](http://www.traviscountyda.org)

### For Immediate Release

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Contact: Laurie Drymalla

512-854-3666

A Travis County Grand Jury has decided that former Austin Police Department (APD) Geoffrey Freeman will not be indicted for the shooting death of 17 year old David Joseph. Freeman shot and killed the teenager around 10:00 a.m. on the morning of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Freeman had been advised earlier that morning of a young black male who was acting erratically in a neighborhood in north Austin and a subsequent 911 call near the same area reported that a young black male had come into an apartment complex and was chasing one of the residents.

Freeman responded to the apartment complex and spoke to witnesses, but was unable to locate the suspect. Freeman was searching the area when he heard that a naked black male had jumped in front of a car in the same area as the earlier 911 call. Freeman requested backup units and drove to the area of the call.

When he arrived, Freeman saw a naked black male in the middle of the street and stopped his patrol car approximately 100 feet away. Freeman stepped out of his patrol car and drew his gun. The black male immediately began sprinting toward the officer and Freeman yelled for him to stop. The black male, later identified as David Joseph, continued running toward the officer and when he was at close range, the officer fired two shots, hitting Joseph both times.

Other APD officers arrived almost immediately and began life saving measures. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived and transported David Joseph to a nearby hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. No weapons were found on David Joseph.

Officer Freeman was terminated from the police department by Chief Art Acevedo for violating APD policy.

The Travis County Grand Jury met on five separate days and heard testimony from 12 witnesses, including Freeman, members of David Joseph's family, an APD training officer and a nationally known expert in police use of force. The Grand Jury also saw video from Officer Freeman's patrol car and video taken by a neighbor who witnessed the incident.

Press packets containing documents, audio and video related to the incident will be available after 1 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the District Attorney's Office, located at the Criminal Justice Center, 509 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

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