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Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore today released the following statement:

The Travis County District Attorney's Office has concluded its review of the Austin Police Department's investigation of the facts and circumstances of the June 7, 2018, officer-involved shooting death of Leslie Salazar by Austin Police Department (APD) officer Thomas Brown (APD # 8106). The Travis County District Attorney's Office has determined that the credible facts establish that the officer's use of force was justified under applicable Texas law governing when an officer may use deadly force. In accordance with the Office's policies, District Attorney Margaret Moore will not present this case to a grand jury and has issued a declination letter summarizing the facts of the investigation and the legal analysis forming the basis for her decision.

In the early morning hours of June 7, 2018, two residents of a house on South Glenn Street in Austin called 911 to complain that they had been assaulted by a person staying with them. They claimed to have been punched, bitten, and even threatened with a knife. The two callers and some other friends had left the house in fear, and the first responding Austin police officers, Thomas Brown and Elias Robles, met them nearby. The civilians told the officers that the person who had assaulted them was Leslie Salazar, and that she had been drinking (as had they). They said she was still in the house, along with another friend.

Officers Robles and Brown went to the residence to check on the welfare of the friend and Salazar, and outside the garage on the driveway they found (and collected as potential evidence) a large knife. As they were about to enter the house, the friend exited, leaving just Salazar in the home. Officers Robles and Brown entered through the front door while calling out Leslie's name and announcing themselves as Austin Police. They went down the entrance hallway into the main room, which was extremely messy and cluttered. It was also dark inside, so the officers were moving slowly.

Officer Brown was in the lead as they approached a wall that separated the main living room from the kitchen area, and just as he started to move around to clear the kitchen, Salazar came around the end of the wall right in front of him. Both officers gave statements, saying that Salazar appeared very suddenly and with a knife held high in her right hand. Video footage captured by Officer Brown's bodycam corroborated those statements. Officer Brown gave Salazar two very rapid commands to drop the knife as he took a step back but when she failed to do so, and continued to

advance toward him with the knife raised, he fired three shots. All three shots struck Salazar and she fell to the floor, with the knife still in her hand. After several more commands Salazar released it, and Officers Brown and Robles called for medical help, and then began to administer emergency first aid to her. These efforts were unsuccessful and she was pronounced dead at 3am.

In this case the District Attorney's Office has determined that each officer's use of deadly force was justified under the facts established in the investigation. A full discussion of these facts and the legal analysis forming the basis for the declination letter will be published on the District Attorney's Civil Rights Unit webpage:

<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/district-attorney/office-divisions/civil-rights/cru>).

Press packet containing documents, audio and interviews related to this case are available on request by accessing the Civil Rights Unit's webpage and following the instructions provided for requesting and obtaining press packets.

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