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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 January 26, 2018, officer-involved incident involving Christopher Giles by Austin Police Department (APD) officer Matthew Jackson (APD #7548). 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.

On January 26, 2018, the residents of a house on Avenue G. in Austin called 911 to report that someone had shot into their house, then gained entry inside the home. Officers were immediately dispatched to the home, and the first to arrive were Officers Matthew Jackson and Stephen Abbott, who were partnered up together. The officers parked a few houses down from the residence and approached on foot. As they got close, they spotted a black Cadillac in the driveway of the subject home. Moments later, they saw a man walk from the back of the house to the car. The man who was later identified as Christopher Giles got into the car, started it, and backed up a few feet before stopping. Officers Abbott and Jackson announced their presence and shouted for the man to show his hands. A moment later, a gunshot was heard from the car and Officer Abbott moved out of the line of sight while Officer Jackson returned fire.

The review of this incident, which included video footage, witness statements, an autopsy report, and ballistics analysis showed that Giles shot himself inside his vehicle with a gun he had purchased recently. While three of the shots fired by Officer Jackson struck Giles, he was already deceased.

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:

(<http://www.traviscountytexas.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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