



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@co.travis.tx.us • www.traviscountyda.org

For Immediate Release

May 24, 2013

Contact: Dayna Blazey

512-854-9265

A Travis County Grand Jury has issued a no bill against Austin Police Department (APD) officer Shaun Donovan for shooting a suspect in a standoff on February 3rd, 2012 in northwest Austin. The suspect, Evan Schaffrath, was shot in the abdomen and survived. The Grand Jury issued a no bill after hearing from seven witnesses during six hours of testimony.

The incident began when Austin Police Department 911 received a call from a person reporting that his cousin, Evan Schaffrath, was intoxicated, suicidal and had discharged a handgun. The caller suspected that his cousin was contemplating "suicide by cop."

Officers responded to the 911 call and an APD sergeant established contact with Schaffrath via telephone. Schaffrath talked about ending his life and about forcing police to take his life. Schaffrath refused to disarm and come out of the apartment and shortly after that, the officers heard a gunshot from inside the apartment. When telephone contact was again established, Schaffrath said that he was ready to die and that he would take down as many "cops" as he could in the process. Police officers then heard another shot.

Officer Donovan and other APD officers were in covered positions observing the apartment when Schaffrath suddenly emerged from his apartment and pointed a gun in the direction of the officers. Officer Donovan then fired two shots at Schaffrath who then retreated back into the apartment.

Schaffrath eventually surrendered to authorities and was subsequently transported to University Medical Center-Brackenridge.

Evan Schaffrath, 36, is currently on seven years probation for aggravated assault on a peace officer.

###