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**For Immediate Release**

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A Travis County Grand Jury has declined to indict a Texas Ranger who shot a man while attempting to arrest him on a felony warrant in Pflugerville on July 20, 2012.

Ranger Gary Phillips was working with local law enforcement and officials from Van Zandt County when he located the suspect, Thomas Edward Byars, Jr., in Pflugerville on July 20, 2012. Ranger Phillips approached the suspect and identified himself as a police officer and informed Byars that he had a warrant for his arrest. When Phillips tried to handcuff Byars, the suspect broke away and ran from the officer.

Phillips chased the suspect and caught up with him and the two men began to scuffle. Some of the chase and fight was captured by a security camera on a neighbor's home. When the suspect grabbed the Ranger's gun, Ranger Phillips shot at the suspect. The bullet grazed Byars in the hip and the two men continued to wrestle until the Ranger was finally able to get control of Byars and handcuff him. Neighbors in the area saw some of the fighting and heard the Ranger tell the suspect to stop trying to get his gun. One of the neighbors called 911 at the request of Ranger Phillips. Other law enforcement officers arrived and Byars was taken into custody.

Following his arrest, Byars was taken to the hospital because he had fallen and broken his ankle while being chased by Ranger Phillips. His ankle was surgically repaired, but he developed complications while in the Travis County jail. He died on August 31, 2012 as a result of a pulmonary embolism. The Travis County Medical Examiner ruled that Byars death was accidental.

The Grand Jury heard over eight hours of testimony from nine witnesses.

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