



Rosemary Lehmborg ☆ 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 14, 2014

Contact: Laurie Drymalla

512-854-3666

A Travis County Grand Jury has decided that a Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) deputy was justified when he fired his pistol during a narcotics investigation in 2012.

Deputy Christopher Douglas and two other TCSO deputies were working as part of the Sheriff's Vice Squad Unit on November 30, 2012. They had information that there was narcotics activity at an apartment in the Promontory Point Apartments, located at 2250 Ridgepoint Drive in Northeast Austin. Douglas and another Sheriff's deputy, Jason Krenek, were wearing plain clothes as they approached the apartment and knocked on the door. A third member of the team stood watch for their security. When the resident, Avery Harris, opened the door, Deputy Krenek could smell the odor of marijuana and also saw a baggie of what he suspected to be marijuana on a table just inside the apartment. Deputy Krenek told Harris that he was with the Sheriff's Office and that he would like to talk with him. Avery Harris moved toward the deputy, exiting the apartment and attempted to close the door behind him. Deputy Douglas had also noticed marijuana on the living room table and began to push his way into the apartment.

As Deputy Douglas began to enter the apartment, he saw another man, later identified as Roderic Harris, raise his arm and point a pistol at him. Douglas yelled "gun" and fired two rounds at Roderic Harris. Neither shot hit anyone inside the apartment and the pistol that Deputy Douglas had seen was found loaded near the spot where Roderic Harris had been standing. The gun was later found to be reported as stolen.

Avery and Roderic Harris were charged with possession of marijuana, a class B misdemeanor, and Roderic Harris was later indicted for aggravated assault.

The Grand Jury met twice to consider the case for a total of seven hours. They heard from six witnesses, including Deputy Chris Douglas.

Press packets containing documents and video related to the incident are available on the 2nd floor of the DA's Office, located at the Criminal Justice Center, 509 West 11th Street.

###