



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stephen D. Crump, District Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

On July 28, 2015, Allan Franklin White III was shot and killed by Deputy Tiffany Oakley of the Bradley County Sheriff's Office. On that same day, District Attorney General Crump exercised his authority pursuant to T.C.A. §38-6-102 and requested that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation conduct the investigation into the death of Allan Franklin White III. This office maintains a standing request and policy that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation investigate all officer involved shootings which result in injury or death. That investigation was completed in April of 2016. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation determined that the shooting was justified and did not recommend any prosecution to this office. This office reviewed the file and also determined that there was no basis for a criminal prosecution.

This office has a policy that all officer involved shootings are presented to the grand jury in the county in which they occur. On June 15, 2016, a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent presented the case to the Bradley County Grand Jury. All facets of the investigation were explained to the Grand Jury. Also, the Grand Jury was given a description of all of the witnesses and evidence obtained in the investigation. Pursuant to the Grand Jury's statutory authority, they returned a not true bill.

Tennessee Code Annotated §10-7-504 provides that "all investigative records of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall be treated as confidential and shall not be open to inspection by members of the public. The information contained in such records shall be disclosed to the public only in compliance with a subpoena or an order of a court of record..."

Today, District Attorney General Crump filed a petition in the Circuit Court for Bradley County to allow public access to the investigative file. The petition seeks to provide access to the file to "members of the public" who ordinarily cannot inspect the File because of its confidential nature pursuant to T.C.A. §10-7-504(2) (a). This section provides that a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation file may be "disclosed to the public only in compliance with a subpoena or an order of a court of record..." The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is aware of this petition and has joined in the petition seeking release.

Across this state, District Attorneys General are striving to promote transparency and public confidence when a citizen is killed during an encounter with law enforcement. Most recently, Amy Weirich, District Attorney General for Shelby County took similar action and filed such a request. It is now the policy of this office to seek the release of all officer involved shooting investigative files to the public after all prosecution functions are completed or a grand jury returns a not true bill.

This office has taken this action to provide transparency and to allow the public to see the information that was presented to the Bradley County Grand Jury. It is in the best interest of the public that the file be made available. Identifying and personal information will be redacted by the District Attorney General's Office prior to its release. That redaction will be reviewed and confirmed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. This office has further asked permission to make the file available to the public through electronic means at a future date.

Following the entry of an order allowing release, the investigative file related to the shooting of Allan Franklin White III will be made available online and on compact disk. This office will provide an additional media notice when the court has entered an order and the file is available.