



SUTTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release

Re: March 13, 2014 shooting of Stanley Thompson

Sutter County Assistant District Attorney Jana McClung has announced her determination that the fatal shooting of Stanley Thompson by Yuba City Police Officer David Santanna on March 13, 2014, was legally justified defense of others and self defense pursuant to Penal Code section 197. Therefore, no criminal charges will be filed against Officer Santanna.

The investigation of this shooting was conducted by the District Attorney's Office, which is the standard procedure in officer involved shootings. "The officers from the Yuba City Police Department cooperated completely with the investigation and were fully interviewed by investigators from the District Attorney's Office," said Assistant District Attorney Jana McClung.

Officer-involved Shooting

On Thursday, March 13, 2014, at approximately 9:46 p.m., officers were dispatched to the area of Hillview Drive, Yuba City, in response to a neighbor dispute involving threats. Officer Brandon Oakley, Officer Jason Stockbridge and Officer Laura Austin responded to the call for assistance. After speaking with the reporting party, the officers walked over to Mr. Thompson's home to speak with him. Based on past interactions with Mr. Thompson, the officers were aware, as they approached the house, that Mr. Thompson owned numerous firearms. Officer Stockbridge approached the front door while Officers B. Oakley and Austin took positions at the end of the driveway and near the garage, respectively. Officer Stockbridge knocked several times on the door and announced the presence of the Yuba City Police Department. There was no response from inside the residence so the dispatcher attempted to make telephone contact with Mr. Thompson, but to no avail. As the officers were leaving the residence, they heard the door opening. Officer Stockbridge immediately stated "Police Department. Can you come outside and talk with us?" Officer B. Oakley used his flashlight to illuminate the door and the person at the door. When he did so, he saw that Mr. Thompson was pointing a gun at the officers. Officer B. Oakley could see the muzzle of the gun pointed directly at him and he yelled for Mr. Thompson to drop the gun. Officer Stockbridge moved to take cover. Mr. Thompson did not drop the gun but instead continued to

point the gun at the officers. Officer B. Oakley fired his weapon. Mr. Thompson returned fire, shooting out of the front door toward the officers. Mr. Thompson was heard saying “come back here (expletive)” in an angry tone. Officer Austin began yelling for Mr. Thompson to put the gun down. Additional officers were summoned to the area. Officers B. Oakley and Austin moved east to find better cover at which point Officer B. Oakley was able to see Mr. Thompson moving in a “tactical” manner with a rifle in his hands in front of the home. Gun fire was exchanged between Mr. Thompson and Officer B. Oakley. Officer Austin could see the rounds fired by Mr. Thompson, hitting the ground in front of her, hitting the trailer and the tires of a trailer near her position. Mr. Thompson did shoot one of the tires that Officer B. Oakley was using for cover. Officer B. Oakley heard what he believed to be Mr. Thompson reloading so he took that opportunity to move to a position further to the east. Officer Austin tried to also move further back but became trapped in her location.

As other officers arrived in the area, they took up positions around the residence. The arriving officers discussed the need to assist Officer Austin to a safer location. Officers Morawcznski and Sgt. Brazil arrived and took cover toward the east end of Hillview Drive. They could hear shots being fired in their direction but could not see from where the shots were coming. Officer Morawcznski could hear the rounds striking objects around him and could see the rounds striking the pavement and sparking near his position. Sgt. Steve Thornton moved a patrol car to a position that provided additional lighting on Mr. Thompson’s residence, in an effort to determine Mr. Thompson’s location. Sgt. Thornton utilized his patrol car PA system to advise Mr. Thompson that he was with the Yuba City Police Department and to come out with his hands up. Sgt. Thornton gave this announcement six or seven times but there was no response from Mr. Thompson. Sgt. Thornton began to move away from his patrol vehicle to coordinate with other officers when he felt a bullet “whiz” by his head. Sgt. Thornton quickly returned to the cover of the patrol car.

Officer Santanna was asked to try and obtain a position that would give him a visual on the front of Mr. Thompson’s residence. Officer Santanna was able to locate a position where he could see the front of the residence. Officer Santanna could see Mr. Thompson crouched down and moving in front of the residence. He then heard a loud gunshot and saw the bush near the residence moving from the muzzle blast. It appeared to Officer Santanna that Mr. Thompson was shooting at Sgt. Thornton, who was located to the west. Officer Santanna heard a casing being ejected from a rifle and hitting the ground. He then saw Mr. Thompson moving in a tactical manner behind a boat. Officer Santanna was able to see a silhouette of a rifle in Mr. Thompson’s hands when he emerged from behind the boat. Mr. Thompson raised the rifle into a shooting position. Officer Santanna, fearing for the safety of himself and the other officers, fired his rifle and Mr. Thompson fell to the ground. A rifle was located near Mr. Thompson’s hand and a Colt .45 cal. semi-automatic pistol was located near his waist area. Mr. Thompson also had an ammunition belt on his waist with rifle ammunition. In Mr. Thompson’s pockets, officers located two ammunition holders with 30-06 rounds, a magazine loaded with .308 rounds, and two magazines with .45 caliber rounds. Several

spent casings, which included .308 and .45 casings as well as a single spent 30-06 casing, were located on the walkway of Mr. Thompson's home.

Numerous neighbors sustained bullet strikes to their homes and vehicles from the weapons fired by Mr. Thompson. In addition to the rifle located near Mr. Thompson, a loaded rifle was located leaning up against the fence of Mr. Thompson's residence. Officers located six spent .45 caliber casings inside the residence near the front door, which was consistent with the area that Officer B. Oakley stated Mr. Thompson was standing during the initial exchange of gun fire. A complete search of the residence revealed a total of 71 firearms located throughout the home, many of which were loaded.

The standoff between Mr. Thompson and the police officers lasted more than 45 minutes with the officers being continually fired upon by Mr. Thompson. All officers involved in this incident indicated they were concerned for their own safety and/or the safety of the other officers.

Interviews with various family members, friends and neighbors, revealed that Mr. Thompson had been struggling with mental health issues.

Sutter County Assistant District Attorney Jana McClung commented "The shooting of Stanley Thompson is very sad. However, the Yuba City Police Department Officers took every reasonable measure to end the situation without casualties. Nevertheless, Mr. Thompson's actions put the officers and the neighborhood in grave danger. The use of deadly force under all these circumstances was justified in defense of self and others." Inasmuch as the officers' actions were legally justified, no criminal charges will be forthcoming. This information is being communicated to the Yuba City Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana D. McClung
Sutter County Assistant District Attorney