



*The City of
Hopewell, Virginia*

Hopewell Police Department
Greg Taylor, Chief of Police
804-541-2282



MEDIA RELEASE

For Further Information Contact: Lieutenant Jacquita Allen
Criminal Investigations Unit - (804) 541-2284
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****Hopewell grand jury votes to not indict officer from 2018 officer-involved shooting ****

[Hopewell, VA] – On December 18, 2018, at 11:09 a.m., Hopewell Police Telecommunications received a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred at a gas station/convenience store located in the 900 block of Winston Churchill Drive. As responding officers arrived and began to canvass the surrounding area, they observed a female fitting the robbery suspect's description running on foot in the 700 block of Elm Street. Officers approached her and issued several verbal commands for her to stop. While disregarding the officers' verbal commands, the adult female subsequently pointed a handgun at one of the officers, who fired a single shot. The female offender was struck and died at the scene. The female was identified as Angel Viola Decarlo of Hopewell.

On Tuesday, October 10, 2023, this case was presented to a Hopewell grand jury. With all of the probable cause and evidence presented, the jury voted to not issue an indictment. This decision marks an important milestone in the legal process. This investigation was led by the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Richmond Field Office. After a review of the facts of the case, it was determined that Ms. Decarlo entered the gas station and demanded money while displaying a firearm. The victim of the business provided information about the robbery and the vehicle that Ms. Decarlo entered. Ms. Decarlo exited the vehicle and began fleeing on foot. Officers who arrived on the scene encountered Ms. Decarlo. Ms. Decarlo was given several verbal commands to drop the firearm. Ms. Decarlo pointed the firearm at one of the officers, leaving the officer no choice but to discharge his firearm. The incident in its entirety was captured via Body Worn Camera.

Chief Gregory Taylor stated that "Taking an oath of office to serve and protect the community while upholding the highest standards of sanctity of life, human rights, and the law is a fundamental commitment for every City of Hopewell Police Officer. This oath reflects the core principles of law enforcement, emphasizing the importance of respecting and protecting the rights and dignity of every individual within the community. This has been a complex and lengthy journey that has now ended. The impact on the family and friends of Ms. Decarlo, the community at large, and the emotional toll on the officer and their families is deep-rooted and profound. After almost five years of dealing with such a complex and challenging situation, our focus will be shifted towards healing.

Our commitment to providing accurate information is essential for building and maintaining trust between the police department and the community that we serve. Accurate information is a cornerstone of transparency and vital to effective law enforcement"

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