



Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association
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The Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association is committed to providing the most relevant homicide training available which objectively provides both sides of high-profile cases. In the past, we have had both prosecutors and defense attorneys present on the Trayvon Martin case, and the North Carolina Center for Actual Innocence, Director Christine Mumma, present on the wrongful conviction of Greg Taylor who was imprisoned 17 years for a murder he did not commit.

Our members are charged with investigating the most heinous crimes committed in our society and must do so objectively without pressure or persuasion from within their own departments or their communities to force one outcome of an investigation over another. They must always follow the evidence and do what is right, even if this means arresting one of their own.

Our goal in presenting the homicide case of Terence Crutcher in Tulsa, Oklahoma was to educate the 350 attendees at our conference this week on the facts of the case for them to decide what they might do in the same situation had they been the lead investigator. We think this is an opportunity for law enforcement officers to learn the ramifications of the use of lethal force and make sound decisions to do so only when necessary to save their own lives and the lives of the citizens in the communities they are sworn to protect. Betty Shelby was not offered any compensation to present at the conference and was not presenting on the case itself. She was asked to present on what has happened to her since the homicide of Terence Crutcher so other officers will understand the aftermath of their decisions and the effect on their lives and the lives of others in the communities they serve. We believe these lessons and investigations into police officers being arrested are both timely and relevant to our members who could be in charge of these types of investigations in the future.

We realize now there are people around the country who do not understand why we would present this case or how our investigators could learn and benefit from hearing the case presentation which led to her arrest, prosecution, and ultimate acquittal.

We believe our members would challenge her and she would face tough questions as we have seen in the past during other high-profile presentations.

The fact is, every homicide investigator at our conference is one phone call away from one of these types of investigations and we are the premier conference for the most objective and honest discussions on both sides of these situations. We want our members to talk about these cases and feel confident they can do what they are called to do; make the right decisions for the victims each and every time.

After careful consideration of all perspectives of national, state and local leaders, we have rescinded the offer to have Betty Shelby speak at the 2018 Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association Conference in Baton Rouge this week. The community of Baton Rouge has embraced our conference since we began planning it in 2016 and we cannot thank them enough for their southern hospitality and the graciousness they have shown our board of directors for the last two years. We understand this community has taken strides to heal its relationship with local police and we want to support those efforts as they have supported our efforts to educate our members. We appreciate the opportunity to be here and we want to be respectful to every city our conference visits.

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