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ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCURS THAT USE OF DEADLY FORCE WAS JUSTIFIED IN JANUARY 18, 2015 POLICE SHOOTING IN ORANGE

The New Jersey Office of The Attorney General concurs with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office that the use of deadly force (firearms discharge) by an Orange Police Officer ("the Officer") on January 18, 2015 was justified and did not require a Grand Jury presentation.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Professional Standards Bureau and Essex County Prosecutor's Office Crime Scene Unit conducted an investigation of the firearms discharge. All relevant evidence was collected and reviewed.

The following is a summary of the Prosecutor's Office investigation in this matter: On January 18, 2015 at approximately 2 AM, officers responded to the area of 131 Chapel Street in the City of Orange on a report of several males breaking into vehicles in the area. Officers then received a second report of two black males, wearing black jackets, breaking into another vehicle approximately one block away in the area of 530 Park Avenue.

The Officer arrived at 535 Park Avenue, across the street from the 530 Park Avenue apartment complex. The Officer exited her vehicle and heard a noise. She then observed two black males wearing black jackets in the driveway of 535 Park Avenue. The Officer approached the two males and ordered them to show their hands. One of the males fled toward the rear of the location and the other male aggressively advanced toward the Officer. The male refused to obey the Officer's order to show his hands. The male then abruptly pulled out a black object from his jacket pocket and pointed it at the Officer. The Officer discharged one round from her department-issued duty weapon. The male then fled the scene.

Other officers then arrived on scene. They canvassed the area and observed a black male in a black jacket crouched between two large garbage bins at 529 Park Avenue. That individual was taken into custody. He refused to give a statement. The suspect was not injured.

The entire investigation was conducted in accordance with the July 28, 2015, Attorney General Supplemental Law Enforcement Directive Regarding Uniform Statewide Procedures and Best Practices for Conducting Police Use of Force Investigations ("Directive"). In addition, pursuant to the Directive, the Attorney General's Office independently reviewed and concurred with the ECPO's determination that there are no material facts in dispute and that the use of deadly force by the Officer in this case was legally justified.