

# OFFICE OF THE ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR

**ROBERT D. LAURINO**  
**ACTING ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Tel: (973) 621-4700

Fax: (973) 621-5697

**QUOVELLA M. SPRUILL**  
ACTING CHIEF OF PROSECUTOR'S DETECTIVES



**VETERANS COURTHOUSE**  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

## **GRAND JURY RETURNS “NO CAUSE OF ACTION” IN OFFICER FIREARM DISCHARGE IN NEWARK – SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

On January 25, 2018, an Essex County Grand Jury voted “no cause of action” regarding an off-duty Essex County Corrections Officer involved in a firearm discharge on September 15, 2017. The investigative findings of the Prosecutor’s Office made prior to the Grand Jury Presentation are as follows:

At approximately 5:17 AM, in the area of 51-53 Lindsley Avenue, Newark, Officer 1 walked to his personal vehicle to drive to work. Officer 1 observed the rear driver-side window of his vehicle broken out, and a male in the back seat holding an unknown object. Officer 1, dressed in full uniform, identified himself and ordered the suspect to show his hands. The suspect failed to comply and moved toward the Officer while still holding the object, which the officer suspected to be a weapon. Fearing for his life, Officer 1 fired one (1) round from his service weapon. The projectile lodged into the rear driver’s side door jam of the vehicle and did not strike the suspect. The suspect was arrested and the unknown object, later revealed to be a screwdriver, was recovered from the scene.

The Essex County Prosecutor’s Office investigated this incident and obtained all relevant evidence. This case was then presented to an Essex County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury was instructed in accordance with the Model Grand Jury Instructions on Police-Use-of-Force issued by the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General. After hearing all the evidence, the Grand Jury declined to indict the officer.

This entire matter has been reviewed by the Essex County Prosecutor. The investigation was conducted in full compliance with the provisions of Law Enforcement Directive Number 2006-5 and the Supplement Directives issued by the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General on December 13, 2006 and July 28, 2015, regarding uniform statewide procedures and best practices for conducting police use of force investigations and presentation to a Grand Jury.

PSB# 2017-288