

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

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Grand Jury Reviews Owens Street Shooting

Today, a Leon County Grand Jury met and heard testimony in reference to the shooting incident from May 31, 2010 that left LCSO Lt. Barry Blackburn shot in the shoulder and Jerome Ferrier shot in the arm. The purpose of the Grand Jury inquiry was to determine if the use of deadly force by Leon County Sheriff's Deputies and Tallahassee Police Officers was justifiable according to Florida Statutes.

The Grand Jury heard testimony from several deputies, police officers and civilian witnesses regarding Ferrier's actions during the incident. After reviewing the incident, the Grand Jury concluded that the deputies' response to check on Ferrier's welfare was a lawful execution of their legal duty. Ferrier resisted those efforts by shooting at them and there was probable cause for his arrest. The law enforcement officers involved were justified in their use of deadly force as Ferrier posed a threat of serious injury or death to all the law enforcement officers and citizens in the area.

Sheriff Larry Campbell stated, "These situations are the reason we train the way we do. Many people will tell you what they would do during something like this, but until you're actually in one of these situations, you're just not sure. These deputies and officers did what they had to do and they did it right."

Jerome Ferrier remains in the Leon County Jail charged with eleven counts of First degree Attempted Murder.

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