



TERRY R. MODESITT
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
OF VIGO COUNTY
VIGO COUNTY COURT HOUSE
33 SOUTH THIRD STREET, RM. 45
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807
PHONE (812) 462-3305
FAX (812) 238-1096



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AUGUST 28, 2018

REVIEW OF THE MAY 4, 2018 SHOOTING THAT
RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF OFFICER ROB PITTS.

Vigo County Prosecutor Terry Modesitt has completed the case review of the May 4, 2018 incident involving Christopher Wolfe and Terre Haute Police Department Officers. “The Vigo County Prosecutor’s Office has reviewed the evidence surrounding the shootout with Christopher Wolfe. “I have concluded the actions of Terre Haute Police Officers JT Pearce and Brian Bourbeau, in returning fire when fired upon by Christopher Wolfe were consistent with exercising self-defense to prevent serious bodily injury or death or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony.” said Prosecutor Modesitt. “No criminal charges will be filed against these officers for their response to the initial shots fired by Christopher Wolfe.”

As most people are aware, the actions of Christopher Wolfe resulted in the shooting death of Officer Rob Pitts. We have reviewed the police reports, evidence collection reports, medical records, photographs and the statements of various witnesses, including neighbors and law enforcement officers. Terry Modesitt and two other members of the Vigo County Prosecutor’s Office were at the scene while the on scene investigation was taking place. The Indiana State Police conducted the scene processing and the subsequent investigation. It was determined that Christopher Wolfe fired at least four (4) shots total. It was further determined with reasonable certainty that Officer Pearce fired two (2) shots when fired upon and that Detective Bourbeau returned fire on Mr. Wolfe with two (2) shots.

“Indiana laws apply equally to everyone, including law enforcement officers. This includes criminal laws, laws related to self defense, or the use of force related to an arrest. Unfortunately, police officers must sometimes respond to a situation with deadly force. This was one of those situations.” Mr. Modesitt continued, “When we have a situation where an officer has fired upon and potentially killed a suspect, it is our policy to request the Indiana State Police conduct an independent investigation. Once that is complete, we thoroughly review of all evidence. In this case, the investigation and evidence shows that the officers acted in self-defense, defense of a third person, and to prevent the commission of a forcible felony. The officers also were justified in using deadly force to effect an arrest of a person who the officer has probable cause to believe poses a threat of serious bodily injury to the officer or a third person. Criminal charges against the officers are not appropriate. The investigation into the officer’s actions has reached its conclusion.”

Additionally, the autopsy of Christopher Wolfe determined the manner of death for the suspect was suicide with the cause of death being a gunshot wound to the head. An additional injury to his head suggests that the suspect may have been grazed by a shot or injured by a fragment during the gunfire.

One person was charged as a result of this incident. The review has determined that there are no additional suspects being considered for criminal charges. Prosecutor Modesitt reminds everyone that any charges discussed here are only allegations at this point and that all suspects are considered innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

For further information, please contact the Vigo County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office at 812-462-3305.