



Office of the Kane County State's Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State's Attorney Concludes Investigation into 2023 Officer-Involved Shooting in Aurora

St. Charles, Ill. - Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser has concluded her investigation into the officer-involved shooting that took place in Aurora on February 5 of last year. The investigation found no wrongdoing on the part of any member of the Aurora Police Department during the incident.

Based on a thorough review of the evidence, the relevant policies, and Illinois law, State's Attorney Mosser has determined that Aurora Police Officers Young and Sheldon did everything by the book when they responded to a domestic disturbance call at the 900 block of Colorado Avenue and encountered an individual, Kristopher L. Cross, exhibiting violent tendencies and armed with multiple knives. The officers attempted to de-escalate the situation, acted swiftly in getting people out of harm's way, and stayed a distance away when in the driveway and attempting to gain compliance. Officer Young properly employed the use of the non-lethal pepper ball gun in the driveway. It was only when Cross ran aggressively towards them wielding a large knife in each hand that Officer Young made the split-second decision to use lethal force. Officer Young had no choice but to shoot Cross in this situation.

During the incident, every member of the Aurora Police Department present acted in a professional manner in an attempt to assist Cross, who appeared to be in the midst of a mental health crisis.

The evidence shows that Officers Young and Sheldon were there to de-escalate the situation and prevent further violence from occurring. None of the factors that caused the escalation of this incident were the fault of the Aurora Police Department.

"I would like to commend both Officer Young and Officer Sheldon on their professionalism in this matter," said State's Attorney Jamie Mosser. "It was very clear that they were attempting to de-escalate the situation. The split second decision that Officer Young was forced to make in

switching from his less lethal option to lethal was impressive. It is his quick thinking that not only saved his own life but others as well. Officer Sheldon showed great leadership during this incident and also refrained from engaging as he did not have a clear line of shot. The officers who appeared on site during the incident and after should be commended as well. Everyone acted swiftly to save the life of Mr. Cross. Thank you to investigator Lencioni and the Major Crimes task force for collecting all of the necessary information for me to review and to ultimately come to this determination.”

“First and foremost, I would like to personally thank Officers Young and Sheldon for their decisive and heroic actions during this incident,” said Aurora Chief of Police Keith Cross. “Both officers managed the incident as trained, using de-escalation strategies and less lethal options. It was only when those options were ineffective and Mr. Cross deliberately charged toward Officer Young with multiple knives, that Officer Young fired his weapon, striking Mr. Cross. Following these events, the involved officers and additional responding officers immediately rendered medical aid to Mr. Cross until AFD paramedics arrived on scene. Undoubtedly, these actions contributed to the preservation of Mr. Cross’s life.”

“The actions of all public safety personnel on the scene that day exemplify the highest level of teamwork, training, and courage during a dangerous encounter,” Chief Cross added. “This was a very tough day for the officers involved and for the family of Mr. Cross. We try everything we can to de-escalate situations using the least amount of force, but sometimes situations like this are unavoidable. I would also like to thank the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force and the Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office for their thorough and comprehensive review of this incident.”

The Kane County State’s Attorney’s review of this matter pursuant to 50 ILCS 727/1-10 will be considered closed regarding the officer-involved shooting. There is no evidence or indication that any officer or member of the Aurora Police Department committed any unlawful acts.

On February 8, 2023, Cross was charged by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office with attempt murder, unlawful restraint, aggravated assault on a police officer, and aggravated use of a deadly weapon. His case is ongoing and his next court date is scheduled for July 11 at 9 a.m. in courtroom 211.

The charges against Cross are not proof of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Members of the media wishing to access the full report should do so through a FOIA request.