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Press Release

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Solano County Major Crimes Task Force to Investigate Officer-Involved Fatal Incidents

Fairfield, California – Today, District Attorney Krishna Abrams announced the establishment of the Solano County Major Crimes Task Force (SCMCTF). The task force will be responsible for conducting independent investigations into use of deadly force by law enforcement officers in the county. The investigation will be performed in a manner that provides a thorough, transparent, and professional investigation, free of any perceived conflicts of interest. This task force will provide the framework for a consistent response to any officer’s use of deadly force, which aims to treat the officer fairly and promote public confidence in our criminal justice system.

“This initiative has been a vision of mine for many years now,” said DA Krishna Abrams. “Incidents involving the use of deadly force can be traumatic for everyone involved, and especially for the families of those who have lost a loved one and to the involved officers. With this task force in place, every community member of Solano County can have confidence that these serious investigations will be conducted in a full, fair, independent and impartial manner,” added Abrams.

“I am fully aware that the Vallejo Police Department and law enforcement in general have a lot of work to do when it comes to building trust and relationships with our communities. However, I believe that this task force is a major milestone for the communities and my department,” said Vallejo Police Chief Shawny Williams.

“Our communities expect the very best of us. I hope and many of my colleagues hope that this task force does go a long way to further public trust. That said, the reason we are doing this, isn’t for some reason that is somehow trust was ever eroded, but it’s ever increasing that what we need to do is to focus on what it is that is going to produce the best outcome in any investigation,” said Vacaville Chief John Carli.

The SCMCTF will conduct investigations to determine presence or absence of criminal liability on the part of all those involved in the incident. The criminal investigation will take precedence over the administrative investigation, which will be done by the department where the incident occurred. Along with a Supervising Investigator from the DA’s Office, the SCMCTF will be comprised of members from the following Solano County law enforcement agencies:

- One detective from the Vallejo Police Department
- One detective from the Vacaville Police Department
- One detective from the Solano County Sheriff’s Office
- One detective from the Fairfield Police Department

- Three half time investigators from the ranks of the Benicia Police Department, Dixon Police Department, and the Suisun City Police Department

Once an officer-involved fatal incident occurs, the SCMCTF is automatically in effect and the agency will immediately notify the Supervising Investigator of the SCMCTF and/or the Chief District Attorney Investigator.

The District Attorney's Office will participate in a supervisory role within the SCMCTF and the District Attorney will have final oversight over the findings. Upon completion of the investigation, the District Attorney will analyze the facts of the incident and determine criminal culpability, if any.

This task force is one of the first in the State and we hope this will strengthen the trust and legitimacy between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

