

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
301 East High Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
(314) 634-9180
FAX (314) 634-7797

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
COLE COUNTY

Joseph R. Edwards	1873-1878
M. J. Leeming	1878-1882
Brown Silver	1882-1884
Louis Wagner	1884-1888
William S. Denton	1888-1892
Frederic E. Lucke	1892-1898
Conrad Waldeck	1898-1900
Robert R. Stone	1900-1904
Monica P. Seim	1904-1906
John G. Stale	1906-1910
Dudley R. Cates	1910-1912
James M. Lay	1912-1914
David W. Peters	1914-1916

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
COLE COUNTY

Mike G. Sinner	1917-1918
Henry J. Westmore	1918-1922
Sam E. Haley	1922-1926
Mike G. Sinner	1926-1932
Elmer H. Damp	1932-1936
Carl Wymore	1936-1942
Charles Quimby	1942-1944
James T. May	1944-1946
Byron L. Kinder	1946-1972
James F. McHenry	1972-1973
Thomas J. Brown II	1973-1988
Richard G. Casper	1988-



RELEASE

June 2, 1993
12:00 p.m.

Based on a review of all information available, this office has concluded that there is no basis to believe that law enforcement officials' use of deadly force on May 21, 1993, in the shooting death of William D. Jones, age 32, was a violation of the deceased's civil rights under federal law or a violation of any criminal statutes under Missouri law.

FACTS

On Thursday, May 20, 1993, the Cole County Sheriff's Department received information from Florida law enforcement officials that a fugitive by the name of William Jones was thought to be returning to the mid-Missouri area. On May 7, 1993, Jones had eluded Florida authorities in a high-speed chase in morning rush-hour traffic which had resulted in injury to another motorist. During that chase, Jones had evaded police by driving the wrong way on freeway entrance and exit ramps at high rates of speed. Mr. Jones was wanted on a federal warrant for unlawful flight, as well as state warrants for the crimes of resisting an officer with violence, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a firearm by

a convicted felon, two counts of grand theft in the third degree, burglary and escape. The NCIC warrants and criminal history contained a caution indicator that Jones should be considered armed and dangerous. Additional information provided by Florida law enforcement officials included that Jones sometimes carried a gun, had a bullet-proof vest and teflon-coated bullets, possessed police radio scanners, had frequently stated he would never be taken alive and had made statements that he would shoot any police officer who tried to stop him.

That Thursday evening, a federal SWAT team from Kansas City came to the mid-Missouri area in the hopes of locating Jones that night. The federal swat team returned to Kansas City on Friday morning after having been unable to ascertain Jones' whereabouts.

On Friday afternoon, May 21, at approximately 4:15 p.m., the deceased's white 1970 Ford pickup truck was seen by FBI agents outside The Jungle, a bar located on Missouri Boulevard. The FBI agents in turn contacted the Sheriff's Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and set up a command center across Missouri Boulevard near the bar. In order to facilitate the subject's arrest, the passenger side front tire of the truck was flattened. It was hoped that this procedure would allow authorities to effect the arrest while Jones was changing his tire and would prevent a dangerous high-speed pursuit such as occurred in Florida. However, while law enforcement officials were waiting for additional reinforcements to arrive, the subject came out of the bar and headed toward the 1970 white Ford pickup. As he approached, Jones

stared at the passenger side of the truck for a few moments and then entered the cab. Jones sat in the cab for a minute or so doing nothing and then leaned over as if he was getting something from the glove box. He then started the truck and began to slowly back his truck out of the parking space. In response to a radio broadcast that the subject was preparing to leave, Sheriff John Hemeyer and Deputy George Brooks drove onto the parking lot from Missouri Boulevard. Both law enforcement officers exited their vehicle with guns drawn and ordered the subject to halt and freeze several times. The subject looked at the two law enforcement officers and then suddenly accelerated the speed of his vehicle backward toward Michigan Street. The acceleration of the pickup truck was such that it caused both smoke and screeching tires. Sheriff Hemeyer and Deputy Brooks both began firing at the truck's tires and engine in an effort to disable the truck. Meanwhile, Federal Agent Robert Wright who had the bar under surveillance from Michigan Street had backed his vehicle to the center of Michigan Street at the exit point of the parking lot so as to prevent the subject's escape. After having positioned his vehicle, Agent Wright stationed himself outside the car behind the driver's door with his gun drawn.

While Hemeyer and Brooks were firing their weapons, the subject continued to back his vehicle at a high rate of speed in a northwardly direction. As he reached Michigan Street he struck Agent Wright's vehicle as he went by, causing the car door to knock Agent Wright backwards. As the pickup truck passed Wright and the

truck and car swung around, Agent Wright began firing his gun at Jones through the rear and passenger side of the truck. The vehicle came to a stop.

An autopsy performed on May 24, 1993, by Dr. Edward Adelstein, an assistant medical examiner in Boone County, indicated the cause of death was one bullet wound to the head which resulted in massive trauma to the brain. There were no other wounds to the body.

The firearm carried by Sheriff Hemeyer and Deputy Brooks are 9mm automatics. It is believed that Brooks fired two shots and Hemeyer fired six shots. The firearm carried by FBI Agent Wright is a 10mm automatic, and it is believed that Wright fired five shots. The bullet recovered from deceased's head has been identified as a 10mm round. However, because of damage to the bullet, ballistics experts at the Highway Patrol Lab cannot opine on a scientific basis whether the bullet recovered from the deceased's head wound actually came from Agent Wright's weapon.

The white pickup truck being driven by William Jones was registered in the name of John Daly. The only identification being carried by the subject was a driver's license, also in the name of John Daly. John Daly is a former late husband of the deceased's 63-year-old wife. No weapons were found in the cab of the truck, although a .22 caliber rifle was found in a tool box in the bed of the truck.

In order to protect society, as well as to protect themselves from the dangers to which they are necessarily exposed, the law accords police officials a certain amount of discretion in the use

of deadly force. Under both federal and state law, law enforcement officers are entitled to use deadly force when the officers have probable cause to believe that the individual poses a significant threat of serious physical injury to either themselves or others. In this instance, the use of deadly force falls within the parameters established and allowed.

END