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## **Grand Jury Votes to Not Indict in Officer-Involved Shooting**

### ***State v. John Doe, 2021-CR-1510***

**DAYTON, OH (07/08/2021)** – The Montgomery County Grand Jury heard testimony and evidence concerning the shooting death of 24-year-old Benjamin Cotton, which occurred on March 12, 2021 in Harrison Township.

During the early morning hours of Friday, March 12, 2021, Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence on Sherer Avenue after receiving a 911 call stating that Cotton had stabbed his father. The stabbing victim was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect, Cotton, barricaded himself inside the home. Dayton police officers were dispatched to assist the deputies. During the standoff, Cotton exited the residence, armed with a knife. Deputies and Officers gave commands to Cotton to drop the weapon. Instead, Cotton aggressively advanced towards the officers with the weapon. The officers discharged their duty weapons, fatally striking Cotton.

This case was handled and presented to the Montgomery County Grand Jury by Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys from an outside county. Upon consideration of all the testimony and evidence, the Grand Jury returned a no true bill, finding that under the circumstances the officers and deputies acted lawfully.

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