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**SUMMARY OF PROSECUTOR REVIEW OF OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING**

This is a summary of the written report of the Jennings County Prosecuting Attorney's findings regarding the officer involved shooting which occurred on April 9, 2023, in Jennings County, that resulted in the death of Danielle Rachel Blake, a 23-year-old white female.

The investigation was conducted by detectives with the Indiana State Police-Versailles Post. Indiana State Police presented the results of their investigation to Jennings County Prosecutor Brian J. Belding for review. Today, the undersigned filed a 24-page report after reviewing all evidence, witness statements, body camera videos, documents, and laboratory reports.

North Vernon Police Department Officers, Sgt. Adam Driver and Officer Allen were dispatched to 25 Thomas Drive, Apt. # 3, North Vernon, Indiana, for a domestic disturbance call. Upon arrival, officers spoke to the caller, who was a relative of Blake. She went to her apartment to talk to her about going to the hospital to get evaluated and there was a confrontation. Blake was acting erratically and came out of the apartment with a golf club threatening the relative which prompted the call to the police. The officers attempted to contact Blake but were not successful and left the scene for another call.

Officer, Sgt. Adam Driver and Officer Allen, returned to 25 Thomas Drive after receiving a call from the relative. It was the officer's intention to make contact with Blake to detain her for

an emergency detention to have her admitted to the hospital for an evaluation. Upon arrival, Sgt. Driver was speaking to Blake through the window of the apartment. Blake was yelling profanities and talking nonsensically. Sgt. Driver asked Blake to come out so they could speak to her, or they would come in. Blake responded, "Go ahead and try, I dare you. I'll stab you." Sgt. Driver observed her pick up a knife (described as a 10–12-inch serrated edge with a point) and retreat to the back of the apartment out of view. At that point, Sgt. Driver was concerned for Blake's safety and did not know if she was attempting to hurt herself or that she may exit through the back of the apartment posing a potential danger to someone else.

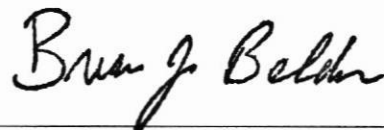
Deputy Ben Seastrom and Deputy Dylan Smock with the Jennings County Sheriff's Department arrived on scene. Sgt. Driver, Officer Allen, and Deputies Seastrom and Smock entered the apartment and located Blake in the bathroom with the door closed. Blake refused the officer's repeated commands to come out of the bathroom. Officer Allen breached the door of the bathroom and observed Blake on the floor next to the bathtub holding her knife. Blake was repeatedly told to drop the knife. Blake refused to drop the knife. Deputy Seastrom entered the bathroom and fired his taser to obtain Blake's compliance without success. Thereafter, Deputy Smock fired his taser. Officers continued to order Blake to drop the knife and she refused. Blake jumped into the bathtub behind her and closed the shower curtain. Deputy Seastrom pulled the shower curtain back and observed Blake was laying in the bathtub facing them making stabbing motions with the knife. Officers and deputies continued to order her to drop the knife. Again, Blake refused to drop the knife. Deputy Seastrom picked up a golf club that was in the bathroom and told Blake that he would hit her with it if she did not drop the knife. Blake did not drop the knife. Deputy Seastrom tried to knock the knife out of Blake's hand and was not able to get her to release the knife. Suddenly, she stood up, stepped

out of the tub, raised the knife up and began advancing aggressively toward Deputy Seastrom, stating, "I will kill you." Both officers felt that Deputy Seastrom and their lives were in danger. Sgt. Driver and Officer Allen fired their duty weapons striking Blake. Blake was given immediate medical attention and later passed away due to her injuries.

In summary, on page twenty-four (24) of his report, Prosecutor Belding stated, "Therefore, considering all the evidence, Sgt. Driver and Officer Allen were justified in using deadly force in defense of themselves and Deputy Seastrom on April 9, 2024. There will be no criminal liability on the part of Sgt Driver and Officer Allen."

Any media requesting a copy of the full report may obtain a copy through the Jennings County Prosecutor's office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Belding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Brian J. Belding  
Prosecutor