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May 9, 2018

Captain Richard H. D'Ambrosio
Commanding Officer
Pennsylvania State Police
Troop M Bethlehem Headquarters
2930 Airport Road
Bethlehem PA 18017-2149

RE: Pennsylvania State Police Incident No. PA 2018-322598
Trooper-involved shooting, Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at
approximately 2105 hours, at the parking lot of Walmart located
at Mill Creek Road, Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County,
Pennsylvania

Dear Captain D'Ambrosio:

I have reviewed a very thorough synopsis of the above-captioned incident prepared by Lt. Joseph F. Sokolofski, Commander, Criminal Investigations Section (now Captain Sokolofski); I have received briefings from Lehigh County Homicide Task Force Detectives James F. Bruchak and Thomas C. McAndrew; and, I have reviewed certain reports and video of parts of the captioned incident. Further, as you know, I was present at the scene on the evening in question and obtained information as a result of briefings conducted there.

FACTS:

In summary, the facts of this incident are as follows:

On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at approximately 2105 hours, Ms. Keirre Fichter, of Walmart Loss Prevention, contacted the Pennsylvania State Police Fogelsville Station, and requested that a Trooper respond to the Walmart location at Mill Creek Road because a masked individual was attempting to shoplift items from the store. Ms. Fichter reported that she recognized the individual in question from an internal memo which had been sent out to Walmart associates; and she further advised that she believed the subject had been involved in recent shoplifting

incidents from two other Walmart stores; and, in one such incident had pointed a handgun at a Walmart associate.

Trooper Brian Bird was dispatched to the scene and arrived within minutes. He was in full uniform and operating a marked patrol unit. Shortly after his arrival, he encountered an individual later identified as Aaron Ibrahim, age 26, of Mertztown, Berks County, Pennsylvania, who was wearing a wig and a mask. He was heading toward an exit, having abandoned a shopping cart within the store. When Trooper Bird attempted to stop Ibrahim, he fled and refused to comply with verbal commands given repeatedly by Trooper Bird to "Stop" and subsequently to "Stop or I will tase you."

The foot pursuit followed through the exit and out into the parking lot. As Trooper Bird was continuing the foot pursuit, he was giving the commands to "Stop" and to "Stop or I will tase you" repeatedly. These commands were given at least three or four times according to witnesses in the parking lot. At one point, Ibrahim pushed a shopping cart toward the pursuing Trooper. Ibrahim was heading toward a white Chevy minivan. When he got near the van he reached in his waist area and pulled out a pistol and attempted to fire the weapon. The Trooper reported that he heard a "click". Ibrahim then entered the driver's side of the van and closed the door. Trooper Bird fired nine (9) rounds from his duty weapon, striking Ibrahim eight (8) or nine (9) times, and mortally wounding him.

The "click" sound heard by Trooper Bird would be consistent with the sound of Ibrahim's firearm when the trigger is pulled and the chamber is empty or the cartridge in the chamber did not discharge. Ibrahim's firearm was found on his lap with one (1) round in the chamber and nine (9) rounds in the ten-round capacity magazine. Trooper Bird saw Ibrahim point the gun at him, heard a "click" in an unsuccessful attempt by Ibrahim to fire his weapon and then saw him retreat inside the vehicle. Ibrahim had to have manually loaded the Glock by pulling the slide to the rear prior to expiring. The cartridges for Ibrahim's firearm were analyzed and did not have any firing pin impressions in the primers; thus, there could not have been a cartridge in the chamber at the time the trigger was pulled and the "click" heard.

The Troop M Major Case Team was activated; and Trooper Jordan Houck of the Troop M Dublin Station was assigned as the Lead Investigator. I assigned County Detectives from the Lehigh County Homicide Task Force to assist with the investigation.

Walmart surveillance cameras captured Ibrahim's movement when he arrived outside of, and then throughout the store. He pulled into the parking lot in