

OFFICE OF THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richardson: Amount of force used by Jefferson City police officers in April 3 shooting adequate, justified

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (April 8, 2010) – Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Richardson announced this afternoon his finding that Jefferson City police officers used an adequate amount of force, and that the use of force was justified, to stop a suspect’s aggressive behavior in an April 3, 2010, incident at 928 Jefferson Street in Jefferson City, where officers were involved in a shooting.

Investigators from the detectives division of the Jefferson City Police Department conducted a thorough investigation, which included interviews of the officers and the suspect and collection of evidence at the scene at the time of the shooting. An investigator from the Division of Drug and Crime Control of the Missouri State Highway Patrol assisted in the investigation.

“I reviewed the detectives’ findings with the lead detective who conducted the investigation, and I found nothing to suspect or suggest any crime by the officers’ use of force in this instance,” said Richardson. “The officers were justified in using deadly force to protect themselves and the citizen that was present at the scene.

“Law enforcement officers have a duty to protect themselves and other citizens in a situation where a suspect wrestles for and obtains partial control of an officer’s duty weapon, and then attempts to use the weapon to threaten the lives of those present.”