



## Press Release For Immediate Release

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 12:25 p.m.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., the Jackson County Grand Jury met to consider the officer-involved shooting and criminal charges regarding the incident involving Warren Alexander Rich (12/26/84). The incident under consideration occurred on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, when two deputies returned fire at Warren Rich after he fired at one of the deputies during a stand-off. Additional charges from this incident stem from Warren Rich breaking into his parents' home, taking a firearm, threatening his mother, and refusing to exit the house when police arrived.

The Grand Jury was asked to consider two separate issues. First, whether the actions of the involved deputies were justified as a lawful use of force. Oregon law provides that a police officer may use deadly physical force against another person if the officer reasonable believes that person is about to use deadly physical force against the officer or another person, or if the officer's life or personal safety is endangered in the particular circumstances. (ORS 161.239) The second issue for the Grand Jury is if there is sufficient evidence to hold over the suspect on the submitted criminal charges.

In deciding the case, the Grand Jury heard testimony from several witnesses to include the initial complainant, the deputies directly involved in the shooting, other deputies on scene during the time of the incident, and other detectives involved in the investigation. Oregon State Police was the lead agency on the case, and was assisted by members of the Major Assault and Death Investigation Unit (MADIU). The MADIU team is comprised of detectives from the following: Oregon State Police, Medford Police, and Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

### Officers Identified:

Deputy J. Murillo has been with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for approximately eleven years. He attended the Oregon DPSST Police Academy in Monmouth, Oregon. His current assignment is a patrol deputy.

Corporal J. Biddle has been with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for approximately twenty-three years. He attended the Oregon DPSST Police Academy in Monmouth, Oregon. His current assignment is a patrol corporal.

### Testimony and Evidence Presented to the Grand Jury:

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, at approximately 4:16 p.m., a 9-1-1 call was made by Kelly Rich reporting that her son, Warren Rich, had threatened her earlier in the day and when she arrived home, Warren Rich,

who is not allowed on her property, met her at the entry gate for 1570 Worthington Road, Eagle Point. Mrs. Rich stated that Warren Rich had a rifle that is normally inside of the residence, and started to level it toward her. Mrs. Rich quickly put her car in reverse and left the scene to call 9-1-1. At this point several Jackson County Sheriff Deputies began responding to the location.

By 4:45 p.m. several Jackson County Sheriff Deputies were on scene attempting to talk Warren Rich out of his parents' residence. During this time a perimeter was setup around the residence and a SWAT vehicle was brought in to approach and communicate with Warren Rich.

During the next hour and an half, while being armed with a firearm Warren Rich moved from the first to second story of the house several times, engaging in conversation from open windows with deputies outside the house. At some point he made threats to deputies on the perimeter. A cell phone was tossed near the porch so that deputies could attempt to speak with Warren Rich by phone. At approximately 6:23 p.m., Warren Rich indicated to deputies he was going to fire rounds into the air, and this occurred at approximately 6:29 p.m.

Warren Rich went onto the porch at approximately 6:37 p.m. and Deputy Murillo and Corporal Biddle kept asking him to pick up the phone. Warren Rich then indicated he was going to shoot the phone, and this was discouraged by deputies. After shooting the phone, Warren Rich fired his rifle at Deputy Murillo. Corporal Biddle returned fire fearing that deputies' lives were at stake. Deputy Murillo returned fire fearing for his own safety. Warren Rich was not hit by any of the deputies' rounds, and retreated back into the house.

Over the next six to seven hours, several attempts are made to convince Warren Rich to exit the house. During this time several canisters of tear gas are used in an attempt to force him out of the residence. Eventually a SWAT robot is used to enter the house and finds Warren Rich in the upstairs bathroom, from there he goes downstairs and lays on the couch. The video from the robot showed that Warren Rich had no weapons in his hands, so several SWAT members entered the house and took him into custody on October 24, at approximately 1:29 a.m.

#### Conclusion:

Our protocols require that a grand jury make the determination as to whether the officer's use of force was justified under Oregon Law. The grand jury announced their decision that the action of the involved officer in this case was fully justified and in compliance with Oregon Law. This case was presented to the grand jury by Chief Deputy District Attorney Jeremy Markiewicz. The grand jury also returned an indictment against Warren Alexander Rich on ten charges including Attempted Aggravated Murder, Attempted Assault in the First Degree, Burglary in the First Degree x 3, Burglary in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Unlawful Use of a Weapon x 2, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Criminal Mischief in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

Since the defendant is charged with crimes, no further evidence or information will be released, pending the resolution of the criminal case.