



## STATE ATTORNEY

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
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1350 N.W. 12TH AVENUE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136-2111

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
STATE ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE (305) 547-0100  
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April 18, 2018

Juan J. Perez, Director  
Miami-Dade Police Department  
9105 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Director Perez:

Enclosed is our final report regarding the investigation into the officer involved shooting of Anthony A. Ford on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The officer involved in this incident was Sgt. Eduardo Pares (30-4980).

The investigation has determined that it is reasonable to believe that Mr. Ford's actions, flight from police, and refusal to show his hands and obey commands put fear in the mind of Sgt. Pares. To prevent injury to himself and/or others in the immediate area, Sgt. Eduardo Pares was justified in using deadly force by firing his weapon. Therefore, no criminal charges will be filed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Fernandez Rundle".

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
State Attorney

KFR:iah

cc: Listed Officer(s)  
Det. Daniel Aiken, MDPD  
Miami-Dade – Internal Affairs  
Sgt. Steadman Stahl, PBA  
Robert Senior (AUSA)  
Troy Walker (FDLE)

Enclosure



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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TO: KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE      DATE: APRIL 17, 2018  
State Attorney


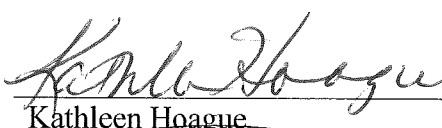
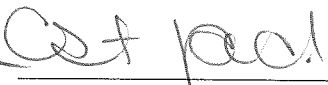


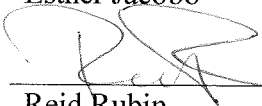
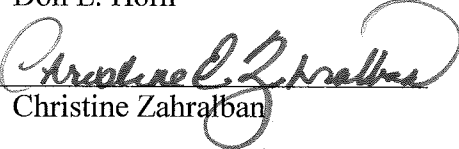
FROM: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM      RE: POLICE SHOOTING  
CASE#: PD0830331352  
DECEASED: FORD, Anthony A.  
FDLE MI-27-0069

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Based on the information obtained and reviewed during the course of the investigation, the conclusion of the staffing/review team is the following: The investigation has determined that Sgt. Pares was the only witness to the shooting incident, therefore his statements are uncontroverted.

It is reasonable to believe that Sgt. Pares considered it necessary to use deadly force to prevent injury or great bodily harm. Therefore, we find that Sgt. Eduardo Pares was legally justified in the use of force by firing his weapon.

The members of the staffing/review team for this case are:

 _____ Jose J. Arrojo	 _____ Kathleen Hoague	 _____ Esther Jacobo
 _____ Don L. Horn	 _____ Frank Ledee	 _____ Reid Rubin
 _____ Christine Zahraiban	_____ Responding Member of Shooting Team	_____ Responding Member of Shooting Team

Approved by State Attorney on this 19 day of April, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
State Attorney





INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

DATE: April 17, 2018

FROM: REBECCA DIMEGLIO  
DIVISION CHIEF

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO  
Case # 62/17/08/30/007

OFFICER(S) INVOLVED:	SGT. EDUARDO PARES, MDPD #30-4980
DECEASED	ANTHONY ANTONIO FORD, B/M, DOB: 4/24/90
INJURIES:	GUNSHOT WOUNDS
DATE & TIME:	AUGUST 30, 2017 AT APPROX 8:17PM
LOCATION:	1534 NW 66 ST, MIAMI FL
WEAPON:	SIG SAUER .40 CALIBER SEMI-AUTO PISTOL, MODEL NO. P226 SERIAL NO. U652242
LEAD:	FDLE - SA A. VILLANUEVA #76-1335 MDPD - DET. M. DOMINGUEZ #30-3756
CASE #:	FDLE - MI-27-0069 MDPD - PD0830331352
SAO CASE #:	62/17/08/30/007

**SUMMARY**

On Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at approximately 8:00 pm, Miami-Dade Police Officers Gerardo Alayon and Alberto Diaz were working in an undercover capacity in the area of NW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street. While in the area, Detectives Ayalon and Diaz conducted a traffic stop of a red Nissan Maxima occupied by two (2) black males, later identified as Anthony Ford (driver) and Roddrick Ford (right front passenger). Upon approaching the vehicle, Detective Ayalon smelled an odor of marijuana and asked the occupants of the vehicle to exit the vehicle and sit on the curb. Both occupants complied and were asked for their names so the officers could run a record check on both individuals. Roddrick Ford provided his correct name. Anthony Ford provided the name of his brother, LeAntwan Ford. A record check revealed active warrants for both Roddrick Ford and LeAntwan Ford, the name provided by Anthony Ford. It should be noted that Anthony Ford had an outstanding probation violation warrant under case number F08-41457 (Armed Robbery with a Firearm) and LeAntwan Ford (the false name provided by Anthony Ford) had an outstanding bench warrant under case number M16-0369 (Resisting without Violence).

After discovering the active warrants, Detective Alayon placed handcuffs on Roddrick Ford. Detective Ayalon then ordered Anthony Ford to turn around in order to place handcuffs on him as well. Before Detective Ayalon could place the handcuffs on Anthony Ford, he fled the scene on foot. Detective Ayalon ran after Anthony Ford while Detective Diaz remained at the scene with Roddrick Ford. Detective Ayalon chased Anthony Ford southbound towards an alley while he advised of the foot pursuit and called out a description of Anthony Ford over his police radio (black male, black t-shirt, black shorts). Detective Ayalon lost sight of Anthony Ford and set up a perimeter.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Eduardo Pares and Detective Erick Lopez were also in the area working the same undercover detail as Detectives Ayalon and Diaz. Sergeant Pares and Detective Lopez were riding in the same vehicle with Detective Lopez driving and Sergeant Pares riding in the front passenger seat when they heard the radio transmissions advising of the foot chase. Moments later, Sergeant Pares and Detective Lopez saw a black male, later identified as Anthony Ford, running down the street in their vicinity. Sergeant Pares and Detective Lopez saw Anthony Ford run into the yard of a residence located at 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Sergeant Pares jumped out of the car and gave chase while Detective Lopez put the vehicle in park.

POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING  
OF ANTHONY A. FORD

Sergeant Pares confronted Anthony Ford as he jumped over a chain link fence (approximately four feet in height) into the backyard of the residence located at 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Sergeant Pares shouted commands of "Police" to Anthony Ford. As Anthony Ford finished jumping over the fence, he stopped running and turned to face Sergeant Pares. Sergeant Pares saw Anthony Ford place his right hand inside his waistband as he turned around. Sergeant Pares then saw Anthony Ford make an abrupt movement upwards with his right hand, at which time Sergeant Pares discharged his firearm multiple times, fatally striking Anthony Ford.

Detective Lopez, who had taken cover behind the Chevrolet Tahoe when the shots were fired, jumped the fence and placed handcuffs on Mr. Ford. No firearm was located on or near Mr. Ford following the shooting.

**WITNESSES**

**SERGEANT EDUARDO PARES** – On September 5, 2017, Sergeant Pares provided an audio recorded statement to Special Agent A. Villanueva regarding the events that occurred on August 30, 2017. Sergeant Pares has been employed by Miami-Dade Police Department for approximately seventeen (17) years. On the date of incident, Sergeant Pares was working in his capacity as a Sergeant for the Miami-Dade Police Department Crime Suppression Team. Sergeant Pares was in plain clothes (black t-shirt and jeans) and was wearing a Miami-Dade Police Department badge hanging from his neck. He had his firearm holstered at his right side and was not wearing a tactical vest or body camera at the time of the incident.

At approximately 8:00 pm on August 30, 2017, Sergeant Pares was riding in an unmarked vehicle with Detective Erick Lopez, patrolling the area where the incident took place. Sergeant Pares was riding in the front passenger seat while Detective Lopez was driving. They heard a dispatch go out over the police radio advising that a black male was running southbound in the area. As they approached the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Sergeant Pares observed a black male, later identified as Anthony Ford, running southbound and crossing the street. Sergeant Pares saw Mr. Ford enter the front yard of a residence, later identified as 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street. There was a gate in front of the driveway to the residence but it was open at the time. Parked in the driveway of the residence was a black Chevrolet Tahoe. As Mr. Ford ran into the driveway along the east side of the Chevrolet Tahoe, Sergeant Pares lost sight of Mr. Ford when his view was blocked by the large SUV in the driveway.

POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING  
OF ANTHONY A. FORD

Sergeant Pares exited the vehicle he was riding in and approached the Chevrolet Tahoe from the west side. Sergeant Pares stated that he was unsure if Mr. Ford was waiting on the other side of the SUV to ambush him. Sergeant Pares moved around the rear side of the SUV towards the east side of the vehicle when he saw Mr. Ford jumping a short chain link fence that separates the front yard of the residence from the back yard. Sergeant Pares identified himself to Mr. Ford by yelling "Police". At that point, Sergeant Pares was approximately six (6) to ten (10) feet away from Mr. Ford, separated by a chain link fence. Sergeant Pares described that the Chevrolet Tahoe was to his immediate right while another chain link fence was directly to his left, leaving him in a position that he described as a "funnel" where he had no cover and could not move to his left or his right.

As Sergeant Pares continued yelling commands to Mr. Ford, Mr. Ford turned around to face Sergeant Pares. When Mr. Ford turned to face him, Mr. Ford had his right hand inside his waistband. Sergeant Pares described that Mr. Ford continued to put his hands deeper into his waistband as Sergeant Pares continued to give verbal commands of "Let me see your hands, hands, hands." Sergeant Pares explained that in his training and experience, he knows of subjects to hide firearms not only in their waistbands, but farther down into their groin areas to avoid detection during a police pat down. Sergeant Pares stated that as he continued to give commands, Mr. Ford continued to move his hands inside his shorts as if he were looking for something. Sergeant Pares advised that Mr. Ford then abruptly raised his right hand as if he were about to pull out a firearm. Sergeant Pares, realizing he had no cover, dove to the ground and began firing his weapon as he fell. He stated that he fired four (4) to six (6) rounds until he believed that the threat was neutralized. Sergeant Pares remained on the ground and waited for a backup officer to handcuff Mr. Ford.

Sergeant Pares further stated that at the time of the incident he was in fear for his life and was convinced that Mr. Ford was going to shoot at him.

**DETECTIVE ERICK LOPEZ** – Detective Lopez was in an unmarked vehicle with Sergeant Pares on the night of the incident. Detective Lopez advised that he heard a dispatch over the police radio regarding a foot chase in progress in the area. He heard Detective Ayalon setting up a perimeter and took a position just south of 66<sup>th</sup> Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At that point, Detective Lopez saw who he believed to be the person who was running from Detective Ayalon crossing from the north side of 66<sup>th</sup> Street to the south side of 66<sup>th</sup> Street. As Detective Lopez drove towards Mr. Ford, Detective Lopez noticed Mr. Ford

holding his waistband as he ran. Detective Lopez stopped his vehicle in the area of 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Sergeant Pares jumped out of the passenger side of his vehicle.

Once Detective Lopez placed the vehicle in park, he exited and followed behind Sergeant Pares towards a black SUV parked in the driveway of the residence. As he approached he heard gunshots and took cover behind the SUV, losing sight of Sergeant Pares and Mr. Ford. After the gunshots, Detective Lopez saw Sergeant Pares lying on the ground with his gun drawn. Sergeant Pares stated to Detective Lopez "He was reaching for his waistband, he was reaching for his waistband." Detective Lopez saw Mr. Ford on the other side of the fence also on the ground. Sergeant Pares covered Detective Lopez as he jumped the fence, placed handcuffs on Mr. Ford and called for rescue. Detective Lopez did not see a firearm on or near Mr. Ford.

**DETECTIVE ALBERTO DIAZ** – Detective Diaz was riding with his partner, Detective Ayalon, when they stopped a red Nissan Maxima for a traffic violation. Detective Diaz approached the passenger side of the vehicle and smelled an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The passenger in the car, later identified as Roddrick Ford, admitted that he had a small baggie of marijuana and handed it to Detective Diaz. Both occupants of the vehicle were asked to exit the vehicle and Detective Diaz ran the names provided to him by the occupants of the vehicle. Detective Diaz saw that both men had outstanding arrest warrants and advised Detective Ayalon. It was discovered that, while both names provided were associated with open arrest warrants, there was a discrepancy with the name provided by Anthony Ford. While Detective Ayalon handcuffed the passenger of the vehicle, the driver of the vehicle (Anthony Ford) asked Detective Diaz what was going on. Detective Diaz responded that they would be transporting them to the police station to verify the warrants and at that time, Mr. Ford took off running. Detective Ayalon chased Anthony Ford while Detective Diaz stayed behind with Roddrick Ford. Detective Diaz heard shots a short time later but did not witness the shooting.

**DETECTIVE GERARDO ALAYON** – Detective Ayalon was riding with his partner, Detective Diaz when they initiated a traffic stop on a red Nissan Maxima in the area of NW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street. Detective Ayalon stated that he approached the driver's side of the vehicle while his partner approached the passenger side. Both detectives smelled an odor of marijuana and the passenger of the vehicle, later identified as Roddrick Ford, admitted to having a small bag of marijuana. Both occupants of the vehicle were asked to step out of the car while detectives performed a records check.

Both occupants of the vehicle had open arrest warrants and there was a particular issue with the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Anthony Ford, as Detective Ayalon discovered he may have been using a fraudulent name. After being advised that both of the occupants of the vehicle would need to be transported to confirm the warrants, Detective Ayalon handcuffed Roddrick Ford without incident. Detective Ayalon then asked Anthony Ford to place his hands behind his back in order to handcuff him, at which time Anthony Ford fled southbound on foot.

Detective Ayalon gave chase as Mr. Ford ran south on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turned west on NW 68<sup>th</sup> Street then turned south down an alleyway which is west of NW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Ford then ran west on 67<sup>th</sup> Street and went southbound between two houses at which time Detective Ayalon lost sight of him. Detective Ayalon stated that he then provided a description of Mr. Ford and set up a perimeter over the police radio. Detective Ayalon heard shots shortly thereafter but did not witness the shooting.

**OFFICER HANSLET MARTI** – Officer Marti was riding with Officer Garcia when they heard a call go out over the police radio requesting emergency backup. Officer Garcia ran to the side of the residence located at 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street where Mr. Ford was lying on the ground. Officer Marti assisted Officers Garcia and Fresnedo with performing CPR on Mr. Ford until rescue arrived. Officer Garcia did not witness the shooting.

**OFFICER ALEJANDRA GARCIA** – Officer Garcia was riding as a two-man unit with Officer Marti when they heard a call go out over the police radio requesting emergency backup. When Officer Garcia and Officer Marti arrived, Detective Lopez asked Officer Garcia to stay with Mr. Ford until rescue arrived. Mr. Ford was breathing normally but collapsed just prior to rescue's arrival. Officers Garcia, Marti and Fresnedo initiated CPR until rescue arrived. Officer Garcia did not witness the shooting.

**OFFICER LAZARO FRESNEDO** – Officer Fresnedo was in the area of the incident when he heard a call over the radio of a suspect running from an officer. He responded to the area and took a perimeter post. Once Mr. Ford was in custody, Officer Fresnedo responded to the area where Mr. Ford was located. He observed that Mr. Ford had an apparent gunshot wound to the abdomen and was having trouble breathing. Officer Fresnedo removed the handcuffs that Mr. Ford was wearing and began CPR until rescue arrived. Officer Fresnedo did not witness the shooting.



**RODDRICK FORD** – Roddrick Ford is the cousin of the deceased and was riding in the front passenger seat of the vehicle being driven by his cousin when it was stopped by officers. Mr. Ford stated that the car he was riding in was stopped by an unmarked police vehicle in the area of NW 68<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Ford advised that he and his cousin were the only occupants of the vehicle. When the vehicle was stopped, two police officers approached the vehicle asked for their names and identification. Mr. Ford provided his correct name to the officers and his cousin provided the incorrect name of LeAntwon Ford. Mr. Ford knew LeAntwon Ford to be the brother of the deceased. Officers advised that they would be checking to see if either occupant of the vehicle had an outstanding warrant for their arrest and asked the pair to step out of the vehicle. Mr. Ford advised officers that there was marijuana inside the vehicle and both men were patted down. Mr. Ford was handcuffed and watched as the officer attempted to handcuff his cousin. Mr. Ford stated that the officer told his cousin to put his hands behind his back, at which time his cousin took off running. Mr. Ford stated that he was shocked that his cousin ran away. Mr. Ford explained that one of the officers began to chase his cousin while the other stayed behind with him. Shortly after the incident, Mr. Ford advised that his cousin's girlfriend arrived at the scene but was not present when the traffic stop occurred.

Mr. Ford described his cousin as wearing a black t-shirt, black shorts and black Reebok sneakers. It should be noted that on the night of the incident Mr. Ford was photographed wearing a red t-shirt, gray shorts and black sneakers.

**DEBRA CARTER** – Debra Carter is a resident of the neighborhood where the incident occurred. According to Ms. Carter, she was at a nearby corner store when she saw a police officer standing on the curb next to a stopped vehicle along with two black males and a black female. Ms. Carter stated that one of the officers handcuffed both black males and immediately after, one of them took off running. Ms. Carter advised that one of the police officers chased the man who ran from the area towards an alleyway. Ms. Carter advised that the officer chasing the male who ran from the scene had his weapon drawn but she did not hear the officer yell out any commands. She described the man who ran from the scene as wearing a red shirt and red pants. Ms. Carter stated that five (5) to six (6) seconds after the man ran towards the alleyway, she heard what she described as approximately seven (7) gunshots.

Ms. Carter explained that shortly after the incident, her friend "Latisha" told her that the police officer shot the male subject in the back as he ran. Ms. Carter was unable to provide a last name, contact

number or address for “Latisha” but stated that she knew the area “Latisha” frequented. FDLE Special Agent Villanueva drove around the area with Ms. Carter but was unable to locate “Latisha”.

### SCENE AND EVIDENCE

The incident occurred in the curtilage of 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street in Miami, Florida. 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street is a single family residence surrounded on all four sides by a chain link fence. The front door of the residence faces north. There is a fence separating the front yard of the residence from the back yard and a gate at the edge of the property that encloses the driveway. On the night of the incident, the gate that encloses the driveway was left open, allowing for access into the driveway. There was a black 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe, bearing Florida tag 209WXT, parked on the east side of the driveway facing south.

There were two (2) apparent strike marks from projectiles located on the east wall of the residence below a window. There was an apparent strike mark on the fence post located on the northeast corner of the residence. There was an additional possible strike mark located on a section of the security bars which covered a window on the east side of the residence located above the strike marks on the wall. A total of six (6) spent casings were located. Four (4) were clearly visible:

One (1) by the door mat at the front of the residence

One (1) on the left side step of the Chevrolet Tahoe parked in the driveway

Two (2) on the driveway on the left side of the Chevrolet Tahoe

MDPD K-9 Detective Jesus Martinez and Detective Alexis Rodriguez responded with their K-9 partners and conducted a search for further firearms and ballistics evidence. Two (2) additional spent casings were located in the grass on the left side of the Chevrolet Tahoe. An effort was made to check roof tops and the running path traveled by Anthony Ford for additional evidence. No firearm was located.

ShotSpotter technology recorded six (6) gunshots in the area at the time of the incident. There were no calls made to 911 regarding this event.

Surveillance video that captured part of Mr. Ford’s path as he ran was located from 6702 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the Apostolic Revival Center. The video showed Mr. Ford running through the alley being chased by a police officer. Mr. Ford is not handcuffed and can be seen looking back towards the officer as he ran.

**AUTOPSY**

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Kenneth Hutchins, Associate Medical Examiner. Anthony Ford suffered two (2) gunshot wounds:

Left abdomen

Graze wound of left buttock

The path of the wound to the abdomen was front to back, left to right and slightly downward. The wound to the left buttock extended through skin only. A projectile was removed from the wound to the abdomen and turned over to investigators.

The toxicology report on Mr. Ford detected several substances:

Benzodiazepines

Midazolam

Cannabinoids

Tetrahydrocannabinol

11-Hydroxytetrahydrocannabinol

9-Carboxytetrahydrocannabinol

**FIREARMS AND BALLISTICS**

Angela Garvin, Criminalist for the Miami-Dade Police Department, examined the submitted .40 caliber Sig Sauer pistol, one (1) spent projectile and six (6) fired .40 caliber S&W casings. Criminalist Garvin determined that the one (1) spent projectile and four (4) of the six (6) submitted casings were fired in the submitted Sig Sauer pistol. The remaining two (2) fired casings could have been fired in the Sig Sauer pistol based on class and individual characteristics, however a lack of detail precluded a more conclusive determination.

**CONCLUSION**

The role of the State Attorney in this investigation and in conducting this review is limited to determining whether a criminal violation of Florida law has occurred, whether any person may be held criminally responsible, and whether such criminal responsibility can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. The State Attorney does not establish agency policy, procedures, and training requirements. Nor does the State Attorney have any responsibility for determining disciplinary action or pursuing civil litigation in these matters. In other words, given the applicable law, the State Attorney's role is to determine whether the actions of Sergeant EDUARDO PARES ID# 30-4980 constitute a criminal act that can be proven beyond and to the exclusion of every reasonable doubt.

Section 776.012, Florida Statutes, permits the use of deadly force when a person reasonably believes such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or prevent the commission of a forcible felony. Section 776.05, Florida Statutes, permits a law enforcement officer to use any force that he believes is necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making an arrest.

Anthony Ford fled on foot following a traffic stop when a police officer attempted to place him into handcuffs. Upon spotting Mr. Ford, Sergeant Pares gave chase following Mr. Ford as he ran into the curtilage of the residence located at 1534 NW 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Sergeant Pares stated that Mr. Ford jumped the fence into the backyard of the residence then turned to face him. Sergeant Pares described his position at the point when he came face to face with Mr. Ford as being in a "funnel" with no ability to take cover and no ability to move to his left or right due to his position. Sergeant Pares advised that Mr. Ford reached into the waistband of his shorts with his right hand. Upon Sergeant Pares loudly repeating verbal commands to show his hands, Mr. Ford put his hands deeper into the front area of his pants.

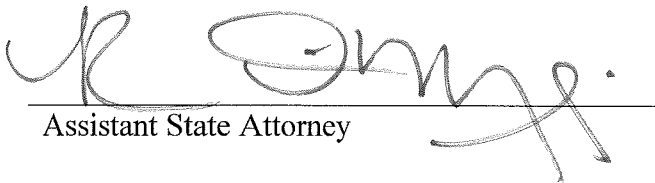
In his statement to Special Agent Villanueva, Sergeant Pares explained that in his training and experience it is not uncommon for an armed subject to carry a firearm in his waistband. Further, according to Sergeant Pares, it is also not uncommon for a subject to attempt to conceal that firearm upon being approached by law enforcement by shoving it farther down into the groin area where it would not be detected by simply patting the individual down. Sergeant Pares advised that based on Mr.

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OF ANTHONY A. FORD

Ford's hand movements, his flight from police and his refusal to obey commands to show his hands, Sergeant Pares believed that Mr. Ford was armed and therefore believed his life was in danger.

Based upon the investigation, a review of the statements of the witnesses and the evidence retrieved, Sergeant Eduardo Pares had a right use deadly force in response to that threat pursuant to Fla. Stat. 776.012(2) and 776.05(1). Sergeant Pares was the only witness to the actual shooting and therefore his statements regarding Mr. Ford's furtive hand movements inside his waistband and failure to obey commands are uncontroverted. Based on the evidence, Mr. Ford's actions put fear in the mind of Sergeant Pares that death or great bodily harm was imminent. Consequently, Sergeant Pares was legally justified in firing his weapon to protect his life. Therefore, it is the opinion of the undersigned Assistant State Attorney that no criminal charges should be filed against Sergeant Pares.

Prepared by:

  
Assistant State Attorney