

**Officer-Involved Shooting Incident
in Pittsfield, New Hampshire
June 14, 2021**

New Hampshire Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General



www.doj.nh.gov



EVENTS, PITTSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT, EVENING OF JUNE 13-EARLY MORNING OF JUNE 14

- AN ADULT FEMALE FILED A REPORT ALLEGING PAST SEXUAL ASSAULTS COMMITTED BY ANTHONY HANNON
- POLICE INVESTIGATED REPORT, INCLUDING INTERVIEWING THE COMPLAINANT
- POLICE PLAN – CONTINUE WITH INVESTIGATION LATER ON JUNE 14

NOTIFICATION MADE TO ANTHONY HANNON

- MR. HANNON WAS AT HOME WITH FIANCEE AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN
- FAMILY MEMBERS INFORMED MR. HANNON IN SUBSTANCE THAT THE POLICE WERE INVESTIGATING A SEXUAL ASSAULT COMPLAINT AGAINST HIM
- FAMILY MEMBERS INCORRECTLY INFORMED MR. HANNON THAT THE POLICE WERE EN ROUTE TO HIS HOUSE

ANTHONY HANNON'S REACTION

- RELAYED THAT WOULD NOT BE LEAVING HIS HOUSE ALIVE
- EXPLICITLY AND REPEATEDLY TALKED ABOUT KILLING HIMSELF OR PROVOKING THE POLICE INTO SHOOTING HIM
- ARMED HIMSELF WITH A LOADED PISTOL
- PREPARED TO REPEL BELIEVED POLICE FORCED ENTRY INTO HOUSE
- WOULD NOT ALLOW HIS FIANCEE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE WITH THE CHILDREN

RESPONSE, PITTSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT (ABOUT 3:00 A.M.-7:00 A.M., JUNE 14)

- CALLED MR. HANNON'S FIANCEE TO VERIFY THE SITUATION INSIDE THE HOUSE
- SPOKE DIRECTLY ON THE PHONE WITH MR. HANNON, AND ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCHE HIM TO DISARM AND LEAVE HIS HOUSE
- ALERTED SPECIALIZED UNITS TO RESPOND
- RESPONDED TO THE HOUSE, BRIEFLY MADE CONTACT WITH MR. HANNON OUTSIDE (PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIS FIANCEE AND CHILDREN TO ESCAPE), AND THEN REINITIATED PHONE CONTACT

ANTHONY HANNON'S TELEPHONE CALLS WITH PITTSFIELD POLICE

- REPEATEDLY AND EXPLICITLY STATED THAT HE WANTED TO DIE
- REPEATEDLY THREATENED TO SHOOT AND KILL HIMSELF
- REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO DIE BY "SUICIDE BY COP"
- STATED THAT HE WAS ARMED WITH A LOADED PISTOL
- REFUSED TO DISARM OR LEAVE HIS HOUSE

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CENTRAL NEW HAMPSHIRE SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT (“SOU”)

- SPECIALIZED TACTICAL UNIT
- COMPRISED OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IS GRAFTON AND MERRIMACK COUNTIES
- RESPONDS TO HIGH-RISK SITUATIONS IN MEMBER COMMUNITIES
- RESPONDS TO ABOUT SEVEN INCIDENTS A YEAR

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RESPONSE, SOU AND NEGOTIATION TEAM (BEGINNING ABOUT 7:00 A.M., JUNE 14)

- SOU OFFICERS ARRIVED AT 40 LYFORD HILL ROAD WITH AN ARMORED VEHICLE (THE "BEARCAT") AND TOOK UP POSITIONS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE
- NO ATTEMPTS MADE TO ENTER THE HOUSE OR FORCIBLY REMOVE MR. HANNON FROM THE RESIDENCE
- NEGOTIATORS OPENED UP A DIALOGUE WITH MR. HANNON OVER THE PHONE

BEARCAT



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SOU LESS-THAN-LETHAL FIREARMS



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CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PEACEFULLY RESOLVE STANDOFF (ABOUT 7:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., JUNE 14)

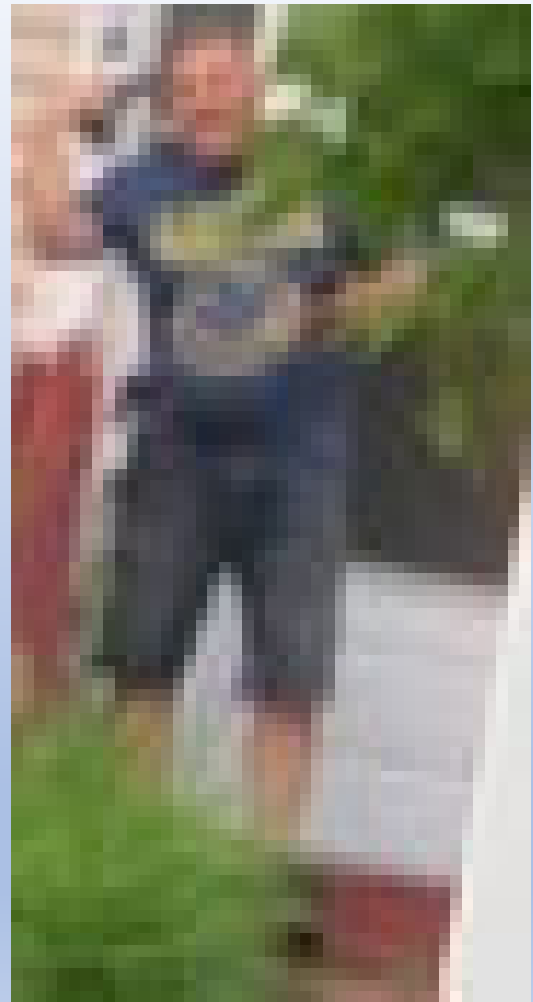
- NEARLY CONSTANT TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION WITH MR. HANNON FOR SEVEN HOURS
- REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCING MR. HANNON TO DISARM AND TO LEAVE THE HOUSE
- MR. HANNON CONTINUED EXPLICIT AND REPEATED DESIRES TO END HIS OWN LIFE OR TO DIE BY "SUICIDE BY COP"

ABOUT 1:20-2:00 P.M., JUNE 14

- MR. HANNON LEFT HIS HOUSE, AND REMAINED AT AND RIGHT BY THE FRONT DOOR
- HE HELD A LOADED PISTOL UP TO HIS HEAD, AND HELD A CELLPHONE IN HIS OTHER HAND
- HE REPEATEDLY CALLED OUT TO NEARBY SOU OFFICERS, GOADING THEM TO SHOOT HIM







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LESS-THAN-LETHAL PLAN

- CONVINCING MR. HANNON TO LOWER HIS PISTOL, IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE
- IF OPPORTUNITY AROSE, DISARM AND DISABLE HIM WITH LESS-THAN-LETHAL FIREARMS
- SAFELY DETAIN HIM

DEADLY FORCE INCIDENT, ABOUT 2:02 P.M., JUNE 14

LESS-THAN-LETHAL FIREARMS

DET. KEVIN FARIA (BRADFORD PD)

DET. THOMAS SHEVELAND (CONCORD PD)

SGT. CHRISTIAN LOVEJOY (CONCORD PD)

LETHAL FIREARMS

SGT. JOSEPH DIGEORGE (PITTSFIELD PD)

P.O. JESSE COLBY (HENNIKER PD)

SGT. CRAIG LEVESQUE (CONCORD PD)

P.O. NICHOLAS MCNUTT (CONCORD PD)

P.O. ALMADIN DZELIC (CONCORD PD)

P.O. MATTHEW DOYON (CONCORD PD)



DEADLY FORCE ENCOUNTER (ABOUT TEN SECONDS)

- MR. HANNON REMOVED THE PISTOL FROM HIS HEAD, AND OFFICERS FIRED LESS-THAN-LETHAL PROJECTILES AT HIM IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISARM AND SUBDUE HIM
- MR. HANNON DID NOT DROP HIS WEAPON, POINTED IT TOWARDS NEARBY SOU OFFICERS, AND FIRED
- SOU OFFICERS FIRED ON MR. HANNON





AUTOPSY OF ANTHONY HANNON

FINDINGS:

- 9 GUNSHOT WOUNDS: BACK (3), BUTTOCKS (2), RIGHT WRIST, RIGHT ARM, LEFT ARM, AND RIGHT LEG
- SEVERAL BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA INJURIES
- TOXICOLOGY POSITIVE FOR CAFFEINE, NICOTINE METABOLITES, AND BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICATION

MANNER/CAUSE OF DEATH:

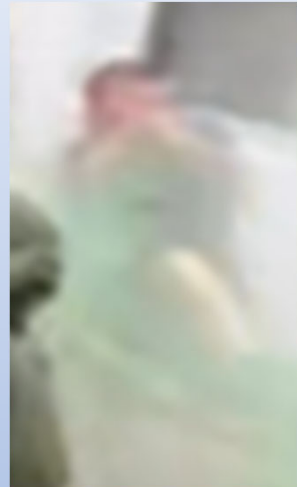
HOMICIDE FROM MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS



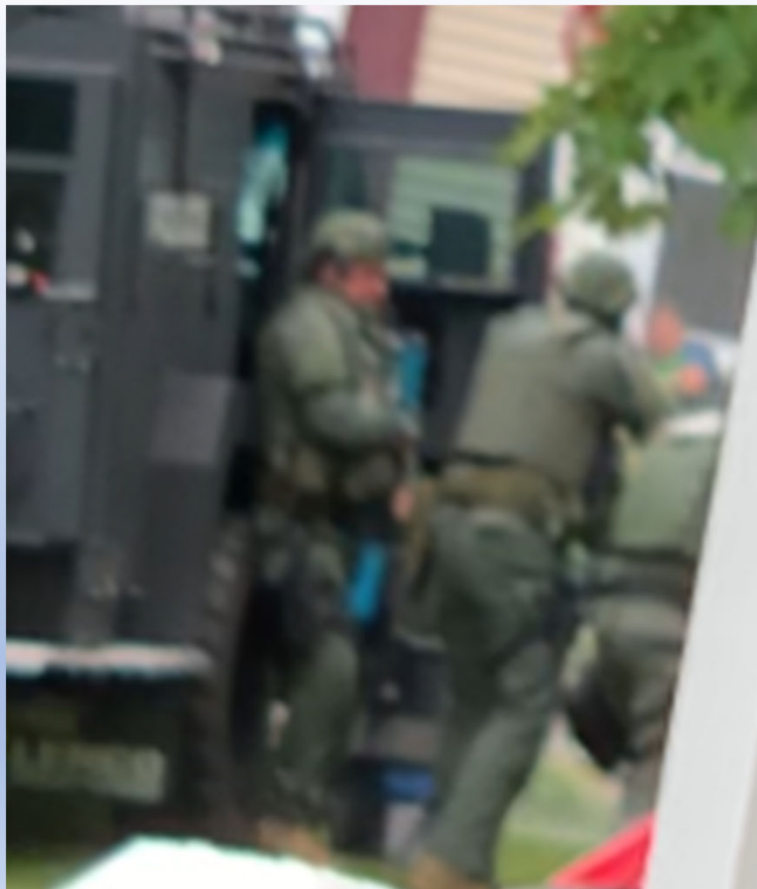
FIRST VIDEO (2:02:32 P.M.)



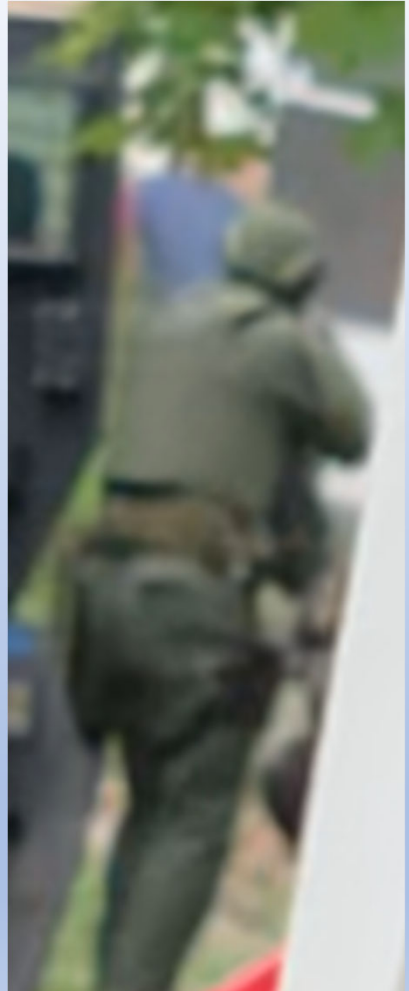
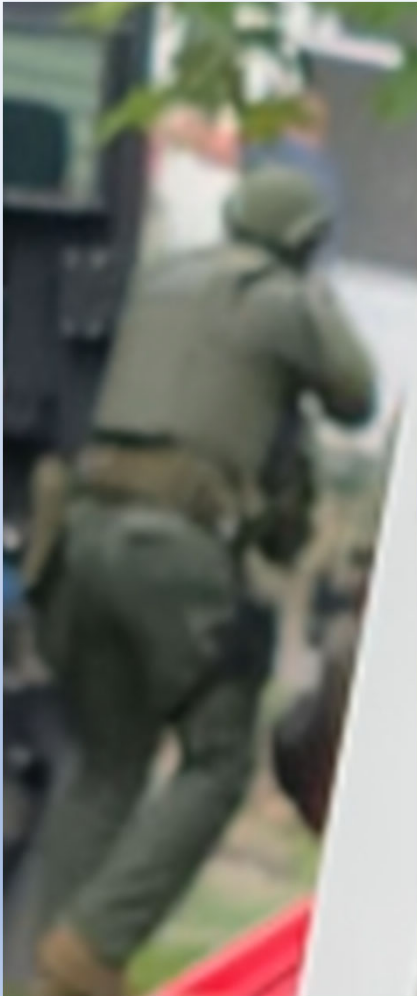
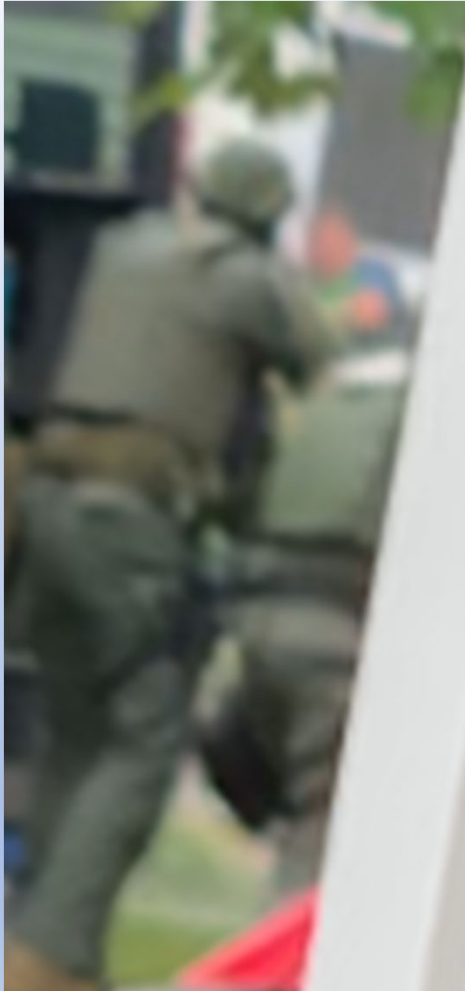




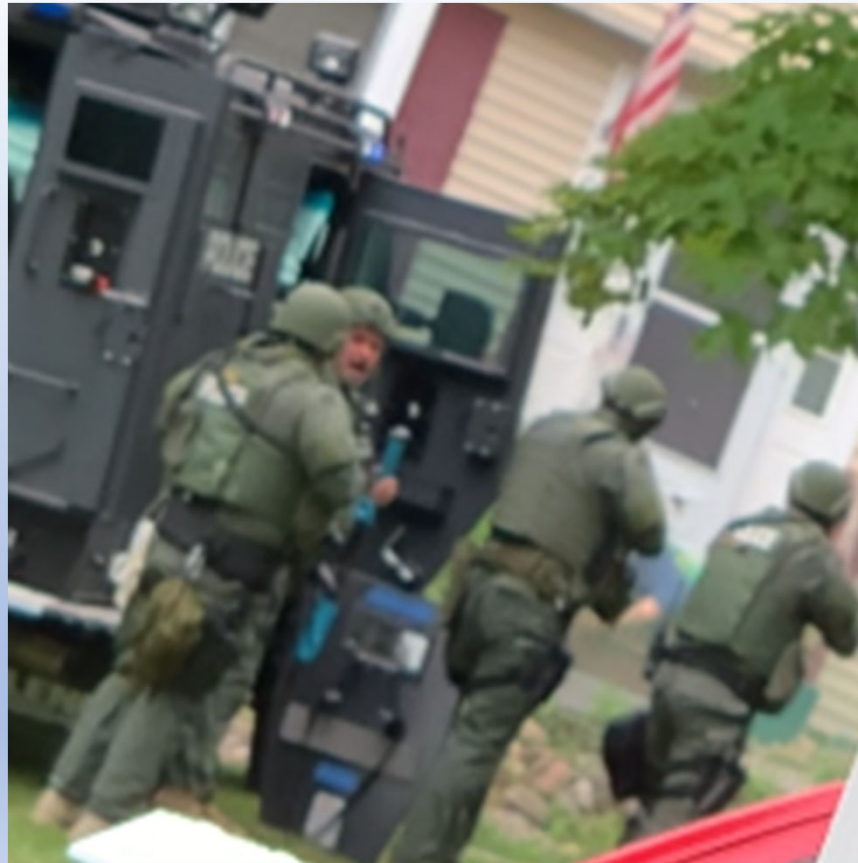
SECOND VIDEO (2:02:36 P.M.)







THIRD VIDEO (2:02:39 P.M.)





INTERVIEWS



RSA CHAPTER 627 "JUSTIFICATION"

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATUTE RSA 627:9, II

“Deadly Force”

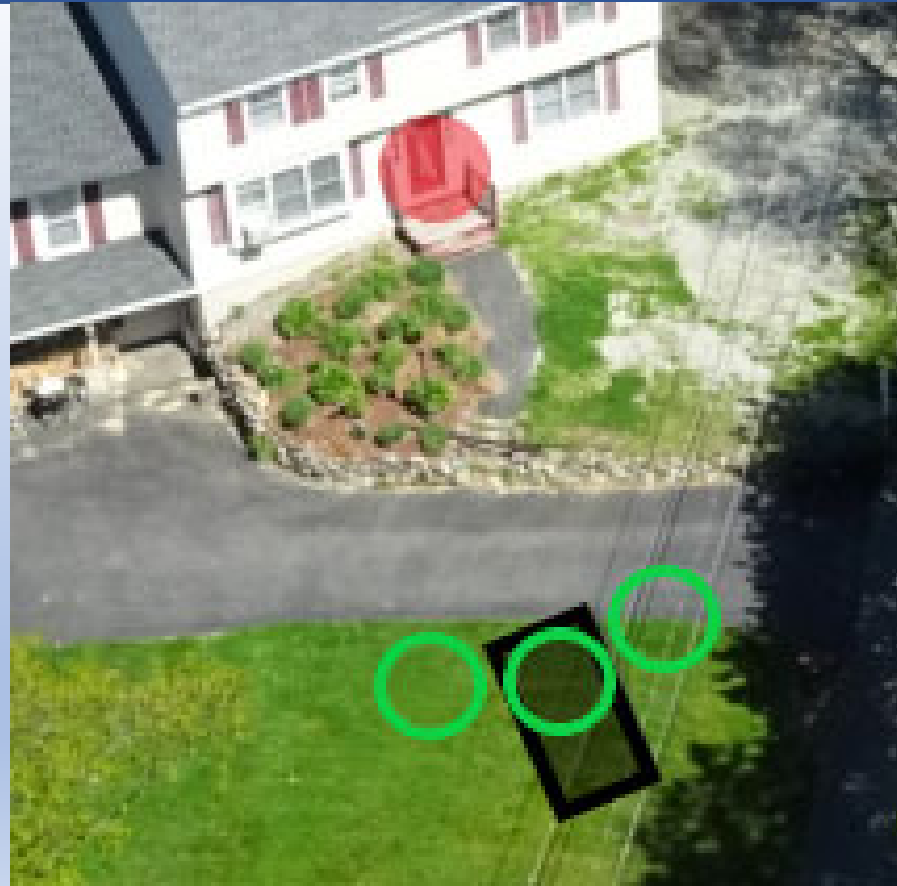
Purposely firing a firearm capable of causing serious bodily injury or death in the direction of another person . . . constitutes deadly force.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATUTE RSA 627:9, II

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LESS-THAN-LETHAL FIREARMS



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATUTE RSA 627:5, II(a) & (b)

Physical Force in Law Enforcement

A law enforcement officer is justified in using deadly force only when he reasonably believes such force is necessary:

- (a) To defend himself or a third person from what he reasonably believes is the imminent use of deadly force; or
- (b) To effect an arrest . . . of a person whom he reasonably believes:
 - (1) Has committed or is committing a felony involving the use of force or violence . . . ; and
 - (2) He had made reasonable efforts to advise the person that he is a law enforcement officer attempting to effect an arrest and has reasonable grounds to believe that the person is aware of these facts

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LETHAL FIREARMS



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APPLICATION OF RSA 627:5, II(a)

- CONSIDER ALL THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT
- WHAT IS “REASONABLE” IS DETERMINED BY AN OBJECTIVE STANDARD (VIEWING THE CONDUCT IN QUESTION FROM THE STANDPOINT OF A REASONABLE PERSON FACING THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES)
- CANNOT SECOND-GUESS CONDUCT WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT

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