



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

August 12, 2008

Commissioner Gerald M. Bailey
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 1489
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489

Dear Commissioner Bailey:

On June 7, 2008, a minor victim, Javon Dawson, was shot by St. Petersburg Police Officer Terrence Nemeth, resulting in his death. This tragic incident occurred while officers were attempting to disperse a large crowd that had gathered for a party. While the crowd was dispersing, several gunshots alerted the officers and sent people running. Officer Nemeth contends that Mr. Dawson was running while pointing a firearm at the crowd and at the officer. In fear of being shot, Officer Nemeth fired his weapon at Mr. Dawson, hitting him twice in the back and resulting in his death.

Bernie McCabe, State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida, investigated Officer Nemeth's shooting of Mr. Dawson and in an August 12, 2008 letter, provided a detailed review of the investigation and evidence to St. Petersburg Police Chief Charles Harmon. State Attorney McCabe concluded "that the death of Javon Dawson was the result of having been shot by Officer Terrence Nemeth of the St. Petersburg Police Department, who was in the performance of his lawful duty and that the shooting was justifiable homicide pursuant to Section 776.012 and 776.05, Florida Statutes." So that we can be absolutely certain with these findings and conclusions, I request the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review State Attorney McCabe's findings and case file to ensure that a complete and thorough investigation was conducted and no additional action is necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist