

Commonwealth's Attorney
John R. Doyle, III

Chief Deputy
Robert C. Slaughter, III

Senior Deputies
Philip G. Evans, II
Carol M. Marx
Gregory D. Underwood

Deputies
Ron Batliner, Jr.
Linda L. Bryant
James F. Entas
Brent A. Johnson

Administrator
Robin B. Wilson

Comptroller
Donna Fasanaro

Director of Communications
Amanda Howie

Victim/Witness Director
Willie C. Harrell

Bruce P. Marquis
Chief of Police
100 Brooke Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE NORFOLK COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

800 E. City Hall Ave., Suite 600
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-2719
(757) 664-4444
Victim-Witness Program (757) 664-4850

September 9, 2008

HAND DELIVERED

Re: Death of Tameika Jordan

Dear Chief Marquis:

On August 9, 2008 at 10:27 PM a Norfolk 911 operator received the following taped report from a caller who identified herself as Catrina Jordan:

911: *"This is Norfolk 911. Do you have an emergency?"*

Caller: *"Yup"*

911: *"What is the address?"*

Caller: *"2227 Maltby Avenue, Apartment D."*

911: *"What is going on there, ma'am?"*

Caller: *"My daughter keeps threatening to kill me. She came into the house being all irate for no reason at all."*

911: *"How old is your daughter?"*

Caller: *"Seventeen."*

911: *"Does she have any weapons?"*

Senior Assistants
Valerie H. Bowen
Paula M. Bruns
Jill C. Harris
Lyn M. Simmons
Megan C. Zwisohn

Assistants
Christina L. Brady
William O. Carrow, Jr.
Ashley B. Coleman
Win R. Consolvo
Amy E. Cross
Richard F. Farley
Krista L. Fulton
Donald E. Harris
Clifton C. Hicks
D. Monique Hutton
NeShondria D. Johnson
Waverly Jones, Jr.
Tanja M. Korpi
Sarah L. Kotarides
Hilary J. Mastio
Timothy J. Mattson
Elizabeth H. Nash
Patricia H. O'Boyle
Margaret A. Hoehl O'Shea
Asha S. Pandya
Mary A. Richardson
Anetra L. Robinson
Sarah A. Rohn
M. Janeice Tann
Elizabeth K. Ufkes
Marc W. West
Janet L. Westbrook
Jennifer M. Williams

Caller: "Yes."

911: "What weapon does she have?"

Caller: "A gun."

911: "What is her name?"

Caller: "Tameika Jordan."

The dispatcher sent Norfolk Police Units to respond to the scene. A second call came in shortly thereafter from a young lady who identified herself as Tameika's sister. She said that her mother had already called in the emergency and she asked for the police to hurry.

Of note is that on July 17, 2008 Tameika Jordan had been arrested by a Norfolk Auto Squad Detective on petitions charging her with an auto theft. On July 31st, Ms. Jordan was a passenger in a stolen auto that was involved in a hit and run. Ms. Jordan was detained, but not charged in connection with that stolen car. In both instances, Ms. Jordan was with the same juvenile female. That juvenile female also was charged during this time frame in connection with a third stolen auto. A .44 caliber revolver handgun that was inside that car when it was stolen was missing when the car was recovered.

2227 Maltby Avenue is a two story four apartment building with two units on each floor separated by a very small landing area. Apartment D is on the second floor to the right side of the landing.

The first police officers to arrive were approached by Catrina Jordan outside the apartment building. She repeated her complaint about being threatened by her daughter, Tameika Jordan, with a gun and informed the officers that her daughter was alone inside the apartment.

The officers went inside the building and knocked on the door of Apartment D. They were answered from within by Tameika Jordan. The officers identified themselves and instructed her to put down the gun and come outside. Tameika Jordan yelled "no!" and went to the window and screamed at her mother, "Mom, Mom, goodbye. This is what you wanted. Goodbye world."

She then immediately fired off a shot inside the apartment. The police officers evacuated the building and called for assistance.

The Norfolk Police Hostage / Crisis Negotiation Team responded and several hours of failed persuasion ensued without Tameika Jordan relinquishing the weapon or surrendering herself. Ms. Jordan referred to the gun during her conversations with the police negotiator as “stolen” (it is a felony to knowingly possess a stolen firearm). At one point a second gunshot was fired inside the apartment by Ms. Jordan. Ms. Jordan told the negotiator that the shot was fired accidentally. Two bullet holes were later found in the kitchen of the apartment penetrating the wall and exiting to the outside (subsequent Gunshot Residue Tests were positive for both of Ms. Jordan’s hands).

The discussions with Tameika Jordan continued for approximately six hours. At one point, Ms. Jordan placed the gun on the second floor landing but quickly took it back into the apartment with her.

Eventually when Tameika Jordan ceased any communications, orders were given shortly before 5:00 AM to fire tear gas canisters and 12 canisters were deployed through the windows into the apartment. Officers were positioned in the neighboring second floor apartment located across the landing. There were no lights on inside the building other than those attached to the officers’ weapons. These officers were under the command of two sergeants, one positioned at the bottom of the stairway and one positioned inside the neighboring second floor apartment. Some of the officers were armed with M4 semi-automatic rifles. One officer was armed with an electric taser device. This device is designed to shoot two small probes connected to the device by cables with a range of 25 feet. When both of these probes lodge in the target they form a circuit and cause instant incapacitation allowing for an arrest to be effected.

The deployment of the tear gas succeeded in forcing Tameika Jordan out of the apartment as she slowly exited onto the second floor landing. Ms. Jordan eventually put her hands in the air and then on her head. But she continued to ignore instructions to move away from the apartment door and she stood in place just outside the partially open apartment door. Ms. Jordan did not

have the gun in either hand at that point so one of the Sergeants gave the order to the team positioned across the landing to take her into custody.

The team elected to first attempt to get physical control over Tameika Jordan by disabling her using the electric taser device. However, in the instant before the officer armed with the taser fired from the apartment across the landing, Ms. Jordan moved to her left towards the open apartment door. The result of this sudden movement was that only one of the probes hit her, lodging in her right side. Ms. Jordan then screamed and fled back into the apartment slamming the door behind her.

The order was given to follow her into the apartment to apprehend her. The officers breached the door with a battering ram and entered (the time interval between the one taser probe hitting Ms. Jordan and the officers effecting entry into the apartment was 14 seconds). Upon entering the apartment, they were confronted by Ms. Jordan who was positioned on a couch just inside the apartment door. She was armed with the .44 revolver which she aimed at the first officer to enter from a distance of about 4 feet. He responded by immediately firing 9 shots that fatally wounded Ms. Jordan. The length of time from the first shot to the last was approximately 3 seconds.

The revolver was recovered from the couch and was indeed the same stolen gun that was missing from the stolen vehicle referenced above. The gun contained two spent (fired) casings and two unfired cartridges. The fifth bore of the cylinder was empty. The hammer was in the cocked (ready to fire) position.

The goal of this operation was to safely remove Ms. Jordan unarmed from the apartment. It is tragic that the efforts of the Norfolk Police officers to persuade Ms. Jordan to relinquish her weapon and surrender herself to peaceful arrest were not successful. It is also tragic that when the police were confronted with her refusal, their efforts to safely take her into custody failed. It is a fair expectation on the part of the public that a review of the tactics used and decisions made in this effort will occur.

I know that such a review is standard operation for your department in an effort to maintain the highest quality response to these challenging situations. Indeed, such an exercise is within the province of the Chief of Police and is outside of the scope of my authority. Moreover, it is not germane to the decision it is my duty to make.

My decision specifically is limited to the question of whether the officer, who upon entering the apartment was confronted by Ms. Jordan's aimed revolver, was justified under the law of self defense in his use of deadly force to repel that threat. Clearly the answer is "yes". Thus no criminal charges will be initiated.

Very truly yours,



John R. Doyle, III
Commonwealth's Attorney

JRD:mrf