

HardisonInk.com

Sheriff speaks about Nov. 16 shooting death



Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum addresses members of The Fourth Estate - broadcast, print and Internet (which is both) on Tuesday afternoon (Dec. 5).

Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 5, 2017 at 4:27 p.m.

BRONSON -- Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum on Tuesday afternoon (Dec. 5) reiterated some of the same information previously shared by LCSO PIO Lt. Scott Tummond, FDLE Communications Writer Gretl Plessinger and Eighth Judicial Circuit State Attorney William Cervone in regard to the shooting death of a man by LCSO deputies on Nov. 16.

Beyond the information in the two related stories published in Monday morning and afternoon (Dec. 4) in *HardisonInk.com* (scroll down on the [POLICE PAGE](#)), the sheriff could give few details. However, he was able to express some more information about the process, about his personal feelings and the impact this incident had on dispatchers -- as well as the law enforcement officers at the scene.

The sheriff addressed broadcast journalists from the CBS and ABC affiliates in Gainesville, and a weekly reporter from the Chiefland tabloid-sized newspaper, and a publisher from a daily news website.

Sheriff McCallum said the FDLE investigation is not complete. At some point in the future, it will be done. The State Attorney's Office will see that report and it will be shared with the Levy County Grand Jury.

Eventually, some of the information from the investigation will be made public.

The sheriff said the family members of Michael Wesley Goodale, 34, are innocent victims from this incident.

The three deputies involved have been through debriefing and counseling, as well as having

HardisonInk.com

been checked out for their physical health.

Before allowing them to return to duty, Sheriff McCallum said, it is his policy to assure they are emotionally and physically able to perform their duties as deputies. Two of the three men, he said, suffered minor injuries – although not from Goodale, but from the performance of their duties on that night.

Due to this still being an active investigation, the sheriff declined from giving more details about exactly what happened that night.

In addition to the psychological assessment being completed for all three deputies, Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell provided the services of the ACSO Critical Incident Debriefing Team, Sheriff McCallum said, adding that he is very appreciative of her assistance in that regard.

Another set of LCSO employees who were helped by the ACSO Critical Incident Debriefing Team, Sheriff McCallum said, were the 9-1-1 tele-communicators who were involved with this call for help, the response and the aftermath.

The sheriff said he met individually with each deputy after the tragic turn of events on Nov. 16.

The first deputy he cleared to return to active duty was Deputy Gary Garboski. Then Sgt. Kevin Kinik and Deputy Bob Cannon were allowed by the sheriff to go back to work. All three had been on paid administrative leave, pending the initial findings of the FDLE and pending their completion of health-related exams.

The sheriff said “They did what they had to do.”

When asked for the policy of the Sheriff’s Office about a deputy drawing a weapon, the sheriff said deputies have a right to defend the lives of residents, visitors and themselves, from great harm, injury or death.

Goodale was unresponsive to following commands even after being tazed by two deputies, McCallum said.

“There was a lot of verbal discussion going on,” McCallum said. “They did everything they could to prevent this from happening.”

The sheriff mentioned that one of the deputies felt disappointed and discouraged in the outcome, because he has had much better success in deescalating domestic dispute issues in the past.

“My deputies, other than minor injuries, were safe and able to go home to their families, when they were released (from medical care),” McCallum said when he was asked about how he felt. “Obviously, we don’t ever want this to happen in Levy County. We don’t want to have to take someone else’s life. Again, in my opinion, from what I know ... I am very proud of the restraint my deputies showed as long as they could show it. I fully support the deputies and the actions that they took.”

The sheriff said it is important, too, to remember the impact on 9-1-1 tele-communicators. They go through trauma on a daily basis as they talk to people in distress and seeking help, the sheriff said. They dispatch deputies to the scene, and they worry about the deputies as well as others, he added.

“We go to a domestic violence scene every day of the year,” he said.

This call came into the 9-1-1 dispatch as a “family-related” call, the sheriff said.

Even though the investigation is incomplete, the sheriff said he has no doubt about his choice to put the deputies back into service. Likewise, he completely backs their action.

Deputies Cannon, Garboski and Sgt. Kinik return to duty after fatal shooting of man

By LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond

Published Dec. 4, 2017 at 4:07 p.m.

HardisonInk.com

LEVY COUNTY -- On Nov. 16, three deputies with the Levy County Sheriff's Office responded to 7450 N.W. 110th St. in Chiefland to a reported domestic violence complaint with an armed subject.

Deputies arrived and confronted Michael Wesley Goodale, 34, at the front door of this residence.

Goodale was armed with two knives and refused to comply with all lawful orders given by deputies. Deputies deployed Tasers in an attempt to disarm Goodale, but the Tasers were ineffective.

Goodale attacked the deputies, which forced them to use their agency-issued handguns to stop this attack.

Goodale was struck by two bullets fired by the deputies and did not survive his injuries. Two deputies sustained minor injuries during the altercation.

The Levy County deputies involved in this incident were placed on administrative leave with pay that same evening in compliance with LCSO policy.

Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum contacted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and requested members of that agency to conduct an independent investigation into this incident.

Sheriff McCallum was recently updated on the progress of the FDLE investigation, and has authorized all three deputies to return to duty as a result.

On the date this incident was reported by the complainant, who called 9-1-1 to report the emergency, the LCSO Communications Division dispatched the nearest unit available and back-up units.

Deputy Robert "Bob" Cannon was the first to arrive on scene. K-9 Sgt. Kevin Kinik and K-9 Deputy Gary Garboski arrived within two minutes of Deputy Cannon's arrival.

Deputy Cannon has been employed with the LCSO since May of 2005 with prior experience as a police officer with the Chiefland Police Department (CPD) and as a Correctional Officer with the Florida Department of Corrections. Sgt. Kinik began his career with the LCSO in January of 2004 and has four years of prior experience with the CPD. Deputy Garboski began his second career in law enforcement with the LCSO in November of 2015 after completing a full career with the Tampa Police Department.

This deadly encounter is the only time Levy County deputies have been forced to engage a criminal suspect with deadly force since 2005.

In both of these instances the lives of deputies and the community were endangered. This is a tragedy for all involved.

~

The Levy County deputies, as well as every other law enforcement officer across this nation, must make the most difficult decisions in a split-second to preserve lives.

The family of Mr. Goodale was forever altered that night and these deputy's lives also have been affected.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the men and women who have taken an oath to protect those in our community who entrust us with their safety, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Goodale family.

-- Lt. Scott Tummon

HardisonInk.com

FDLE notes SAO to determine outcome after Nov. 16 LCSO officer-involved shooting

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 4, 2017 at 9:07 a.m.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT – In regard to the Nov. 16 incident where a man was allegedly shot to death by one or more deputies with the Levy County Sheriff's Office, there is a process that eventually will conclude either the end of the matter, or it will continue in the judicial system of Florida, according to information from Gretl Plessinger of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Communications Department and Eighth Judicial Circuit State Attorney William Cervone.

“At the request of Levy County Sheriff's Office,” Plessinger noted in a Nov. 17 email, “FDLE is investigating the officer-involved shooting. Our role is to determine the facts of what happened and then provide that information to the (members of the) State Attorney's Office and they determine whether or not charges are filed against the officer(s).”

In answering a request for public records, State Attorney Cervone noted on Nov. 18 that “...I can tell you that at this time my office has no documents regarding this, and I do not anticipate having anything until FDLE concludes its investigation and brings that to me.

“Even when that happens,” Cervone added, “the reports will not be public record until my office concludes whatever may result from the reports.

“As the matter remains an active investigation I am unaware of any public record document subject to immediate release, although LCSO may choose to release a statement with the limited information you've outlined,” Cervone concluded in the response.

This investigation by the FDLE began after deputies with the Levy County Sheriff's Office responded to 7450 N.W. 110th St., Chiefland, in reference to a domestic disturbance on Nov. 16 at 8:40 p.m., LCSO spokesman Lt. Scott Tummond noted in an email at 8:03 a.m. on Nov. 17.

Levy County Undersheriff Brett Beauchamp provided an update via email at 11:32 a.m. on that Friday.

Three deputies responded to the scene and were confronted by an armed male subject, according to the LCSO.

After attempting to subdue the suspect with less lethal weapons, two deputies were forced to discharge their firearms at the suspect, the LCSO noted.

Michael Wesley Goodale, 34, was transported to Shands at UF as a trauma alert, but he did not survive the injuries, the LCSO noted.

Two deputies were injured during the encounter, the LCSO noted, and they were treated and released from a local hospital.

Pursuant to LCSO policy, the two deputies involved in the incident have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the FDLE investigation and the Eighth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office review.

Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum said he is saddened by these events and extends his condolences to the families affected by this incident. Sheriff McCallum expressed his appreciation for the other agencies that assisted LCSO during the incident and commended the courage and professionalism exhibited by all of the involved personnel.