



Office of District Attorney General Coty Wamp  
11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District • Hamilton County, TN

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600 Market Street, Suite 310  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423) 209-7400

**June 5, 2024**

**Re: Officer Involved Shooting**

**CC:**

Sheriff Tom Spangler, Knox County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Gary Sisk, Catoosa County Sheriff's Office  
Special Agent Luke Muhonen, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

**Involved Deputies:**

David Paul Amburn, Knox County Sheriff's Office  
John Sharp, Knox County Sheriff's Office  
James Aaron Yarnell, Knox County Sheriff's Office  
Jeremy Keener, Catoosa County Sheriff's Office

**Deceased:** Edward Ahrens, DOB 07/08/1975

**Incident date:** February 2, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

On February 2, 2024 I was informed of an officer involved shooting that occurred in East Ridge, Tennessee, a municipality located in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The circumstances involved multiple law enforcement agencies and four deputies from two separate agencies that deployed and discharged their department-issued firearms. Subsequently, I requested that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation investigate the incident.

The investigation revealed that investigators with the Knox County Sheriff's Office as well as the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office were actively searching for a reported endangered child (A.M.) from Knox County. The investigation developed a subject, Edward Ahrens, and a vehicle that he was associated with. The investigation led law enforcement officers to believe that the child (A.M.) could be in serious danger.

Investigators located the suspect vehicle in East Ridge, Tennessee and attempted a traffic stop of the vehicle. Suspect Ahrens, in his vehicle, refused to stop and comply with law enforcement commands. This resulted in Investigators Amburn, Sharpe, Yarnell, and Captain Keener all discharging their firearms. Mr. Ahrens was struck by the gunfire and was pronounced deceased later that night. The child (A.M.) was located and recovered inside of the suspect's vehicle and transported to Erlanger Hospital for evaluation.

I have reviewed the case file submitted to me by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and have come to the following conclusions.

The case file submitted to the District Attorney was prepared by TBI Special Agent Luke Muhonen. The file includes but is not limited to, case reports, investigative reports from Catoosa County and Knox County, interviews, crime scene reports, photos, and most significantly, recorded evidence including numerous law enforcement videos.

After review of the case file, and with knowledge of the law, I find that Knox County Sheriff's Deputies David Paul Amburn, John Sharp, James Aaron Yarnell, each acting in their official capacity as sworn law enforcement officers for the Knox County Sheriff's Office used deadly force in response to the actions of deceased Edward Ahrens and that force was justified pursuant to T.C.A. 39-11-620.

Similarly, I find that Catoosa County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Keener, acting in his official capacity as a sworn law enforcement officer for the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office used deadly force in response to the actions of deceased Edward Ahrens and that force was justified pursuant to T.C.A. 39-11-620.

All four law enforcement officers involved in this incident committed no crimes for which they can be charged.

The review of the District Attorney is officially closed.



Coty Wamp  
District Attorney General