



September 26, 2016

## **Clinton Police Department Press Release**

On Saturday May 28, 2016, at approximately 11:48 PM, seven Clinton Police officers and a North Carolina State Highway Patrol trooper were involved in an officer involved shooting that resulted in the death of John Coffey. The officers had responded to a call for service at Burger King and were confronted by a man pointing a shotgun. A standoff ensued. Officers attempted to negotiate with Coffey for over seventeen minutes, before he pointed the gun at the officers. The officers fired multiple rounds, killing Coffey.

The State Bureau of Investigation was immediately requested to conduct an independent investigation. Their findings were turned over to District Attorney Ernie Lee. The Clinton Police Department initiated a separate internal investigation to determine departmental policy and procedure compliance. The seven officers that were involved were placed on administrative leave/duty pending the outcome of those investigations.

District Attorney Ernie Lee's findings revealed that there were no criminal violations by the officers. The Clinton Police Department's internal investigation found no violations of departmental policy or procedure. The seven officers are being reinstated to full duty effective September 26th, 2016.

This is the first Clinton Police Officer involved shooting since 1969 and the Police Department is aware of the concerns that this raises for our community. In an effort to demonstrate accountability and transparency, the Clinton Police Department requested District Attorney Ernie Lee to publicly release the Clinton Police body camera and dash camera videos that captured the negotiations and shooting. The department is making copies of these videos available to the media.

The Clinton Police recognizes that Mr. Coffey's actions will have a long lasting effect on his family and the officers involved and their families. The Department acknowledges the staff for their efforts to provide the city and its citizens with quality police service during this investigation. The Department remains committed to practices and training that ensure we deliver the highest professional and ethical standards of police service to our citizens.

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