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PRESS RELEASE

NO CRIMINAL CHARGES IN VINEYARD TERRACE APARTMENTS SHOOTING

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

The Napa County District Attorney's Office has completed a full review of the officer involved shooting that took place on December 5, 2018 in the area of Soscol Avenue, Stonehouse Drive and Maplewood Avenue in the City and County of Napa. This review followed the investigation by the Napa County Sheriff's Office. The sole purpose of our examination was to determine if there is any criminal liability on behalf of any member of law enforcement. We find no criminal liability in these circumstances.

On December 5, 2018, David Molina engaged in a heated argument in which he threatened several people, physically attacked a woman, and displayed a pistol in his waistband in a threatening manner. They called 911 and Napa Police Department Officer Christopher Simas was dispatched to locate the suspect. Officer Simas quickly identified Mr. Molina who refused to follow orders and ran away in an attempt to evade law enforcement. Officer Simas followed the armed suspect into a densely populated apartment complex in order to protect Napa residents. Officer Simas attempted to handcuff Mr. Molina who violently resisted, grabbed a hold of his rifle and shot approximately seven times in to the ground. Mr. Molina attempted to take control of the rifle and refused to surrender. Fearing for his life, Officer Simas broke free and shot and killed Mr. Molina who had turned towards him from one step away.

The use of deadly force by Officer Simas was a reasonable and lawful response under the totality of the circumstances. Therefore, the actions were legally justified and criminal charges against him are neither warranted nor supported by the evidence.

The review by the District Attorney's Office is summarized in a comprehensive report being released today and is available on our website at <https://www.countyofnapa.org/1330/Documents>. The public deserves full transparency as how and why our office reaches a decision in an officer involved shooting.