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**OFFICE OF  
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**William D. Drake  
Eleventh Judicial District  
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Chief Kevin Ickleberry  
Captain Daniel Elkins – Criminal Investigation Division  
Bartlesville Police Department

RE: BPD #2024-00001765

Chief Ickleberry/Captain Elkins,

I was provided with a report packet concerning BPD case number 2024-00001765, concerning the incident at an apartment in the 1800 block of South Keeler, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on January 12, 2024 at approximately 8:35a.m.

As with any case involving the death of a citizen I believe it is appropriate for multiple entities to review the reports/statements/search warrant returns and a necessity for the District Attorney's Office give a legal opinion as to the laws of the State of Oklahoma. As this letter is most likely subject to release to the public I will use initials to identify persons.

**Relevant Facts:**

1. On January 12, 2024, A.T. called 911 to report someone had broken through the door to her apartment and she shot that person. Bartlesville Police Officers responded immediately, found a broken door and an adult male at the rear entryway of the apartment with an injury to his chest. The male was later identified as J.A.. Officers gave medical attention to J.A. until relieved by EMS personnel. he is later pronounced deceased at Jane Phillips Medical Center.
2. A.T. (initials will be used) gave a detailed statement as to her actions that day including the shooting incident. All evidence located by the police department corroborate her statement as to her activities on that morning.
3. A.T. explained to officers she was sitting at her laptop when she heard "loud knocking" then someone banging repeatedly on the door.
4. A.T. told the unknown person at the door that she was armed and she would shoot if the person came into the residence. Shortly thereafter the door gave way with J.A. crossing the threshold of the door. A.T. at this point shoots one time into the body of J.A..
  - a. Relevant evidence concerning the broken door includes: door is off hinges, a broken door chain located embedded into the door, broken chain locks found inside the apartment, wood splinters from door found in the kitchen and dinning room area indicating the door was forced open into the apartment, the interior of the door was damaged extensively.
5. A neighbor in the same building reported hearing a sound similar to banging on a door.

6. During the investigation a surveillance video with audio is given to police officers. The audio is described as a loud bang and then a gun shot shortly thereafter.
7. Search of J.A.'s phone indicated contact with an individual on snapchat with the user name of Laureyy20. This individual gave an address in Bartlesville at which location the individual would engage in sexual activity with J.A., the address given by Laureyy20 was NOT the address of the incident. A message exists indicating J.A. has also transferred money to Laureyy20 before his arrival at the incorrect address.
8. Bartlesville Police could not find any subject at the (correct) address Laureyy20 gave which could have corresponded with a real person.
9. Bartlesville Police received data from snapchat in a search warrant return for Laureyy20, every indication from conversations with multiple other users would conclude Laureyy20 is almost undoubtedly a scam and located in a foreign country. The purpose of the scam is to take money from individuals in the form of electronic money transfers on the expectation of meeting with the scammer.
10. No evidence exists A.T. knows J.A. or has ever had any communication with J.A.

#### Oklahoma Law

The Legislature of Oklahoma has recognized that citizens of Oklahoma have an absolute right to expect safety within their homes.

A person is presumed to have a reasonable fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily harm to herself when using deadly force when that force is used as defensive force against a person who is in the process of unlawfully entering or a person who has unlawfully entered a dwelling or residence. Title 21 Oklahoma Statute section 1289.25B

#### Conclusion

When applying the laws of Oklahoma to the evidence from the investigation it is clear the actions of A.T. are a justifiable use of deadly force. A.T. was faced with a person beating aggressively on the door to her residence, she gave a warning to the individual, which is not required by law. A.T. then observed an adult male break through her residence door with enough force as to take the door off the hinges, a person whom A.T. had not known and had no right to be present in her home. A.T. then shot J.A. resulting in his death.

Under the laws of Oklahoma A.T. was justified in her actions.

Sincerely,



William D. Drake  
District Attorney, District #11  
Washington and Nowata Counties