



Columbia Missouri Police Department

600 East Walnut Street ▪ Columbia, MO 65201

(573) 874-7652 ▪ www.GoColumbiaMo.com

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Status Report Internal Investigation of Search Warrant Served at 1501 Kinloch Court

Columbia Police officers served a search warrant at 1501 Kinloch Court, in Columbia, at 8:27 p.m., on February 11, 2010. The search warrant entry team consisted of eight SWAT members and the perimeter team consisted of three officers, one of whom is a SWAT member.

Upon entry, the officers immediately encountered two dogs. During the search warrant, one of the dogs was shot and killed. This dog was a breed commonly referred to as a "pit bull".

The defendant, Jonathon Whitworth, was arrested.

The police department has received numerous inquiries from citizens who have received misinformation. While the investigation is still ongoing, the department recognizes the need to provide information prior to its conclusion to clarify some specific questions, many of which are based on misinformation.

- The pit-bull type breed dog was not confined; it was not in a cage and it was not behind a gate.
- The other dog, described as a Corgi, was not killed. This dog is believed to have been struck once.
- The defendant's wife and child were at the residence. However, neither was in the presence of the officers or dogs when the dogs were shot.
- The officers did not force entry into the home. The door was unlocked and an officer opened it.
- The search warrant was not served for a misdemeanor amount of marijuana. The Columbia Police Department does not pursue search warrants for misdemeanor amounts of marijuana. The search warrant was for Marijuana, A Schedule I Controlled Substance **and the evidence of the crime of drug trafficking**. A copy of the affidavit is attached.

- A diversionary device or "flash bang" was not deployed during this incident

Police Chief Ken Burton requested the Internal Affairs Unit conduct an investigation into the uses of force involved in the incident. A total of seven shots were fired.

The investigative review also examines training practices, and the department's current practices in general with regard to the service of search warrants. Since that time, the department has received inquiries from individuals expressing a desire to know if an investigation is being completed.

Upon being briefed about the incident Chief Burton concluded that this search warrant should not have been served in the delayed fashion that it was, but rather should have been disregarded when the department was not able to serve it within a reasonable time. He has made members of his department aware that policy changes with regard to search warrant service are underway. In the interim, he will personally be responsible for approving search warrants in which forced entry may be required.

When the internal investigation is complete, a news release will be issued with its results.

Many phone calls and e-mails are being received by the members of the police department, as well as other City departments, regarding this incident. The department is doing its best to reply with a statement to the inquiries that contain a legitimate e-mail address or phone numbers, and which include questions that we can answer at this time.

Case Number: 2010-001498