



CLARK COUNTY  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

**August 28, 2018**

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### DA's Office Releases Report on the Death of Jarrett Varnado

In a report released today involving the death of Jarrett Varnado on November 6, 2017, the Clark County District Attorney's Office determined that the actions of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) officers involved were legally justified and reasonable.

On November 6, 2017, police responded to a call about a man lying face down in a front yard of a residence and not moving. Officers followed a blood trail leading from the deceased man to the front door of the residence. Once inside, officers found a second man who appeared to be deceased as well.

Residents in the area notified officers that Jarrett Varnado, the man who lived next door to the home they were investigating, recently threatened to kill the owner of that home. Officers proceeded to Mr. Varnado's home and attempted to reach him, but there was no response. Mr. Varnado's family members arrived at the scene and informed officers he suffered from mental illness, including becoming very angry and aggressive to the point that his mother moved out of the home for her own safety. He recently told his mother that the neighbor was the devil and he needed to kill him.

Officers and family members continued to try and contact Mr. Varnado, but he did not respond. After an attempt to reach Mr. Varnado via the public address system got no response, SWAT officers breached the front door and determined there was nobody on the first floor. A small robot, equipped with a camera, was deployed on the second floor to determine if anyone was present. At one point, the robot became lodged in the master bedroom, and the K-9 dog was sent inside to check for occupants. However, the dog did not return, so SWAT officers entered the room. Inside the room, they found Mr. Varnado lying on the ground, on top of the K-9 dog. Officers grabbed Varnado and he released the dog. At the same time, Mr. Varnado

pointed a gun at the officers. Two officers each fired one round at Mr. Varnado. Both bullets struck him. He was transported to University Medical Center (UMC) where he later died.

“Officers at this scene made every effort to get Mr. Varnado, a suspect in two murders, to surrender without incident,” said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. “Pointing a gun at the officers, after they ultimately found him hiding in his home, posed a threat to everyone at the scene.”

The toxicology report done at the time of his autopsy indicated the presence of marijuana in his blood.

A Police Fatality Fact-Finding Review was conducted in this incident on July 10, 2018. Clark County Code mandates such a review when a police-involved death occurs, and the prosecutor preliminarily determines that no criminal prosecution of the officer is appropriate.

The determination that the officer acted lawfully in this situation is based upon the evidence available at this time. The case could be reexamined if new information comes to light.

The full report is available on the District Attorney’s [Web page](#).