



# Press Release

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***"Serving Our Community"***

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date: 10/14/2011**

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## Grand Jury Hearing

**Kilgore, TX --** A Gregg County grand jury cleared Kilgore Police Officers Corporal D. Tucker and Officer D. Brown of any charges in the August 1, 2011, shooting death of Jamel Joseph Freeman of Kilgore.

On August 1, 2011, Corporal D. Tucker and Officer D. Brown were dispatched to a residence in the 1200 Block of East North Street in response to a 911 call of a reported kidnapping. The investigation revealed Freeman had initiated the 911 call. Due to his abnormal behavior Officers believed that Freeman was possibly suffering from mental health issues. It was confirmed by Grandmother, Jewel Polk, and other relatives at the scene that Freeman had been suffering from some type of mental illness for several months. Officer D. Brown provided the grandmother with a phone number to the local MHMR office, so they could seek mental health assistance for Freeman.

During the call, Officers made contact with the next door neighbor about whom Freeman had complained. Officers entered the residence and spoke with a resident, while Freeman remained at the end of the driveway. As Officers exited the residence, Freeman approached the Officers in the driveway. As the three began to talk, Freeman brandished a knife and unexpectedly attacked the Officers. Corporal Tucker was stabbed first in his left shoulder causing him to stumble back. Freeman then turned on Brown. Officer Brown attempted to deploy her Taser, but she was overtaken by Freeman and thrown to the ground before being able to activate it. Freeman positioned himself on top of Officer Brown and continued to assault her. Freeman had stabbed Officer Brown two times in the neck and head and was still wielding the knife. Freeman ignored Corporal Tucker's demands to drop the knife, and Tucker responded by firing one shot striking Freeman, which stopped the violent assault. These events were corroborated by an independent witness who was near the scene.

Both Officers were transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview where they were treated for their respective stab wounds and later released.

Per Kilgore Police Department procedures, the Texas Rangers were summoned to conduct an impartial investigation into this shooting. Texas Ranger Jason Dudley and his Team of Rangers completed an investigation and submitted their findings to the Gregg County Grand Jury as is protocol in any police shooting. On October 13, 2011, the Gregg County District Attorney presented the facts to the Grand Jury which concluded that the force used by Corporal Tucker was justified, and the case was no-billed.

We felt this would be the outcome from the first day, but we needed to allow the impartial investigation to run its course. Our goal was to be as transparent as possible. We are glad this process is now behind us. Both Officers have recovered from their physical wounds and will return to full duty soon.