

Prosecutor: Shooting by police was justifiable - Pharos-Tribune (Logansport, IN) - February 22, 2018

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The Cass County Prosecutor's Office will not seek criminal charges against three Cass County Sheriff's Department deputies who shot at and killed a Walton man last month who police say was armed with a knife.

Prosecutor Lisa Swaim said in a news release Thursday that after a thorough examination that involved 911 recordings, witness statements and the testimonies of the deputies themselves, her office determined the police action shooting was legally justifiable.

The announcement comes less than a month after the Jan. 27 shooting. Early that morning, CCSD deputies were called to a house in the 600 block of Carol Drive in Walton on a report that **William Pollard Jr.**, 45, was stabbing himself with a steak knife.

The release went on to state that Pollard stabbed himself as a result of about a week without food or sleep and after seeing and hearing hallucinations caused by an overdose of methamphetamine.

When police arrived on scene, Pollard was armed with a steak knife, the release stated, and ignored repeated orders to stop and drop the weapon.

Instead, Swaim wrote in the release, Pollard began walking toward the deputies, spurring police to fatally shoot him.

Pending investigation into the shooting, Sgt. Pat Zeider, Deputy Ryan Preston and Reserve Deputy Gary Baumgardner were all placed on administrative leave. Sheriff Randy Pryor said on Thursday that the department has plans for the three to return to work, but that decision won't be immediate.

"They will be going back to work at some point in the future," he said. "We'll be glad to get them back, and we're looking forward to it."

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