American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island Issues Statement on Grand Jury Decision

Publication info: Targeted News Service; Washington, D.C. [Washington, D.C]02 Feb 2018.

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FULL TEXT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island issued the following statement by Executive Director Steven Brown in response to the grand jury finding that police officers and state troopers acted lawfully in the shooting of Joseph Santos:

"While the grand jury's decision is not surprising, it would be wrong to consider this the end of the matter. Even if the fatal shooting of Mr. Santos was legally justified, many questions and concerns remain.

"Providence police and State troopers put the public at great risk by engaging in an unnecessarily dangerous highspeed chase, and then opening fire on a busy highway after Santos' vehicle was largely immobilized.

"As our preliminary analysis of this shooting highlighted over two months ago, this tragic incident calls for a serious examination by these agencies of their practices and protocols. We are hopeful that they will soon apprise the public of actions they have taken to prevent similar incidents in the future."

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DETAILS

Subject:	Police pursuit driving; Civil liberties
Location:	Rhode Island
Company / organization:	Name: American Civil Liberties Union-ACLU; NAICS: 541110, 813311
Publication title:	Targeted News Service; Washington, D.C.
Publication year:	2018
Publication date:	Feb 2, 2018
Dateline:	PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island
Publisher:	Targeted News Service
Place of publication:	Washington, D.C.
Country of publication:	United States, Washington, D.C.
Publication subject:	Public Administration
Source type:	Newspapers



Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	1993601740
Document URL:	https://search.proquest.com/docview/1993601740?accountid=14026
Copyright:	Copyright © Targeted News Service. All Rights Reserved.
Last updated:	2018-02-03
Database:	Global Newsstream,Research Library

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