

## **Pike County deputy cleared in killing - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - June 6, 2018 - page 2B**

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A Pike County grand jury recently cleared a sheriff's deputy involved in the fatal shooting of a suspect this year.

Deputy Erik Zirneskie shot and killed 35-year-old **James M. Burks** after a short foot chase and a struggle following a traffic stop just before 4 a.m. on Feb. 1. During the struggle, Burks, who had outstanding felony warrants for his arrest, choked the deputy.

Zirneskie, who was without backup during the fight, had fired his Taser to stop Burks but it didn't work, according to the internal investigation of the incident, conducted by a team from the Franklin County sheriff's office.

Zirneskie, who has been with the sheriff's office since August 2016, shot Burks twice, Pike County Prosecutor Rob Junk said.

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