



Borough of State College  
"A Home Rule Municipality"

## STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JOHN F. GARDNER  
Chief of Police



August 19, 2019

In addition to the Pennsylvania State Police investigation and the subsequent review and report submitted by the Centre County District Attorney, Bernie Cantorna, the State College Police Department initiated an Internal Review into this incident. Assistant Chief Matthew Wilson was assigned to conduct this review. His findings were presented to a conduct and procedures review board chaired by Captain Christian Fishel. The board was composed of a police department lieutenant, sergeant and two police officers. Both this internal review and the selection of the members of this review board were done in accordance with long-standing department policy.

The board has unanimously concluded that the actions of the officers were consistent with department policies and procedures and were consistent with trainings and established practices. The polices that were assessed as part of this internal review are:

- Use of Force
- Medical Aid After Use of Force
- Biased Based Policing
- Tactical Considerations
- Training Considerations
- Supervision
- Post Shooting Investigation Process, and
- Post Shooting Personal Services

Upon reading the internal review, I concur with the board's findings. In reaching this conclusion, some of the key factors that led to my decision include:

- The involved officers were following procedures for serving 302 mental health warrants in regard to both department policy and state law.
- Osaze Osagie charged officers with a deadly weapon in an attempted assault. This prompted the use of deadly force due to the immediate threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officers.
- The deployment of a taser was ineffective in stopping the assault.
- Officers performed their duties based on Osaze Osagie's current behavior, event circumstances, prior knowledge of the individual and evidence presented to them at the time of the incident.
- A review of the involved officers' past contacts / arrests provided no indication of prior bias events or history of such.
- The investigation of this event was immediately handed over to the Pennsylvania State Police who arrived within minutes of the initial call of an officer-involved shooting. The

State Police investigated the officers' actions, which were further independently reviewed by the Centre County District Attorney's Office, both of which concluded the officers' acted appropriately, within the law, and without bias.

Part of my responsibility as Chief of Police is to review all internal State College Police investigations to ensure that they are conducted in a thorough, professional and lawful manner. During this investigative process, to include both the Pennsylvania State Police and District Attorney's investigations, as well as this internal review, I have refrained from issuing any public comment on the matter. My decision to withhold public comment was an effort to refrain from potentially influencing the investigatory process and subsequent outcomes, while remaining as impartial as possible. With this internal review now closed, I want to take a moment to express my support for the men and women that serve this community as police officers. The past five (5) months have been very difficult for our officers and our community. Despite these trying times, the officers of the State College Police Department have continued to show professionalism in the performance of their duties, which has always been a hallmark of this department. The closing of the internal review provides me an opportunity to express my support publicly. I would once again like to offer my thoughts and prayers to the Osagie family, the involved officers, and all those community members impacted by this tragic incident. I look forward to working with our community, our police officers along with police agencies throughout Centre County, and the task force announced this evening as we look to bring about needed changes in our mental health responses, process and procedures, while also remaining attentive to issues in equity, diversity and inclusion.

Chief John F Gardner