



Office of District Attorney General Neal Pinkston

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Sheriff Jim Hammond
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
600 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Sheriff Hammond:

In May 2020, several of your deputies arrested Reginald Arrington. The Hamilton County Public Defender's Office notified my office of potential excessive use of force by deputies during the arrest. I requested all video footage of the arrest from your department. After reviewing the video, I requested the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation investigate your deputies for potential criminal law violations. It gave me no pleasure to request this investigation. However, it was indeed necessary.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has completed their investigation. In addition to their investigation, I contracted with a national use of force expert, Emanuel Kapelsohn, to review the entire incident. Kapelsohn's case review is complete as well. I will provide your office a copy of Mr. Kapelsohn's written report. I have completed my review of the TBI investigation and Kapelsohn's analysis and have concluded your deputies did not violate any Tennessee criminal law. My decision was guided by the case facts but also by current state and federal case law.

The investigation and reviews of this case revealed substantial training issues exist within the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. These issues cannot be ignored. I also suggest your department develop a more proactive approach to reviewing and reporting potential excessive use of force incidences. I sincerely hope these issues will be thoroughly examined and corrected for not only the betterment of our county but also your department.

Sincerely,

Neal Pinkston