

JAMES A. GOMRIC

STATE'S ATTORNEY
ST. CLAIR COUNTY

10 PUBLIC SQUARE, 2nd FLOOR
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62220-1623



DANIEL E. LEWIS
FIRST ASSISTANT

(618) 277-3892
FAX (618) 277-6748

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Illinois State Police
Division of Internal Investigation
ATTN: Special Agent Jeremy Nairn, Acting Lieutenant Josh Vanausdoll
1100 Eastport Plaza
Collinsville, IL 62234

Re: DII Case Number 26-SC-00003; ISP Case Number 26-42492700006

Sir,

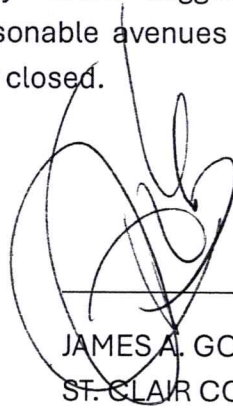
Thorough evaluation of the January 4, 2026, officer involved shooting included a detailed review of over 40 hours of audio/video encompassing radio traffic, dash cam, body cam, surveillance, and witness interviews. Where video footage depicted the same moment in time from different angles, the videos were viewed individually and overlapped with one another for maximum clarity of the events in terms of time and space. In addition to the digital media, my Office reviewed the reports and documents submitted by Illinois State Police Division of Internal Investigation.

The following is a summary of the materials:

On January 4, 2026, at approximately 12:33:07 Maryville Police contacted Illinois State Police Dispatch to request an ISPERN for a stolen 2024 White Chevrolet Equinox reportedly driven by Rachel Tarrence. Shortly thereafter, Illinois State Police Dispatch assigned the request as ISPERN #30 and broadcast the ISPERN. Troopers Novak, Printy, and McMillen began their shift at 14:00:00 the same day. Trooper Cruse begins his shift at 21:00:00. At approximately 22:04:20 Trooper Printy contacts dispatch with the license plate of the Equinox traveling near Kingshighway and Interstate 64, in St. Clair County, Illinois. At approximately 22:06:56 Illinois State Police Dispatch confirms the vehicle is stolen. At approximately 22:07:33 Trooper Printy indicates 'they' are pulling into a liquor store off State Street. At approximately 22:08:08 Trooper Printy calls out a felony traffic stop. The subsequent actions of the Troopers and Rachel Tarrence are captured on video. The footage includes surveillance video from Rainbow Liquor Store, located at 4510 State St., East St. Louis, Illinois; body camera

footage from Troopers Novak, Printy, McMillen and Cruse; and the dash cam video from each of the four units involved in the stop. After the troopers activate their overhead lights and the vehicles come to a stop, Ms. Tarrence reverses the Equinox into Trooper Printy's SUV with sufficient force that the impact can be both seen and heard. Trooper Novak exits his SUV (which is parked to the front of, and on the passenger side, of the Equinox) and approaches the passenger side of the vehicle, firearm drawn. While officers are giving commands to the occupants of the vehicle, the Equinox moves forward in the direction of Trooper Novak before coming to a stop. The driver, Ms. Tarrence, disregards commands to put the car in park, and the engine can be heard revving before the vehicle begins to move forward again. Trooper Novak fires three shots into the vehicle in rapid succession. Two bullets enter Ms. Tarrence's torso. The front seat passenger, Mack Buford, and her minor son, G.T., are physically unharmed. Troopers make a timely report of shots fired and request EMS response. Multiple Troopers attempt life saving measures on Ms. Tarrence until EMS arrives. Ms. Tarrence does not survive her injuries.

In addition to my own review, I assigned multiple Assistant State's Attorneys to independently analyze the submitted materials. The Assistants presented their assessments individually, and then as part of a group discussion. After careful consideration, and in light of all the facts and circumstances, my Office will not initiate a criminal case against Trooper Novak. My review suggests ISP Division of Internal Investigation has, to date, pursued all reasonable avenues that could produce relevant evidence. Accordingly, I consider this matter closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Gomric', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a large 'X' shape.

JAMES A. GOMRIC
ST. CLAIR COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY