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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARRE, VT -- On September 18, 2019, the Office of the Washington County State's Attorney concluded its review of the August 9, 2019 officer involved shooting that occurred in Montpelier, Vermont, resulting in the death of Mr. Mark Johnson. Based upon thorough evaluation of the evidence presented, no criminal charges will be filed relating to this incident. The declination letter to the Vermont State Police is enclosed with this release. Washington County State's Attorney, Rory Thibault, will participate in a press conference at City Hall in Montpelier on October 30, 2019 at 1:30pm to discuss this matter.

The Office of the Attorney General recently completed its own independent review of the incident and will present findings by a separate press release.

The Office of the Washington County State's Attorney appreciates the thorough investigation led by the Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit into this incident. Likewise, the cooperation of the Montpelier Police Department and officers involved was helpful in arriving at a fully informed decision. Review of the incident demonstrated the significant past and on-going efforts of the Montpelier Police Department to be pro-active in training, and development of protocols or capabilities focused on the use of less-lethal means of force and effective responses to individuals in crisis.

Finally, the Office of the Washington County State's Attorney's Office wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to Mr. Johnson's family and friends in the community. It is clear that Mr. Johnson was loved by many and held a special place in the hearts of many Montpelier residents.