



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

No Criminal Charges in December 28th Shooting

SPOKANE COUNTY, January 25, 2016 – The Spokane County Prosecutor’s Office has determined that Spokane County Deputy Sheriff Mike McNees was justified when, on December 28, 2015, he used deadly force on Tina Fricke. Fricke suffered a single gunshot wound to the shoulder which was non-life threatening.

On December 28, 2015, Washington State Patrol and Spokane County Sheriff Deputies responded to a report of a person with a handgun walking along US Highway 195 near Excelsior Road (just south of Spokane) who was pointing the firearm at passersby. SCSO Deputy Mike McNees was first on scene. Upon arrival, McNees made contact with a witness who had observed the person with the handgun and had called 9-1-1. The witness pointed out that individual, later identified as Tina A. Fricke, to Deputy McNees.

McNees exited his vehicle and attempted contact with Fricke near the roadway. As McNees approached her, Fricke turned to face the Deputy, raised her firearm and, in a shooting stance with both hands on the weapon, pointed it at McNees. The Deputy responded by firing a single shot at Fricke, striking her in the shoulder.

Under these circumstances, it was reasonable for Deputy McNees to believe that he faced the likelihood of being shot at any moment. His response to this was appropriate. The law attaches no criminal liability when an officer acts without malice and with a good faith belief that his actions were justified. The evidence shows Deputy McNees acted with good faith and without malice, or evil intent. Therefore, criminal charges will not be pursued.

About Spokane County

Spokane County government serves 485,000 citizens and 13 municipal jurisdictions, making it the fourth-largest county in the State of Washington. For more information, visit www.spokanecounty.org, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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