



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE ERIC D. ENGLISH

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For Immediate Release

3/23/2021

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UPDATE: Commonwealth's Attorney Reviews Incident, Declines Charges Against Officers Related to Animal Complaint

Harrisonburg, VA – Commonwealth's Attorney Marsha Garst has reviewed the facts of this incident and released the following statement:

"After a careful review of the evidence surrounding the shooting of MPO Bradley Boyce on March 21, 2021, I find that the shooting was accidental. The officer that shot MPO Boyce had been struck to the ground by the cow and his firearm accidentally discharged as a result."

MPO Boyce continues to recover from the injuries he sustained in this incident and has been released from UVA Medical Center where he was receiving treatment. The HPD appreciates the flood of support for MPO Boyce's continued recovery.

While this tragic incident was clearly accidental in nature, the HPD continues to strive for constant improvement. Interim Chief Gabriel Camacho explained the department's plans for improving its approach to handling calls involving uncontrolled large animals as follows:

"Moving forward, the HPD will be researching changes to policies and procedures to address issues dealing with large animals to include additional training on topics related to animal control. The department plans to meet with businesses in the city that handle livestock transactions to determine how to prevent future incidents of this nature."

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