

## **Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis Press Release regarding dog shooting**

The Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis fully supports the Officer's actions taken on the evening of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 while responding to a Residential Alarm Call. It is a tragedy two dogs were injured in the process of the Officer's response.

Our Officer arrived on scene and while he was checking the exterior of the residence, the officer noticed the rear door was open which lead him to believe there was a burglary or home invasion occurring. He jumped the fence to further investigate and moments later the Officer was confronted by two Pit Bulls. Our Officer attempted to back-pedal and create space between him and the Pit Bulls as well as yelling "Get back" at the dog. He realized turning his back on the Pit Bulls and attempting to jump back over the fence was not a viable option. The first Pit Bull growled at the Officer and slowly continued to advance towards the Officer. The Officer made the difficult decision to fire his service weapon upon the Pit Bulls to prevent injury to himself. Only moments after the shooting did he learn the Alarm was false and Ms. LeMay's daughter was home and had accidentally set off the alarm.

Some have suggested the Officer should have allowed the Pit Bull to bite him. The thought process behind that is unreasonable. If a dog were to bite the Officer it could cause severe, potentially career ending injury, if not life ending.

This incident has solicited numerous suggestions about how the Officer should have handled the situation and Monday morning quarterbacking his actions. It is easy to judge an officer's actions from the safety of one's home with the ability to re-play the video over and over. In this line of work, Officers need to adapt and react to situations in the blink of an eye. This entire incident is tragic and shows how quickly incidents evolve and change. Officers have to be ready to react and adapt to anything at any given time. We ask this of our Officers every day they put the Uniform on. It is our position that our Officer adapted and reacted correctly and in accordance with his training to safely end this tense, rapidly evolving situation regarding the two Pit Bulls.

Sherral Schmidt  
Vice President POFM