



QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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To: District Attorney Melinda Katz
From: Executive Assistant District Attorney Daniel A. Saunders
Re: NYPD fatal shooting 11/24/2020
Date: November 1, 2021

On the morning of November 24, 2020, a 41-year-old woman, a resident of Springfield Gardens, appeared at the 105th Precinct to complain that her husband had assaulted her the previous evening. The report was taken by two officers, P.O. Christopher Wells and P.O. Joseph Murphy, both of whom were assigned to the precinct's Domestic Violence Unit. Because the complainant appeared to be concerned, the officers volunteered to escort her back to her residence.

Upon their arrival, she asked them to come inside and make sure everything was okay. While the officers were inside the living room, a relatively small and confined space, the woman's husband suddenly appeared at the front door and, without any warning whatsoever, began firing a handgun into the house, striking both officers, while continuing to move in the direction of his wife. Both officers drew their weapons and fired at him, striking and disabling him. He eventually died of his wounds.

After a careful and thorough review of all the facts and circumstances of this matter, most of which was captured on the body worn cameras of the officers, we have closed our investigation without any further action, having concluded the use of deadly physical force by the two officers was justified under the law. P.O. Murphy, a 5-year veteran, and P.O. Wells, a 14-year veteran, suddenly and unexpectedly found themselves in a grave, life-threatening situation. That they are still alive, and the woman they escorted home was unharmed, is a testament to their training, skills and level-headedness. We hope their wounds have healed well.

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