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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 21, 2015

**GRAND JURY CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION  
OF DECEMBER 26, 2014 OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING**

GALVESTON – Today a Galveston County Grand Jury completed its investigation of the officer-involved shooting on December 26, 2014, in Texas City. The Grand Jury concluded its review of the evidence and testimony and determined to take no action in the matter.

The investigation began after a Texas City police officer shot and killed Carlton Smith, Jr., outside a Texas City nightclub just as the bar was closing in the early morning hours of December 26. Officers were initially called to the scene for crowd control; however, a fight broke out in the parking lot just as they were arriving. A woman walked into the crowded parking lot with a handgun and fired at least one shot into the air; Smith then obtained the handgun from the woman. Witness accounts, surveillance video obtained from the nightclub, and police in-car videos show that Officer Christopher Ham – the first officer on the scene – twice ordered Smith to drop the gun before Smith fired several shots into the nearby crowd of civilians. Officer Ham then fired multiple shots at Smith, striking him five times and killing him.

Immediately following the shooting, the Texas City Police Department requested the investigative assistance of the Galveston County District Attorney's Office Public Integrity Division and the Galveston County Sheriff's Office. The Texas City Police Department provided full cooperation to the DA's and Sheriff's Offices as the investigation ran its full course. Investigators secured audio and video recordings of the shooting scene, recovered physical evidence, interviewed numerous witnesses, obtained evidence from the Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office, and submitted numerous pieces of evidence to the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab for forensic testing. Once the investigation was completed, the evidence was made available to the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury, empaneled under the authority of the 405<sup>th</sup> District Court in Galveston County, received evidence and had the opportunity to hear testimony from both police officers and civilians over the course of two days before concluding its deliberations. No further criminal action will be taken with respect to the officer's actions.

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