

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Texas Municipal Police Association Concerned Regarding  
Hung Jury In Mesquite Officer Shooting Trial**

*A mistrial was called due to a hung jury in the case of former Mesquite officer Derick Wiley who is charged with one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon by a public servant.*

**AUSTIN, TX – September 28, 2018** – The **Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA)** is disappointed that no decision was reached in Dallas yesterday regarding the case of former Mesquite police officer Derick Wiley but remains even more concerned over the motives of the District Attorney involved in the case.

Wiley is charged with one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon by a public servant, following an altercation with Lyndo Jones at the scene of a suspected vehicle burglary. District Attorney Faith Johnson asserted that “the grand jury got that right,” referring to the charge, and added that Wiley was the third officer to be indicted in Dallas County in 2017. This is irrelevant to Wiley’s case and appears to be boasting by the district attorney, whose duty is to seek justice, not a tally. Whether or not the grand jury got it right is for a trial jury to decide, not Ms. Johnson.

Her comments were fervent toward convicting this officer immediately after the grand jury’s findings, yet a panel of his peers were unable to reach a consensus when tasked with considering the circumstances. Ms. Johnson is seeking to retain her office in the November election. Perhaps this should serve as a reminder that one elected to such a position must try cases based on justice and not around a political agenda, which appears to be what has occurred in this trial.

In his closing argument for the state, Assistant District Attorney Bryan Mitchell told the jury that we respect what officers do, but they don’t have a monopoly on whether they get to go home at night and see their families. TMPA believes this philosophy encourages the resisting of arrest by persons who are lawfully detained, as Lyndo Jones was at the time of the shooting.

Defense Attorney Kathy Lowthorp’s characterization of the negative climate surrounding law enforcement was incredibly accurate, which is that officers are regularly being attacked while serving their communities. She noted that it is “scary out there right now for [officers].” FBI statistics released this past June support this statement, seeing a 50% increase in officer deaths.

TMPA was founded in 1950 and has protected the interests of law enforcement officers ever since. As the largest law enforcement association in Texas, TMPA is proud to represent more than 28,000 local, county and state law enforcement officers across Texas.

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