



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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Deputy Cleared in Death of Man Armed with a Knife

Summary of Event

In June, Deputy Juan Elenes shot and killed a man who was attacking another person with a knife. Yesterday, the District Attorney's Office notified Sheriff Rob Gordon that the shooting was legally justified.

Full Details

On June 20, 2010, at about 3:35 a.m., Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a fight at a residence in the community of Cedar Mill (see press releases from [06/20/10](#) and [06/24/10](#)).

After Deputy Juan Elenes arrived, he encountered two men in a physical altercation. One subject, Bryan Guerrero, was armed with a knife which he was holding at the throat of the other, Michael Guerra. Bryan Guerrero refused to comply with Deputy Elenes' commands to drop the knife, and, believing Guerrero was trying to kill Guerra, Deputy Elenes fired one shot to stop him. The shot struck Bryan Guerrero in the head, killing him instantly.

After a lengthy investigation by the Washington County Major Crimes Team and the Washington County District Attorney's Office, the attached letter was sent to Sheriff Rob Gordon, informing him of the DA's Office opinion that Deputy Elenes was legally justified in using deadly force against Bryan Guerrero in order to protect the life of Michael Guerra. See attached [District Attorney's Office letter](#) for additional details.