



**Office of the Johnson County Prosecuting Attorney
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September 14, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Col. Michael Turner, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Sheriff Scott Munsterman, Johnson County, Missouri
Sheriff Aaron Dye, Lafayette County, Missouri

FROM: Robert W. Russell Johnson County, Missouri Prosecuting
Attorney

RE: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting Resulting in the Death of
Savion McConnell on May 1, 2026

DDCC Incident Report# 260181754
JCSC Report #2026-0466-26

I received all reports from this incident on July 30, 2026. The Missouri Highway Patrol Drug and Crime Control Division conducted the investigation into the officer involved shooting and the Johnson County Sheriff's Detective Division conducted the investigation into the shooting of the driver of the vehicle in which Savion McConnell was a passenger and McConnell was the alleged shooter. The latter shooting precipitated the events which led to the officer involved shooting. The autopsy, body camera and car camera footage of the officer involved shooting, body camera and car camera footage prior to the officer involved shooting, interviews of the witnesses and of the officer involved

in the shooting were submitted to my office for review by both law enforcement agencies.

Introduction

On April 30, 2026 into the early morning hours of May 1, 2026, Savion McConnell and others travelled from Lee's Summit, Missouri to a party in Warrensburg, Missouri. Brion Crump, a passenger in the vehicle, indicated that an AR-style rifle was in the vehicle when they travelled to Warrensburg. Later, McConnell acquired a Glock pistol before leaving the party according to the other passengers in the vehicle. The group left in a car driven by a juvenile female. Near the intersection of Highway 50 and Highway 131 in Johnson County, Missouri, the pistol discharged and shot the juvenile female in the back. No physical evidence contradicted the belief of the juvenile that she was shot by someone in the rear seats. The bullet hole in the lower part of the seat was found by officers to be nearly straight ahead and slightly downward. No other bullet holes were found in the vehicle. The juvenile female stopped her vehicle in the left hand lane of travel just west of the junction of Highways 50 and 131. Camera footage from one of the businesses at that location showed the vehicle stopping, the occupants getting out of the vehicle, and a lone individual fleeing the scene and heading westbound on foot. Deputies were actually at the gas station located at the junction and responded to the vehicle within minutes and can be seen on the video arriving shortly after the vehicle came to a stop.

At the scene, the juvenile female identified Savion McConnell as the person who shot her as he was the one who was seated behind her in the car. She also stated he was the person who fled the scene.

Deputies found two firearms in the vehicle, an AR-style rifle which was without any serial numbers, and a Glock Model 48, 9mm pistol, without a magazine.

Another passenger in the car stated that Crump and McConnell were passing the Glock between them when it discharged.

Crump stated there was a drive-by on the highway by another car, but no evidence supports that that version of the events.

Other law enforcement agencies had deputies and officers respond to the incident at the intersection of Highways 50 and 131. Lafayette County Deputy Kenneth Lewie and Odessa Police Officer Nathan Holmberg arrived on scene. Deputy Lewie stated in his interview with the MSHP DDCC that he learned from one of the female witnesses at the scene that McConnell could be armed with a Glock firearm. Witnesses at the scene also said they had a location for McConnell based on a social media application. Deputy Lewie and Officer Holmberg then waited in the Mexican restaurant parking lot at Highways 50 and 131 for a drone from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office to arrive to utilize in the search for McConnell.

After Johnson County Sheriff's deputies finished questioning the vehicle occupants, Crump called his aunt, Khadeshia Crump, to come get him and his friends. Ms. Crump arrived later and took Crump and two (2) others from the scene.

As Ms. Crump was driving west on Highway 50 near Elm, Missouri, she and the occupants recognized a person walking along the highway as Savion McConnell. She stopped her vehicle and Brion Crump got out to speak with Savion McConnell.

Shortly thereafter, a call was received by Johnson County Central Dispatch that two (2) males were walking along Highway 50 near Elm, Missouri. Officers were dispatched to the scene.

Johnson County Missouri Deputy Joseph Hardwick and Odessa Police Officer Nathan Holmberg arrived on scene and sought to detain both Crump and McConnell for questioning. Hardwick recognized Crump from the earlier incident at the junction of Highways 50 and 131. Both Crump and McConnell were instructed to walk backwards with their hands up and stop. As Officer Holmberg sought to place handcuffs on McConnell, McConnell took off running down the highway. Lafayette County Deputy Kenneth Lewie was arriving on the scene and saw McConnell running away toward Khadeshia Crump's vehicle.

Deputy Lewie then attempted to place his vehicle between McConnell and Crump's vehicle. In the process of placing his Lafayette County Sheriff's vehicle between McConnell and the Crump car, McConnell came into contact with the deputy's vehicle. Deputy Lewie stated he saw McConnell get up and then run toward the Crump vehicle. During his interview with the Missouri Highway Patrol, Deputy Lewie stated he did not intentionally hit McConnell with his vehicle and that he was braking before the contact with McConnell.

Officer Holmberg arrived and placed his vehicle on the other side of the Crump vehicle. McConnell then ran toward a wire fence. Deputy Lewie pursued McConnell and ordered McConnell to place his hands up. He then ordered McConnell to get on the ground. Officer Holmberg approached with his Taser drawn. Officer Holmberg's body worn camera then captures McConnell reaching with his left hand raising his T-shirt and his right hand reaching for his waistband as if to grab something. At this point, Deputy Lewie discharges his firearm at McConnell. Deputy Lewie stated he believed McConnell was reaching for a weapon in his waistband and discharged his firearm to protect himself from McConnell and the weapon he thought McConnell was reaching for with his right hand. Deputy Lewie stated in his interview he believed McConnell was reaching for a gun.

Nine (9) shell casings were found at the scene. McConnell suffered fatal wounds as a result of the shooting.

An autopsy was performed on McConnell by the Jackson County Medical Examiner and wounds consistent with the shooting as described above resulted in the death of McConnell. Toxicology reports found no illegal drugs in McConnell's system.

Law Regarding Use of Force

In Missouri, a citizen is allowed to use deadly force to protect himself or herself, her unborn child, or another against death, serious physical injury, or any forcible felony when they reasonably believe such deadly force is necessary to defend themselves from the imminent use of unlawful force. *Section 563.031 RSMo.*

For Deputy Lewie to use deadly force, he needed to reasonably believe he was in imminent danger of serious physical injury, death, or a forcible felony. The reasonableness of the officer's belief is evaluated on how the circumstances reasonably appeared to the officer at the time, not upon the circumstances as they later were discovered to actually be at the time. *State v. Chambers*, 681 SW2d 781 (Mo. banc 1984). In *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 US 1(1985), the U.S. Supreme Court established the standard for a law enforcement officer's use of deadly force in making an arrest, finding that at the time of the incident, the officer must reasonably believe the fleeing suspect presented a substantial risk of serious physical injury or death to the public, the officer or other officers.

Missouri adopted the *Garner* decision in *Section 563.046 RSMo.*, permitting the use of deadly force by an officer when the officer reasonably believes the use of deadly force is immediately necessary to effect the arrest or prevent an escape and the person to be arrested may otherwise endanger the life of the officer. *Section 563.046 RSMo.*

Conclusion

Taking into consideration the following facts:

- (1) that McConnell was sought for the shooting of the juvenile female;
- (2) that Deputy Lewie reasonably believed McConnell could be armed based upon the information received from the incident at the intersection of Highways 50 and 131;
- (3) that McConnell fled the scene and resisted arrest by fleeing; and
- (4) that when McConnell stopped fleeing, McConnell used his left hand to pull up his t-shirt and made a motion as if to reach for something in his waistband with his right hand

It cannot be said that under these circumstances as presented, Deputy Lewie did not have a reasonable belief that he was in fear of death or serious physical injury from the actions of McConnell.

Self-defense is a special defense in Missouri. The State must disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person did not act in self-

defense. *Section 563.031.5 RSMo., State v. Williams*, 608 SW3d 205 (Mo. App. WD 2020).

A prosecutor should file charges that he or she believes adequately encompass the accused's criminal activity and which he or she reasonably believes can be substantiated by admissible evidence at trial. *National Prosecution Standards 4-2.2.*

"While commencing a prosecution is permitted by most ethical standards upon a determination that probable cause exists to believe that a crime has been committed and that the defendant has committed it, the standard prescribes a higher standard for filing a criminal charge. To suggest that the charging standard should be the prosecutor's reasonable belief that the charges can be substantiated by admissible evidence at trial is recognition of the powerful effects of the initiation of criminal charges. Pursuant to the prosecution's duty to seek justice, the protection of the rights of all (even the prospective defendant) is required." *See National District Attorneys Association National Prosecution Standards, Comments to Pre-trial Considerations, 4-2.2 Charging Decisions.*

Based upon the available evidence, I believe it would be difficult to find that Deputy Lewie did not have a reasonable belief of immediate serious injury or death from the actions of McConnell as he pulled up his t-shirt and made the motion to his waistband with his right hand. Because the State is required to disprove self-defense in Missouri, I believe it likely a jury would find Deputy Lewie justified in using deadly force.

As a result, based on the ethical duties of a prosecutor set forth in the National Prosecution Standards, I believe that there is not a reasonable likelihood of success of a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt, and no charges will be filed.

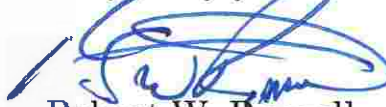
Regarding the incident at the intersection of Highways 50 and 131, there is insufficient evidence to charge any persons with a crime due to the conflicting versions of events from the witnesses in the vehicle and the death of Savion McConnell.

It is a sad and regrettable situation that resulted in the death of Savion McConnell. When the loss of his life was avoidable, it is sadder still. However, when the legal standard for the use of deadly force in a criminal case is met, a criminal prosecution is not the proper vehicle to address any issues that may be addressed in a civil law suit which has a different burden of proof and legal standards for the use of force in these situations.

I am providing a copy of this report to the Attorney for the family of Savion McConnell, the Attorney for Deputy Kenneth Lewie and the media.

If you need anything further to close your law enforcement agency's files, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Russell
Johnson County Missouri
Prosecuting Attorney

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