



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor



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### Lansing officer justified in standoff shooting

Kevin Grasha  
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FLINT — Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said a Lansing police officer was justified in shooting a 26-year-old Lansing man during a standoff last year at a motel.

Joseph Carter, a parolee, died several days after being shot in the face Dec. 4 at the Super 8 Motel in south Lansing.

It was revealed today that Carter fired a shot through the bathroom door near where police officers were standing, Leyton said at a news conference at his Flint office.

Police officers had entered the room after hearing an initial shot from inside the bathroom, Leyton said.

Police Chief Mark Alley said the officer who shot Carter, Scott Ellis, acted bravely. Alley said Ellis, who was placed on administrative leave

following the shooting, has returned to full duty status.

“I know this has been very difficult on the family of Joseph Carter. It also has been difficult on families of our officers,” Alley said.

Michigan State Police conducted a two-week-long investigation and submitted their findings to Leyton’s office in mid-December.

After hearing the initial gunshot, Lansing police entered the motel room, where Carter had been holed up with his girlfriend. They kicked through the bottom of the bathroom door, just before the second shot - the one



(l - r) Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton, and Michigan State Police Lt. Gene Kapp address the media.

Leyton revealed for the first time today - was fired.

Police have said they mistakenly believed Carter was holding the woman hostage. A day after the incident, Carter's girlfriend, Kasey Carter of Lansing, told the State Journal that they were never sure it was police outside the door demanding that they come out. Before police showed up, two bounty hunters came to the door and one later stood in the room's window, Kasey Carter said.

She admitted they had a handgun in the room, which she said accidentally fired into the ceiling before police kicked through the door of the bathroom where the couple had taken refuge.

Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III asked for a special prosecutor to investigate, saying members of his staff were potential witnesses because they had consulted with police about legal issues during the standoff.

Read more on this story in Saturday's State Journal.

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