



**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF NEVADA**

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Nevada City – The Nevada County District Attorney's Office announced today:

The Nevada County District Attorney's Office announced today that 65 year old Grass Valley man, Rod Dankers, death was the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Dankers' death was determined to be a suicide by the forensic pathologist and the Nevada County Coroner. After review of the eye witness accounts of events leading to the shooting, Department of Justice forensic examination, autopsy reports and witness interviews, the District Attorneys' Office has determined that the involved officers used appropriate and justifiable force in their contact with the deceased. The following is a synopsis of the eyewitness reports and information obtained from search warrants served by investigating agencies.

The May 17, 2012 incident began in Grass Valley when Rod Dankers met a man at Dankers' residence to complete a transaction for the sale of 25 pounds of marijuana according to text messages of the participants cell phones recovered by search warrants. That meeting ended in a physical altercation between Mr. Dankers and the alleged purchaser. The altercation ended when the other party fled the residence. Dankers fired a single round at the fleeing vehicle that entered the driver's window, struck the cab and exited through the passenger side window. Dankers then pursued the other party towards Grass Valley.

Dankers continued to pursue the other man into the Grass Valley downtown area. The authorities were notified via 911 of the altercation and subsequent pursuit. The other party was contacted by GVPD officers and he told them that he had been assaulted and shot at by Dankers. Two GVPD officers just coming on duty overheard the radio information about the assault and shots being fired. Moments after leaving the station in a marked GVPD vehicle they observed Dankers' vehicle

and attempted to stop Dankers with lights and siren. The vehicle failed to yield and a pursuit of Dankers by GVPD Officers ensued through Grass Valley out Bennett Street and onto Highway 174. During the pursuit the officers could see Dankers holding a semiautomatic pistol in his right hand across his chest through the vehicle's side mirror. After reaching speeds of up to 80 miles per hour and driving in oncoming traffic lanes Dankers veered into the Bear River turnout just before Placer County.

Dankers drove into the turnout until his vehicle was high-centered and stopped by the steel barriers at the trail-head. As his vehicle came to a rest, Dankers exited his vehicle with a weapon in each hand and turned towards the officers. As they got out of their police unit both officers were directing him to drop his weapon. Dankers refused and continued to raise and point his gun towards the officer closest to him. The officer continued towards Dankers giving commands to stop, as Dankers continued to aim his weapon toward the officer, shots were exchanged.

Dankers continued to flee on foot engaging the officers in a short running gun battle. Dankers ultimately succumbed to a singled self-inflicted gunshot to the head.

Evidence at the scene showed both officers discharged their duty weapons multiple times and Dankers fired multiple rounds from the guns he was carrying. The autopsy indicated that the wounds suffered from the Officer's weapons were survivable if treated but, the single shot to the head was not. The deceased was found with one pistol clutched in his hand and the other was nearby. Department of Justice forensics of the bullet fragments and DNA coupled with the autopsy findings confirmed the weapon held by the suspect was the one that the final shot came from.

The evidence shows that the officers acted appropriately and within the scope of their duties in engaging Mr. Dankers. No criminal charges will be considered by the District Attorney's Office and the case will be closed.

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