



## **Update: Chatham Police Department Releases In-Car Camera Video of Non-Fatal Officer-Involved Shooting**

**May 27, 2021**

Chatham, Illinois – Today, the Village of Chatham Police Department is releasing in-car camera video of a non-fatal, officer-involved shooting that occurred after an officer responded to a 911 call for a man with a knife whom the caller described as a danger to himself and others. Viewers should be advised the video we are sharing includes portions of that 911 call as well as the images of the March 5, 2021 shooting itself.

The Village of Chatham Police Department remains committed to transparency in this matter as well as all matters of public interest. As such, despite objections about releasing the video from both the State’s Attorney and the defense attorney in this case who both state this would deprive Mr. Small of a fair trial, as well as Mr. Small’s family, we have chosen to share this information publicly. While the Village respects the opinion of the attorneys in the criminal matter, and certainly the family’s, the identities of the individuals involved in this incident as well as Mr. Small’s mental state have been widely reported by news agencies and thoroughly discussed on social media by credible sources. It is our belief that sharing this 911 call and video with the public will now bring relevant and critical facts to light.

Chief Vernon Foli today stated, “We have empathy for Mr. Small and for his family. His mother’s pain and fear on that day are heartbreaking to listen to on that 911 call. It is apparent in watching that video, Mr. Small that day was sadly a danger to himself, to our officer and could have been to anyone nearby.” Chief Foli added, “While tragic, and difficult to watch, the Village and our police department have a duty and responsibility to the public to be transparent and to provide information when it is appropriate to do so. The public, rightfully so, has demanded more openness from law enforcement agencies. We take that call for transparency seriously.”

After an independent investigation by the Illinois State Police, on March 22, 2021, the Office of the Sangamon County State’s Attorney concluded that the Village police officer was justified in his use of force after Gregory Small advanced toward him with a knife. The Sangamon County State’s Attorney has charged Mr. Small with aggravated assault, and the criminal proceeding is in its early stages. Please note decisions to prosecute are made solely by the State’s Attorney’s Office. Any inquiries regarding charges in this case should be directed to the State’s Attorney.