



Sheriff Steve Stovall

Stephenson County Sheriff's Office

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SHERIFF STOVALL'S STATEMENT REGARDING MURDER OF SONYA MASSEY

Like many of you, I have viewed the body-worn camera footage that was released yesterday afternoon from the senseless and tragic murder of Sonya Massey, and I want to make it clear that I am thoroughly disturbed by the horrific actions of former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson both during and after the shooting. This incident was investigated by the Illinois State Police, and as a result of that investigation, a Grand Jury has indicted former Deputy Sean Grayson for three counts of first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm, and official misconduct. I applaud the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office for their quick and decisive action to hold the former Deputy criminally accountable.

To the family, friends, and loved ones of Sonya Massey, I want to express my deepest condolences for your loss. This was a tragedy that simply should not have occurred.

Lastly, to the citizens of Stephenson County, I want you to know that since becoming Sheriff I have worked hard to ensure that nothing like this could possibly happen here. Under my administration, our training programs have been revamped and improved, our use of force policies have been updated and certified by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, body-worn cameras have been issued to all of our deputies, I hired a Social Services Administrator, and we have sent several deputies through Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. Our mission statement is "To enhance the quality of life in Stephenson County through the delivery of exceptional law enforcement services with the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and dedication to duty", and as Sheriff, I will accept nothing less than that from all members of my office.

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