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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEWS RELEASE:

Nevada City— Nevada County District Attorney Cliff Newell announced that the District Attorney's Investigations Bureau has completed its investigation into the death of Wayne Bruce Chrestensen of Smartsville that died at the hospital subsequent to his arrest by Grass Valley Police Department on April 22, 2012. DA Investigators interviewed the police officers involved, numerous civilians that observed the incident and fire department personnel that were on scene. The autopsy and Coroner's final report indicate that Mr. Chrestensen ultimately died from "acute methamphetamine intoxication." From all of the reports and interviews it appears that the officers used appropriate force in taking the suspect into custody and further undertook reasonable lifesaving measures when the suspect exhibited distress after being taken into custody.

On April 22, 2012, at about 2:45 p.m. Grass Valley Police responded to a 911 call about a subject yelling and screaming while standing in the roadway. When the officer arrived at the scene he noted the deceased standing in the roadway with pants down to his ankles exposing his genitals. When the officer contacted him the man screamed "come and get me," pulled up his pants and strode away from the officer. Chrestensen then approached a vehicle that had stopped in the roadway, ran up to the driver, and punched the driver in the side of the head.

At this point the officer ran up to the suspect and ordered him to the ground. The officer noted that the suspect was "clenching his fists and growling" at him. Chrestensen continued to ignore the officers commands and the officer deployed his Taser striking Chrestensen in the torso. Several other officers arrived and, with their help and the help of a good Samaritan, the suspect was taken into custody. By all accounts the suspect was combative throughout the incident.

After Chrestensen was restrained the officers noted that he was struggling to breathe so the restraints were removed from the suspect and CPR was initiated by the officers. Fire department arrived and rescue efforts were taken over by paramedics who transported Chrestensen to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. Chrestensen died the next day at approximately 6:30 a.m.