

## **Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was requested by the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) to investigate a shooting that occurred at 2200 N. Bahnson Ave. Sioux Falls, SD. The suspect, Will-Anthony Jellis, was shot by a Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy after pointing a shotgun at Deputies. The following is a summary of the events that occurred, and the results of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

### **SYNOPSIS**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Minnehaha County Deputies went to 2200 N. Bahnson Ave. Sioux Falls, SD to serve an arrest warrant on Will-Anthony Jellis for a protection order violation. This is the known residence of Jellis. Deputies contacted Jellis at the door of his residence and advised him that he had a warrant for his arrest. Jellis responded by telling Deputies that he had a shotgun, and that he was not under arrest. In lieu of that incident, an arrest warrant was issued for Jellis on charges of Felony Assault Against Law Enforcement and Resisting Arrest.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 6:24 PM, the Sioux Falls Area Fugitive Task Force (FTF) arrived at 2200 N. Bahnson Ave. in Sioux Falls, SD to attempt to take Will-Anthony Jellis into custody for his outstanding warrants. As FTF Deputies arrived at the residence, they located Jellis at the rear of the home. Jellis was quickly climbing off a ladder, coming down from his roof.

Deputy #1 contacted Jellis as Jellis was attempting to run inside the residence. Deputy #1 gave Jellis commands to stop and Jellis continued to run inside. A Taser was deployed at Jellis but was ineffective. A short time later, Deputy #1, Deputy #2, and two other Deputies entered the residence and told Jellis who they were. Deputies gave Jellis repeated commands to exit the room he was in with his hands up. Jellis did not comply with these commands.

Eventually, Deputies moved up to the doorway of the bedroom where Jellis was hiding. Jellis was found crouching behind a bed, fumbling through paperwork. Deputy #1 and Deputy #2 gave several commands ordering Jellis to comply. Jellis did not comply with any of these commands and refused to exit the room. Deputy #2 was attempting to deploy less lethal force with a Taser when Jellis ducked behind the bed.

Jellis then racked a shotgun and made a comment to the officers about having a loaded shotgun. Jellis then raised the shotgun over top of the bed, pointing it in the direction of Deputy #1 and Deputy #2. Deputy #1 fired several rounds from his duty issued handgun. Jellis was struck by gunfire and received non-life-threatening injuries. During the shooting, Jellis dropped the shotgun. After Deputy #1 fired, Jellis again grabbed the shotgun. Deputies exited the residence, and a SWAT team was called. Jellis was later taken into custody by Sioux Falls Police Department SWAT and received treatment for his injuries.

### **INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS AREA FUGITIVE TASK FORCE DEPUTY #1**

MCSO FTF Deputy #1 was interviewed on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, by two DCI Special Agents in Sioux Falls, SD. Deputy #1 advised that his team was working an evening shift on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, serving other arrest warrants. Deputy #1 advised that his team receives certain arrest warrants due to the severity level. They received the arrest warrant for Jellis two days prior and

conducted a background investigation. They were aware of the threats on Law Enforcement and attempted to conduct surveillance on the residence and Jellis.

Upon arrival to the residence, Deputy #1 and Deputy #3 stopped their vehicle just short of the residence. As Deputy #1 exited his patrol vehicle, he heard a noise coming from the rear of the residence and walked that way. As he approached the rear (north) of the house, he found Jellis quickly climbing down from the roof. Deputy #1 gave Jellis commands to stop, but Jellis ignored commands and began running towards a rear door. Deputy #1 advised that he was wearing his duty issued vest which displays a Sheriff's office badge as well as a Sheriff patch on the front and back.

As Jellis ran into the residence, Deputy #1 attempted to deploy his Taser, however the Taser did not contact Jellis, and was ineffective. Eventually Deputy #3 came to the rear of the residence and both Deputy #1 and Deputy #3 entered the residence through the same door as Jellis. Deputy #2 and Deputy #4 joined them a few seconds later. The four Deputies took up a position just inside the rear door and gave Jellis commands to come out of the room with his hands up. Deputy #1 advised that they were with the warrant task force and advised Jellis that he had warrants for his arrest.

Jellis made comments about trying to find paperwork to show that he took care of his warrants. Deputy #1 told Jellis to bring the paperwork out to show them. Jellis continued to be non-compliant. Eventually Deputy #1 moved forward to the doorway of the room that Jellis was in, to make sure Jellis could not escape through any other direction. Deputy #2 was right behind him and the other two Deputies moved up as well.

Deputy #1 advised that he got to the doorway of the bedroom and found Jellis crouched down behind a bed. Jellis was fumbling through paperwork on the bed, and they could see both of his hands at this time. Deputy #1 and Deputy #2 again gave Jellis several commands to exit the bedroom with his hands up, but Jellis continued to be non-compliant. Deputy #1 called for a Taser and Deputy #2 stepped up to the doorway and presented the Taser at Jellis.

The Taser was presented but not deployed due to Jellis holding a briefcase in front of him. Deputy #1 heard an audible noise which he realized was the cycling of a shotgun. Jellis then made a comment about having a loaded shotgun. Deputy #1 saw the barrel of a shotgun rise above the bed and lower to the point Deputy #1 could start seeing down the barrel of the gun.

At this moment, Deputy #1 reported being in fear for his life and for the lives of his team members who were inside with him. Deputy #1 fired several shots in the direction of Jellis until he believed that the threat had ended. Deputy #1 heard Jellis say that he was shot as he was again ducked completely behind the bed. Deputy #1 could see the barrel and pump end of the shotgun protruding out from the end of the bed, laying on the floor.

Deputy #1 stated that just as he was going to move forward to secure the firearm and attempt to render aid to Jellis, he saw Jellis' hand reach out and again grab the pump of the shotgun. Deputy #1 reported Jellis appeared to be attempting to manipulate the gun. Deputy #1 advised his team that Jellis was on the gun again and advised his team to back out as Jellis was still hidden behind the bed. He and the other three Deputies then moved backward and eventually exited the residence through the same door that they entered.

Deputy #1 stated that he removed himself from the team, told another team member that he had fired, and he left the scene. Deputy #1 went back to a staging area before returning to the Sheriff's office.

### **INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS AREA FUGITIVE TASK FORCE DEPUTY #2**

MCSO FTF Deputy #2 was interviewed on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by a DCI Special Agent in Sioux Falls, SD. Deputy #2 stated that he was aware of the initial confrontation and threats made by Jellis on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Deputy #2 was briefed on the June 26<sup>th</sup> operation prior to coming to the residence.

Deputy #2 stated that as they arrived at the residence, he observed Deputy #1 make his way to the rear of the home. He saw Deputy #1 display a Taser as he got near the rear of the residence. He overheard radio traffic from Deputy #3 that Deputies had the subject at Taser point. He then heard information that the subject ran into the residence.

Deputy #2 went to the rear of the residence just as Deputy #1, Deputy #3 and Deputy #4 were entering the rear door. The other Deputies were already talking with Jellis, telling him that they were the Warrant Task Force and that he had warrants for his arrest. Deputies were also giving Jellis commands to come out, but Jellis did not comply. Deputy #2 stated that he noted other members had their firearms drawn so he drew his Taser for less lethal cover.

Deputy #2 also started to give Jellis commands to comply, which were ignored by Jellis. Deputy #1 started to move toward a door to the room they believed Jellis to be in. As they got to this doorway, Deputy #1 moved into the doorway and Deputy #2 was right beside Deputy #1. In this room, they found Jellis knelt behind a bed. Deputy #2 was only able to see Jellis' upper chest and head. There was paperwork on the bed and Jellis was arguing and disobeying commands to come out of the room.

Deputy #2 then activated his Taser, which gave an audible warning, and displayed a flashing light. Jellis then immediately held something up in front of him, and quickly crouched down behind the bed. At this time, Deputy #2 heard the racking of a shotgun, and heard Jellis make a comment about having a shotgun.

Deputy #2 started to tell other team members to back out. Jellis then appeared from over top of the bed with the shotgun. Deputy #2 saw the barrel of a gun pointing upward toward the ceiling and then saw it leveling off towards them. Deputy #2 stated that Jellis was holding the gun with two hands. At that time, Deputy #1 fired several shots at Jellis.

After those shots were fired, Deputy #2 saw the gun laying on the ground, protruding out from the end of the bed. Jellis made a comment about being shot and Deputies continued to give Jellis commands to show his hands. He was told they would be able to provide medical treatment if he complied. Deputy #2 then saw Jellis reach out, grab onto the shotgun, and start to pull it back towards him behind the bed.

Once this occurred, Deputy #2 yelled for the team to back out, and the Deputies backed away, leaving the residence through the same door that they entered.

### **ADDITIONAL MCSO STAFF INTERVIEWS**

Other MCSO FTF Deputies were interviewed on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by DCI Special Agents. The two Deputies (Deputy #3 and Deputy #4) that were inside the residence gave statements that

were consistent with Deputy #1 and Deputy #2's statements. The statements included that Law Enforcement identified themselves as being with the Warrant Task Force, that Jellis had warrants for his arrest, and that he was given multiple commands to comply.

Deputies #3 and #4 also stated that they were in the same room as Deputy #1 and Deputy #2 when they heard the sound of a shotgun being racked. Deputies #3 and #4 also stated that Deputy #1 fired several shots at Jellis after the sound was heard.

Deputy #4 recalled after the shots were fired, he made his way to the doorway of the bedroom right behind Deputy #1 and saw what appeared to be a shotgun laying on the floor, protruding just out from the bed. Deputy #4 saw Jellis grab the shotgun. Deputies then left the residence and set up a perimeter until a SWAT team arrived on scene.

Other deputies who were on outside perimeter of the residence, heard several shots fired from within the residence.

### **INTERVIEW: WILL-ANTHONY JELLIS**

Will-Anthony Jellis was interviewed on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by two DCI Special Agents at a Sioux Falls hospital. During a post-Miranda interview, Jellis admitted to knowing that he had active arrest warrants prior to the incident on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Jellis stated that he was on his roof working, when he observed several vehicles coming down his driveway. Jellis stated that he immediately believed that these were Law Enforcement vehicles.

Jellis stated that he got down from the roof and ran inside his residence, because he did not want to go to jail. Jellis was confronted by Police as he was going into his residence. He heard an Officer tell him to stop before a Taser was fired at him. Jellis stated that he ran into his bedroom and was looking for some paperwork. Jellis stated that he grabbed a shotgun from underneath his bed when confronted by the Deputies. Jellis told Agents that the shotgun was loaded at the time that he grabbed it.

Jellis stated that Officers had guns drawn on him, and when he pulled the shotgun up, he was shot by the Officers. Jellis stated that he grabbed the loaded shotgun from underneath the bed and lifted the barrel into the air prior to Law Enforcement shooting at him.

### **SCENE INVESTIGATION**

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI and produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from Law Enforcement Officers. Video was also obtained from Deputies Body Worn Cameras (BWC).

Deputy #1 was processed by DCI agents. Deputy #1 was wearing his duty issued vest, which displayed a Sheriff's office badge patch on the front as well as a patch that displayed "SHERIFF" on the front and the back of the vest. Deputy #1 was also wearing his issued Sheriff's office badge on his belt. Deputy #1's gear included his duty issued Glock 17 9MM handgun, three (3) magazines with ammunition and a Taser.

Ten (10) fired 9MM casings were located on scene near the doorway where Deputy #1 was standing. The casing's location was consistent with Deputy #1's statements regarding the position he was in during the shooting. Two (2) Taser barbs with wires were found in the rear doorway to the residence. These were found in a location consistent to Deputy #1's statement

as to where he was located when he attempted to deploy his Taser at Jellis prior to the shooting.

The handgun utilized by Deputy #1 was examined following the shooting. The ammunition count of Deputy #1's Glock 17 determined Deputy #1 fired ten (10) rounds during this incident which was consistent with what was recovered at the scene of the shooting.

There were two (2) shotguns located in a closet adjacent to the bedroom that Jellis was hiding in. One of the shotguns, a 12-gauge Remington pump-action shotgun, had two (2) shotgun shells loaded in the gun, with one of them being loaded into the chamber. The other shotgun did not contain any shotgun shells. There was a pile of paperwork on the bed along with a briefcase.

Several bullet defects were located on the bed and in the wall just behind the bed. These defects were consistent with Deputy #1's statement and BWC video review as to where Jellis was located at when Deputy #1 fired. Deputy #1 was approximately 10 feet from Jellis when the shooting occurred.

### **VIDEO EVIDENCE**

Video surveillance was collected from camera's located on the property at 2200 N. Bahnson Ave. Body Worn Camera (BWC) recordings captured the arrival of FTF Deputies, initial contact of Jellis, and the shooting incident.

Through the review of BWC, the Fugitive Task Force Deputies arrive on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 6:24pm. Deputy #1 immediately moves to the rear of the residence as other Deputies move around the residence. Deputy #1's BWC shows Jellis coming down off a ladder near the back door of the residence as Deputy #1 contacts him.

Jellis is seen moving quickly toward the door and Deputy #1 is heard telling Jellis to stop multiple times, but Jellis does not comply. A Taser is deployed but does not contact Jellis. The BWC video shows Deputy #1 moving into the residence through the same door as Jellis. Deputy #1 is heard giving Jellis many commands to exit the room with his hands up. He tells Jellis that they are the Warrant Task Force, and that Jellis has warrants for his arrest.

As other Deputies enter the residence, several more commands are given for Jellis to come out with his hands up. Jellis makes comments about his paperwork and the Deputies tell him to bring the paperwork out to them, but Jellis does not comply.

Video shows Deputy #1 approaching the doorway and shining his weapon light on Jellis, who is crouching behind a bed, fumbling through paperwork. Jellis is given multiple commands to come out, but he does not comply. Deputy #1 calls for Deputy #2 to come up with Taser. Video shows Deputy #2 step up to the doorway and present the Taser. An audible alarm is heard on the Taser. Jellis holds up a black bag in front of his face and is yelling "no".

Jellis is then seen on video ducking down behind the bed, out of sight of the officers BWC's view. At that time, an audible sound is heard that appears to be the racking of a shotgun. Jellis also makes a comment that he has a loaded shotgun. Video shows the barrel of a gun coming up from behind the bed.

Deputy #1 shoots one (1) shot at Jellis and then nine (9) more shots. After those shots, the barrel of the gun is seen on video laying on the floor, protruding out from the end of the bed.

Jellis is heard making comments about being shot. Video then shows Jellis' hand reaching out and grabbing the pump of the shotgun. Deputy #1 is heard saying that Jellis has the gun again, and all Deputies back out. All four Deputies then exit the residence through the same door that they entered.

A review of the video surveillance camera on the property showed that the cameras were motion activated and do not capture video of the shooting incident.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING**

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on Deputy #1's duty issued Glock 17 handgun, spent casings from the scene, bullet projectiles located at the scene, and the shotguns collected from Jellis' residence. Deputy #1's handgun was found to be functioning properly. Both of Jellis' shotguns were found to be functioning properly. The testing concluded that all ten (10) casings collected from the scene were fired from Deputy #1's handgun.

### **MEDICAL REPORTS**

Jellis received two (2) non-life-threatening gunshot wounds from the shooting incident. He received treatment on scene and was taken to a nearby hospital where he was treated and later released into law enforcement custody.

Medical records showed a blood alcohol content for Jellis of .049%. The blood results also showed positive for Amphetamine and Methamphetamine.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on Deputy #1. The testing results showed that Deputy #1 did not have any amount of alcohol or drugs in his samples.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY/PREVIOUS INCIDENTS**

A review of Will-Anthony Jellis' criminal history showed that Jellis had two (2) active warrants for his arrest, one for Domestic Protection Order Violation and the other for Simple Assault on Law Enforcement. Jellis' criminal history review also showed previous arrests for DUI, Simple Assault, Aggravated Assault, and multiple protection order violations.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable Police Officer present at the scene utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. Will-Anthony Jellis was non-compliant with directions given by Deputies and was in possession of a shotgun. Jellis racked the shotgun while out of view from the Deputies, leading them to believe he had loaded the shotgun. Jellis then pointed the shotgun at the Deputies. Jellis demonstrated that he was a clear and present danger to Law Enforcement Officers on scene.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, Law Enforcement Officer's statements, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the described events that occurred on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Sioux Falls, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, Deputy #1 was justified in firing his weapon and using lethal force.

