

**Prosecuting Attorney**  
County of Summit

**NEWS**  
**For Immediate Release:**  
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**CONTACT: April Wiesner**  
**Phone: (330) 643-8386**  
[wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

**Officer Cleared in Copley Shooting**  
*Use of force justifiable*

**AKRON, Ohio – September 21, 2011** – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh today cleared Copley Police Officer Ben Campbell in the shooting death of Michael Hance. In a letter sent to Copley Police Chief Michael Mier, Prosecutor Walsh concluded that Officer Campbell did not violate any Ohio statutes or federal laws, as he had reason to believe Hance posed an immediate threat to himself and others.

The U.S. Supreme court has affirmed that police officers have a constitutional right to use deadly force when they think a suspect will cause serious physical harm to another person. Officer Campbell had a reasonable and justifiable belief that Hance would continue to shoot at people after Hance shot eight people and then refused to comply with police officers' verbal commands to drop his weapon and surrender.

Keith Lavery, the neighbor and former police officer who also shot at Hance in an attempt to end the shooting spree, was likewise found to be justified in his use of force.

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A copy of the [letter to Chief Mier](#) is attached.