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Prepared by: Ellis County & District Attorney's Office
109 S. Jackson Street
Waxahachie, TX 75165

Contact: Ann Montgomery, 972-825-5035 (ann.montgomery@co.ellis.tx.us)

Bradford Craig Randle, a 50 year old man from Athens, Texas, was found guilty of Aggravated Assault on a Public Servant by an Ellis County Jury on March 30, 2011, for the July 12, 2010, knife-wielding attack on Ellis County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Maddox. After deliberation on punishment, the jury assessed his punishment at twenty (20) years imprisonment, and he was, thereafter, sentenced to confinement in the Texas prison system by District Judge Bob Carroll of the 40th District Court of Ellis County, Texas. In arriving at their verdicts, the jury rejected the defendant's claim of attempted 'suicide by cop' as a defense or mitigation of punishment for his crime.

Deputy Maddox testified that he made a traffic stop of Randle on FM 660 near Bristol to investigate Randle's participation in a disturbance call to which Maddox had been dispatched. Immediately upon coming to a stop, Maddox saw Randle exit his car and quickly approach Maddox, waving his arms and talking loudly. Maddox ordered Randle back in his car, but Randle continued to Maddox's door where he distracted Maddox, then struck him in the face. Randle then pulled out a kitchen knife from behind him and raised it in a threatening manner towards Maddox. Maddox immediately stepped back in fear of injury to himself. Randle then continued moving towards Maddox with the knife raised despite numerous commands of "Don't do it. Don't do it" from Deputy Maddox. In trying to get Randle to drop the knife and cease the attack, Maddox retreated to the rear of his patrol car. Randle pursued him and then made a slashing attack on Maddox with the knife, whereupon Maddox, in fear of his life, had no choice but to draw his handgun from its holster and fire on Randle. Randle went down with a gunshot wound to his abdomen. Maddox immediately called for an Emergency Medical Services ambulance and their personnel, as well as additional law enforcement officers. Maddox began first aid to prevent Randle from bleeding to death and continued first aid until other back-up officers and EMS personnel arrived.

Texas Rangers Don Stoner and Victor Patton were called to investigate the incident. Ranger Stoner later obtained an arrest warrant for Randle. Physical evidence at the scene confirmed Maddox's version of events. An Ellis County Grand Jury indicted Randle for Aggravated Assault on

a Public Servant, and cleared Maddox of any improper conduct in the shooting. While in custody, Randle gave a statement to Texas Ranger Jason Bobo admitting his conduct in attacking Deputy Maddox, indicating that Maddox had done the only thing he could do when he fired on Randle.

The Ellis County and District Attorney's Office thanks the Texas Rangers and the Ellis County Sheriff's Office for their highly professional investigation and handling of this case. The prosecutors on the case, Assistant County and District Attorneys Don Maxfield and Amy Nguyen, issued the following statement "We want to thank the jury in this case for their diligent work in arriving at a fair verdict of guilty and especially for assessing a fair and very appropriate punishment for the crime committed. Their verdict on punishment sends a clear message to anyone who attacks an Ellis County Law Enforcement Officer that they will receive severe punishment for their conduct from the citizens of Ellis County."

