



# Ft. Pierce Police Department

## News Release

**02.16.07**

**R. Sean Baldwin**  
Acting Chief of Police

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### **In-custody death investigation involving use of a TASER device concluded**

*News Conference at 3 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Police Department*

**FORT PIERCE** – The District 19 Medical Examiners Office and State Attorney's Office of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit have completed their investigations into the death of Mr. Doug Ilten, who died while being taken into police custody at the Pilot Truck stop on Okeechobee Road on January 6, 2007.

Chief Medical Examiner Roger E. Mittleman, M.D. concluded that the police apprehension and use of the TASER device were not responsible for Mr. Ilten's death. Dr. Mittleman found that the cause of Mr. Ilten's death was "acute cocaine toxicity." The level of cocaine found in Mr. Ilten's system is characterized as being extremely high. Dr. Mittleman's report is enclosed for review.

Chief Assistant State Attorney Thomas Bakkedahl concluded that Officer Scott Ceckanowicz and Officer Hall Solomon acted legally in their attempts to detain Mr. Ilten. As such, there will be no criminal charges filed against the officers. Mr. Bakkedahl's report is enclosed for review.

The police department's own criminal investigation has also concluded that Officers Ceckanowicz and Solomon acted lawfully in this incident.

Pursuant to the police department's protocol, we have now initiated an internal administrative investigation to determine if department policies were followed in this case. This portion of the investigation will be completed within the next few weeks. However, based on the findings of the criminal investigation, Acting Chief R. Sean Baldwin returned both officers to active duty today.