

# Chester County District Attorney's Office

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## PRESS RELEASE

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March 19, 2021

### **East Goshen Man Charged With Attempted Homicide After Shooting At Police**

The Chester County District Attorney and the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department (WEGO) announce the arrest of Stephen Buxton, 35, of West Chester, PA, on charges of attempted homicide, assault of law enforcement, terroristic threats, and related offenses. On Feb. 11, 2021, the defendant barricaded himself inside his home, threatened to kill family members and himself, and fired gunshots at law enforcement. Crisis negotiators spent hours attempting to de-escalate the situation for a peaceful surrender. The defendant, instead of speaking with the crisis negotiators, fired 13 rounds at police. In response, police discharged two rounds, striking the defendant in a non-fatal shooting. The defendant was arrested on March 19, 2021, after he was discharged from Paoli Hospital.

District Attorney Deb Ryan said, "After a terrifying night last month, the East Goshen community is safer now that this defendant is in custody. What started out as threats to his family escalated into something more dangerous for law enforcement and other residents in the area. Everyone who responded to this potentially-deadly incident – WEGO police, the West Chester Regional Emergency Response Team (WCRERT), and others – were heroic in bringing about a safe resolution. All those men and women have our gratitude for keeping the community safe."

The allegations in the complaint are the following<sup>1</sup>:

On Feb. 11, 2021, WEGO police went to the 900 block of Cornwallis Drive in East Goshen Township after a woman reported that the defendant had threatened to kill her, her daughter, his father, himself, and any police who came to the house. The WCRERT also were called to the scene and attempted to contact the defendant by phone and then over a loudspeaker. All attempts were unsuccessful.

After three hours of negotiation, the defendant fired 13 shots from a .45 caliber Glock handgun, striking an armored vehicle that had WCRERT personnel inside and outside. A total of 16 people were in the line of fire from the defendant – twelve law enforcement and four civilians, including children.

The defendant was injured after police discharged two rounds in response. He was transported to Paoli Memorial Hospital where he was discharged into police custody.

An independent investigation of the officer-involved shooting conducted by the Chester County District Attorney ruled that the shooting was justified.

The defendant is being held on \$500,000 bail in Chester County Prison. First Assistant District Attorney Mike Barry will prosecute the case.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Chester County Detectives at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney

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<sup>1</sup> A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.