



## *Middlebury Police Department*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: 05 October 2012

Sub: Officer-Involved Shooting

10-4-12, noon. A male identifying himself as George Demarais of 5454 Case Street called 9-1-1 and said he “wanted to die via suicide by cop” and that he would be in the woods 150 yards behind his home.

Immediate attempts were made by officers of the Middlebury Police Department to reach Demarais by phone. The calls were unanswered. Police responded to the area to locate Demarais and were unable to determine if he was home or not. Concurrent investigation determined Demarais lived in the home alone. Due to the threat of “suicide by cop” officers were placed in a perimeter around the visible front of the home, pending repeat efforts to contact Demarais.

Late in the afternoon, Demarais came out of the home carrying a long gun and approached Case Street. Sgt. Jason Covey called to him and asked him to drop the gun and attempted to speak with him. Demarais turned and walked around to the rear of the home towards the woods carrying the gun.

Officers found a note taped to Demarais’ vehicle that said “Come and get me, I hope you can shoot straight because I can.”

Officers later located Demarais on a steep slope behind the home when he began firing at them. There was an exchange of gunfire, during which Sgt. Covey made further efforts to convince Demarais to surrender. Demarais continued firing and in the exchange of gunfire Demarais suffered a fatal wound. It is unknown at this time if the wound was self-inflicted or caused by police gunfire.

During the attempt to locate and contain Demarais, Case Street (Route 116) was closed between Cobble Road and Quarry Road for several hours.

The investigation of the incident was turned over to the Vermont State Police under the auspices of the Addison County State's Attorney.