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On December 17, 2025, Dustin Griffin attempted to murder an Augusta County Sheriff's deputy. Although he was unsuccessful, he did shoot the deputy in the arm, seriously wounding him. Before Griffin was able to kill that deputy or any of the other deputies on scene, deputies shot Griffin to death. Their actions were not only justified, but entirely necessary.

Dustin Griffin was wanted for repeat-offense drug dealing. In order to arrest him, deputies drove their police vehicles to his location. Before exiting his vehicle, one deputy—who was known to Griffin—activated his emergency lights. In response to this, Griffin fled on foot. Once that deputy and one other caught up to Griffin, he fought them. A physical struggle among the three of them then took place on the ground.

During the struggle, Griffin reached into his clothing and retrieved a firearm. He then pointed it at one of the deputies and fired, striking the deputy in the arm and severely wounding him. Before Griffin could fire again, a third deputy, who was standing nearby, shot Griffin while Griffin's gun was still in his hand. This allowed the deputy who remained engaged with Griffin to access his own firearm and shoot Griffin once. All of the gunfire occurred within a matter of seconds.

Because Griffin died at the scene, he cannot be charged with the multitude of crimes he committed that night, including attempted aggravated murder, aggravated malicious wounding, using a firearm in multiple felonies, and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Obviously, none of the deputies will face charges for their lifesaving actions that night.

Timothy Martin