

## STUDENTCAM AWARDS

## With honors



Kyle Allport, from left, Anthony Brown and Osmar Acevedo-Rivera receive the StudentCam awards Wednesday, April 27, 2016 from Shellie Zou, Marketing Representative for C-SPAN. DEBORAH STRANGE / STAFF

## STATE LAW

## Police shooting of armed musician heads to grand jury

By The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH — A grand jury will decide whether a former police officer should face charges in the fatal shooting of a legally armed black musician who was waiting on the side of the road for a tow truck, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg said during a news conference that his office would continue its investigation of former Palm Beach Gardens officer Nouman Raja in the death of Corey Jones and present the case to a grand jury. Aronberg's other options were to charge Raja or clear him.

Citing state law, he said he could not discuss what evidence investigators have collected.

"The goal is to do justice," Aronberg said. "We have been as transparent as we are allowed to be under the rules."

Jones had left a gig before dawn Oct. 18 when his SUV broke down on an Interstate 95 off ramp in Palm Beach Gardens. A fellow band member tried unsuccessfully to jump-start the vehicle, then left Jones, 31, to await a tow truck along a dark interstate ramp in the affluent city north of West Palm Beach. Jones, who was also a housing inspector, had a concealed weapons permit and was legally allowed to carry the gun. His family said he carried a gun because he was hauling expensive equipment.

At the time, Palm Beach Gardens Police Chief Stephen Stepp said Raja, who is of South Asian ancestry, had been investigating local burglaries. He stopped to check out what he thought was an abandoned vehicle and "was suddenly confronted by an armed subject."

Raja was in an unmarked car. He was on-duty but not in uniform.

Raja fired six shots at Jones, hitting him three times, officials said. Police later recovered a .38-caliber handgun at the scene, which Jones had bought a week earlier.

His family and lawyers have insisted he would not have had his gun out as Raja approached if he had identified himself as a police officer or shown a badge.

"While we are leery of the grand jury process, we will remain vigilant and peacefully demand greater accountability and transparency from law enforcement," the family said in a statement.

Palm Beach Gardens

fired Raja after the shooting. He had only been on the force six months after seven years with a neighboring department. The chief decided that he had failed his probationary period.

Stepp told a rally Wednesday outside Palm Beach Gardens City Hall that the department has enacted a number of changes since the shooting ranging from officer use of body cameras to improved training.

"The death of Corey Jones should not have happened that morning," Stepp told the two dozen Jones family members and supporters. "We can't bring Corey Jones back and for that I am truly sorry. But we can use his tragic death as a catalyst for change."

State Attorney's Office investigators have already interviewed 230 people, many of whom were staying at hotels along the busy interstate, Aronberg said. He added that his office has remained in contact with Jones' family and Raja's attorney, who issued a statement.

"Now that the decision to have a grand jury consider the case has been made, we look forward to participating in that process," Raja's attorney Richard Lubin said.

There have been two other police-involved shootings presented to the grand jury since Aronberg, a Democrat, took office in 2012. The grand jury found that both of those were justified, said assistant state attorney Brian Fernandes.

He said it is a myth that prosecutors, if they push hard enough, can get a grand jury to indict since prosecutors have almost complete control of the evidence and witnesses presented. The grand jury has 21 members and it takes 12 votes to get an indictment.

"That comes from people who have never presented before a grand jury," Fernandes said. "It's not that easy."

But attorney David Weinstein, who was a state and federal prosecutor for 21 years, said only once did he fail to get a grand jury to issue an indictment.

"It is a one-sided presentation where the prosecutor can lead the witnesses' testimony. In almost every case, the defendant does not testify or present evidence," Weinstein said.

Aronberg is up for reelection this year. He said that played no part in his decision, but retired

Circuit Judge Edward Rogers, a Jones family supporter, accused Aronberg of "taking the easy way out" by presenting

the case to a grand jury.

"He doesn't need a grand jury. It's solely up to him. He just didn't want to do it," Rogers said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

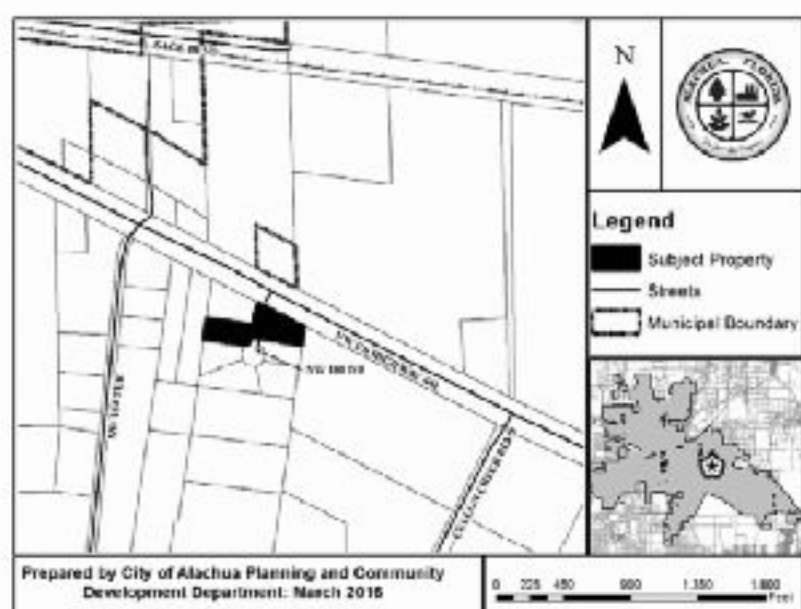
### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance. The hearing will be held on May 9, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida.

The ordinance title is as follows:

#### ORDINANCE 16-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM LIGHT AND WAREHOUSE INDUSTRIAL (ILW) TO COMMERCIAL INTENSIVE (CI) ON APPROXIMATELY 2.5 ACRES; LOCATED SOUTH OF NW US HIGHWAY 441, AND EAST AND WEST OF NW 101ST DRIVE; TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 05964-002-001, 05964-002-006, AND PORTION OF 05964-002-000; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

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## Public Housing Waitlist Opening

The Gainesville Housing Authority (GHA) will be opening its Public Housing Waitlist for all bedroom sizes Monday, May 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. and will remain open for five (5) days closing Friday, May 6, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. GHA will extend the closing date for four (4) and five (5) bedroom units until Friday, May 20, 2016.

GHA accepts online applications only and the web address is [www.gainesvilleha.housingmanger.com](http://www.gainesvilleha.housingmanger.com); however, if you are disabled and need assistance, please call GHA at 352-872-5500, TDD 352-872-5503, and/or visit GHA at 1900 SE 4th Street, Gainesville, FL 32641. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**NOTICE:** No applicant has a right or entitlement to be listed on the waiting list, or to any particular position on the waiting list [24 CFR 982.202(c)].



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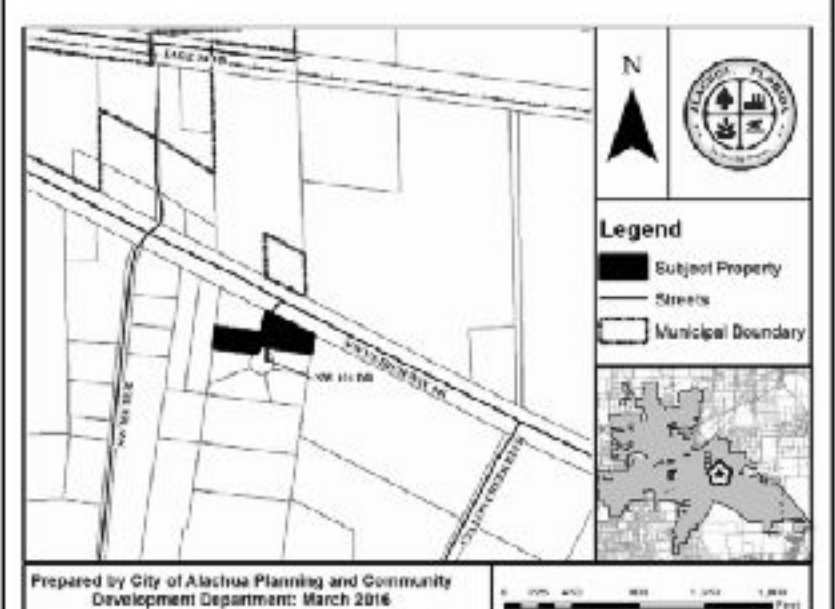
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The ordinance title is as follows:

#### ORDINANCE 16-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE SMALL SCALE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM INDUSTRIAL TO COMMERCIAL ON APPROXIMATELY 2.5 ACRES, LOCATED SOUTH OF NW US HIGHWAY 441, AND EAST AND WEST OF NW 101ST DRIVE; TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 05964-002-001, 05964-002-006, AND PORTION OF 05964-002-000; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



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