



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

November 15, 2017

On October 11, 2017, the Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the MT DOJ- Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), into the case of the September 16, 2017, shooting death of Johnny McKeever by Ryan Black, in Pablo. The Sheriff's Office had previously arrested Black for Deliberate Homicide.

DCI and the Lake County Sheriff's Office have completed their investigation into the matter and the recommendation of this Office to the Lake County Attorney's Office is to charge Black with Negligent Homicide. This is based on scene evidence as well as the statements made by Black in the aftermath of the shooting.

At no time has Black claimed he acted in self-defense. This issue was solely raised by the County Attorney's Office. Rather, Black stated he accidentally shot McKeever, and investigator observations and evidence do not match Black's initial statement about how this accident occurred. For these reasons, we believe there is probable cause to charge Black with Negligent Homicide for the death of McKeever.

Don Bell

Sheriff