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OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Former La Mesa Police Officer Found Not Guilty of Filing False Police Report**

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan today announced that a jury has found former La Mesa police officer Matthew Dages, 30, not guilty of one felony count of filing a false police report.

On May 27, 2020, Dages confronted, detained, and arrested Amaurie Johnson, 24, near a trolley station last year, an incident that sparked protests in the city. The La Mesa Police Department did not forward the case against Amaurie Johnson to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution, but did request the District Attorney's Office review a case against Matthew Dages.

Several law enforcement officers testified that dishonesty in police reports can never be tolerated in our judicial system.

District Attorney Summer Stephan released the following statement:

"I want to thank the jury for their time and consideration of this case. While I respect the jury's verdict, I remain proud that my team courageously fought for justice without prejudice against or favor towards anyone. The integrity of our criminal justice system depends on police officers filing truthful police reports and our thorough review of the facts and evidence led us to bring the charge and present the case to the jury. The community can take comfort in knowing that the vast majority of police officers in our county serve with honor and uphold the law while doing the difficult job of keeping our communities safe."

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### **About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office**

*The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.*