



# Calloway County Sheriff's Office

**Sam Steger, Sheriff**

701 Olive Street  
Murray, KY 42071

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March 7, 2019

Judge Executive Kevin Neal  
1101 Main Street  
Benton, Ky. 42025

Sheriff Sam Steger  
701 Olive Street  
Murray, Ky. 42071

Dear Judge Neal,

I am writing to make you and your Fiscal Court aware of and commend Sheriff Eddie McGuire and his staff who assisted the Calloway County Sheriff's Office in a very dangerous and volatile situation.

On February 8, 2019, the Calloway County Sheriff's Office and the United States Marshalls were looking for a wanted fugitive by the U.S. Marshalls. Jesse Derrick Branham, had been on the run from the U.S. Marshalls for some time. They received information that Branham was at a residence in Calloway County. Captain Kevin Mighell and Detective Jody Cash of the Marshall County Sheriff's Office assisted initially in the surveillance of Mr. Branham.

Further investigation led to us locating Branham in a motel room in Murray. Branham had a female and small child inside with him. Upon initial contact with Branham he opened the door and brandished a weapon pointing directly at Deputies Blake Maness, Jody Cash and myself. He retreated into the room and a standoff ensued. The temperature on this night was approximately 18 degrees. Needing more manpower and balancing coverage for the next day, we contacted Sheriff McGuire for assistance.

Sheriff McGuire responded with multiple deputies including the Special Response Team (SRT). For the next seven hours, in freezing weather, Calloway County Deputies and Marshall County Deputies held the front line and Deputies Tim Reynolds and Jody Cash negotiated with Branham. At approximately 4A.M. Branham appeared at the door and came out with the female in front of him and the child in hand. He was armed and again pointed the gun directly at awaiting law enforcement in the walk way to take the girl and baby into safety.



Calloway County Public Safety Center

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MAR 11 2019

MARSHALL CO. JUDGE'S OFFICE



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Negotiations broke down and they retreated back into the room. Shortly after, they all came back out and deputies were able to get the girl and child to safety. Branham would go back into the room and the standoff would ensue for another two hours. At approximately 7A.M., Branham came out dropped his weapon and was taken into custody without further incident.

As a 25 year veteran of law enforcement and the many stand offs that I have been involved in, this was one of the most intense and dangerous ones I have been involved with. Marshall County Deputies remained calm in such a volatile situation and because of their training, experience, and use of their common sense, no one was injured and this situation ended peacefully.

I hope you and your court can find a minute to thank these deputies for a job well done in such tense hours of danger..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Steger".

Samuel C. Steger Jr.  
Calloway County Sheriff



Calloway County Public Safety Center