

For this exercise, assume a counterfactual: Robert Norton survived his gunshot wounds and has been charged by the Hancock County Prosecutor with felonious assault on a peace officer. Ignore everything in the report about his death, the prosecutor's declination, and the "objectively reasonable" finding -- those don't apply in this hypothetical.

You are an assistant to a line prosecutor preparing the State's case-in-chief for trial. Based only on the attached BCI Prosecutor Summary, answer:

Which of the officers on scene would be the strongest direct examination witness for the State, and why?

In your answer:

1. Identify the candidate officers and what each personally observed.
2. Recommend one as the lead direct-exam witness.
3. Explain the reasoning by reference to specific observations in the report -- particularly which officer's account most cleanly establishes that Norton knowingly pointed a weapon at a peace officer.
4. Briefly note how the other officers would corroborate or fill supporting roles, e.g. authenticating the recovered weapon, establishing dispatch timing.

Be concise. Cite the report, not outside knowledge.