

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Garland Favorito

Telephone: (404) 664-4044

Email: [garlandf@msn.com](mailto:garlandf@msn.com)

<http://www.voterga.org>

## Republicans Move to Legalize No-Knocks, Allow Murders

ATLANTA GA – Last Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, Dublin resident David Hooks was **murdered** when undercover Laurens Co. deputies broke into his home to conduct a drug raid. They fired some 17 shots, killing him in the presence of his wife. [Various reports](#) explained that the deputies acted on **false information** from Rodney Garrett, a meth addict who was arrested for **burglarizing Hook's property and stealing his SUV two nights earlier**. Deputies searched the home of Hooks and his wife for **44 hours** after the murder and found **no drugs**. They obtained a search warrant from Magistrate Judge Faith Snell but **illegally** failed to knock and announce their presence according to Mrs. Hooks. She survived the attack, thinking their home was being burglarized again. Snell issued a warrant despite new restrictions supposedly placed on issuing them after 88 year old Katheryn Johnston was murdered in her home by an undercover Atlanta "Red Dog" police unit in 2007.

The Hooks murder occurred 4 months after a 19 month old toddler was critically injured in another unwarranted drug raid gone wrong in Habersham County. There police used a "no knock" warrant and a hurled flash bang grenade into the baby's crib. **"No knock" search warrants are illegal under Georgia law.** [O.C.G.A. 17-5-27](#) requires officers to issue a **verbal notice in good faith** to enter a residence. That was standard practice even prior to the July, 1776 Declaration of Independence from British rule and later adoption of 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Constitutional protections against unreasonable search and seizure.

Despite all this, Rep. Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) introduced [HB56](#) to **legalize "no knock" search warrants**. Tanner mentions court decisions to **falsely claim** that "no knock" warrants are legal in Georgia. But HB56 Sect. 3 and Sect. 5 define new guidelines **that lawfully allow "no knock" search warrants for the first time in Georgia history**. That will protect law officers from being held accountable for crimes they commit during highly profitable, unwarranted raids that would become legal. If HB56 was a 2014 law, Teresa Hooks would have little recourse for the murder of her husband. HB56 passed a Non-Civil Judiciary subcommittee this week and is co-sponsored by Chairman Rich Golick, who was a floor leader for former Gov. Sonny Perdue. Other co-sponsors are Republican Reps. Hitchens, Gasaway and Efstraton, and Democrat Carolyn Hugley. HB56 was supported through committee assignment by House Speaker David Ralston.

Tanner is a former Dawson County deputy who managed operations for Sheriff Billy Carlisle. It was Carlisle's office that [forcibly arrested](#) Nydia Tisdale for filming a public campaign event, confiscated her camera and then returned it with a **gap in the video**. The gap eliminated her screams for help that could be clearly heard on another, public news camera that recorded her arrest. Dawson County is also the home of former Assistant District Attorney, John G. Wilbanks. He allegedly [committed suicide](#) in 2012 when he died from "multiple wounds to the head" after **3 shots were fired from a handgun**. ###