FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2018

DOJ Leading Columbus Death Investigation

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) has been leading a death investigation that was initiated on the morning of Sunday, April 29, 2018 at the request of Columbus Police Chief Daniel Meister.

The Columbus Police Department, assisted by the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, responded to a 911 call on the morning of Sunday, April 29, 2018. The individual who initiated the call was involved in a domestic violence incident in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 29, 2018, and fled to a neighbor’s house after the altercation. When law enforcement officers arrived at the scene of the domestic violence incident, they encountered a male suspect who was unwilling to meet law enforcement demands to leave the residence. After hours of negotiation, law enforcement deployed non-lethal gas into the residence, and eventually entered the residence. The male suspect was found dead inside the residence.

The victim of this domestic violence situation was treated for non-life threatening injuries at a local hospital and released. No juveniles were harmed during this critical incident.

DOJ is leading the investigation into the domestic violence event and death of the male suspect. The investigation has been a collaboration between DCI, the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory Bureau, the Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Columbia County Medical Examiner. The Columbus Police Department and Columbia County Sheriff’s Office have been assisting DCI during this investigation.