

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Helmut Wihowski

On Friday, July 1, 2016 at approximately 7:10 P.M., the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Jackson Police Department to respond to the scene of an Officer Involved Death at W197 N17058 Stonewall Dr, Jackson.

At 6:47 P.M., Jackson Police Department was dispatched to a domestic incident at a condominium complex, where a female had locked herself in an office. The female told dispatch that Wihowski was forcing entry into the office. Officers Kyle Henning, Daniel Oswald, and Jennifer Gerke arrived on scene and forced entry to the residence. Once inside, officers followed sounds that led them to a closed bathroom door. Officers Henning and Oswald forced entry into the bathroom and found Wihowski in the shower stall holding a knife at the victim's upper chest. Officer Henning gave commands to "drop the knife." Wihowski did not comply, and officer Henning fired two shots striking Wihowski in the head. Officer Henning was the only officer who fired his weapon. Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Chad Polenske also arrived on scene during the incident and heard the commands being given and the two shots fired. Audio recording of the incident confirms the statements made by the involved officers as well as the victim. Officers were not equipped with body cameras. Squad dash cams only captured audio of the incident.

The three officers on scene immediately began to render aid to Wihowski and the victim. EMS arrived on scene and continued to provide medical assistance; however, Wihowski was pronounced deceased at the scene.

DCI responded with Director Ryan Shogren, Special Agent in Charge Christina McNichol, and eight Special Agents (SAs): Ray Gibbs, Jay Novak, Todd Higgins, Nate Peskie, Aaron Koehler, Jeffrey Hale, Lindsey Conrad, and Luke Hepp. SA Gibbs was the lead investigator.

The Washington County Sheriff's Department assisted DCI in conducting the neighborhood canvass, and maintaining scene security. The Wisconsin State Crime Lab collected evidence from the scene, which included two 40 caliber spent bullet casings. The evidence collected is consistent with the statements made by the involved officers. All evidence collected was conveyed to the crime lab for analysis.

DCI Agents interviewed the victim, who confirmed that Wihowski threatened to kill her and himself, and was holding her at knifepoint in the bathroom. She said that if the officer had not shot Wihowski, she believes that she would be dead.

Wihowski's family was contacted and interviewed by DCI personnel on June 2, 2016, and the State of Wisconsin witness/victim's rights forms were provided to them.

Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report
Case/Report Number: 16-4005/37 Investigative synopsis

An autopsy was conducted on Saturday, July 2, 2016 by Dr. Linda Biedrzycki and observed by SA Rico Tijerino. The autopsy revealed that Wihowski suffered two gunshot wounds to the right side of the face causing his death.

The case is scheduled to be reviewed with Washington County District Attorney Mark Benson on Friday, August 5, 2016.