

Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI

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Klabunde, David R (DCI Milwaukee Field Office / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI)		Virgil, Tina R (DCI Administrative Services / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI)	9/28/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Austin Howard

At 12:30 p.m., Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) officers responded to a battery at 2554 N. 5th St. in the City of Milwaukee. When officers arrived at the scene, they found Willie Williams suffering from several stab wounds including injuries to the neck and abdomen. Mr. Williams was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. Austin Howard was suspected in the homicidal stabbing of Williams.

According to officer's statements and a review of body camera video, officers were on scene investigating the homicide when Howard returned to the scene armed with a large bladed knife. Howard approached the officers with the knife ignoring repeated commands to "drop the knife. Seven MPD officers confronted Howard. Four officers P.O. Michael Budziszewski, P.O. Jeffrey Kennedy, P.O. Sean Mahnke, and P.O. Bryan Miller were armed with their duty weapons. P.O. Patrick Shannon and Sgt. Robert Crawley were armed with Tasers and Detective Jeffrey Emanuelson did not arm himself due to crossfire concerns.

Howard continued to disobey officer's commands and moved toward officers with the knife. P.O. Shannon and Sgt. Crawley deployed their Tasers and officers Michael Budziszewski, Jeffrey Kennedy, Sean Mahnke, and Bryan Miller collectively fired 28 shots striking Howard causing his death.

P.O. Bryan Miller and P.O. Donald Krueger who were at the scene were wearing body camera's that recorded the shooting incident. Additional responding officers P.O. Jeffrey Krueger, P.O. Michael Driscoll, P.O. Nicole Swenson, P.O. Jocelyn Klescewski, P.O. Alexander Nuter, P.O. Zachary Kwiatkowski, and P.O. Jose Rivera III were each wearing a body camera that recorded initial witness statements and events following the shooting.

At approximately 2:45a.m., the MPD requested Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) to conduct the officer involved death (OID) investigation. DCI Special Agent (S/A) Raymond Taylor was assigned as the lead investigator, and S/A Jeffery Hale was assigned as the secondary investigator.

Agents interviewed P.O. Michael Budziszewski, P.O. Jeffrey Kennedy, P.O. Sean Mahnke, P.O. Bryan Miller, P.O. Patrick Shannon, Sgt. Robert Crawley, and Det. Jeffrey Emanuelson who were involved in the shooting. Agents also interviewed P.O. Donald Krueger, P.O. Jeffrey Krueger and P.O. Michael Driscoll who arrived after the incident. Uniform inspections of the ten officers revealed that four officers fired their service weapons in this incident. The inspections revealed that P.O. Budziszewski fired 11 times, P.O. Kennedy fired 3 times, P.O. Miller fired 6 times, and P.O. Mahnke fired 8 times. A download of information from the Tasers of P.O. Shannon and Sgt. Crawley confirmed that both Tasers had been deployed.

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The Wisconsin State Crime Lab (WSCL) mobile response unit responded and processed the scene. The Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit (WSP TRU) assisted with the scene investigation. Twenty-seven fired cartridge casings consistent with the caliber of the Milwaukee Police Officer's service weapons were recovered at the scene.

All officer statements were consistent with the squad video recording and the two body camera videos that captured the shooting.

A neighborhood canvas produced eight citizen witnesses, all of whom were interviewed by DCI agents. Three of the witnesses (BM, TS and JW) reported being outside and observing the shooting incident, confirming that officers repeatedly gave commands for Howard to "drop the knife" and that Howard continued to advance toward the officers with the knife in his hand.

Three other witnesses (WH, AJ, and LJ) stated they observed the shooting incident from inside of their homes and two witnesses described standing at the end of the block and did not have a clear view of the incident.

Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Dr. Lelinski began the autopsy of Howard July 23, 2016 and completed July 25, 2016. The autopsy revealed that Howard suffered twenty gunshots to his body causing 29 wounds. Cause of death could have been the shot to the head or three shots fired into the lungs and heart.

Family members of Austin Howard were identified and a death notification was made. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were provided to the family.

This case is scheduled to be reviewed with the Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.