

**INVESTIGATIVE SYNOPSIS OFFICER INVOLVED DEATH (OID) OF SCOT A. MINARD**

On Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at 6:20 a.m., Antigo Police Officer Joseph Husnick initiated a traffic stop in the area of Morse Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the city of Antigo, Langlade County, WI on a 4-door white Acura. The driver of the vehicle, later determined to be Scot Minard, pulled over. Minard fired two shots at Officer Husnick as Officer Husnick approached Minard's vehicle. Minard then fled the scene on State Highway 64 west, traveling into Lincoln County, WI. A high-speed pursuit ensued, and continued on State Highway 64 west bound. Officer Husnick contacted radio dispatch, advised of the pursuit, and requested assistance.

Stop sticks were deployed by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on Highway 64 near the Pine River bridge. Minard drove the Acura over the stop sticks and continued driving, turning north onto Hillview Road, a dead-end road. The vehicle came to a final stop at the end of that road, in the N1800 block of Hillview Road, Township of Pine River, Lincoln County, WI. Minard got out of the vehicle with a shotgun in his hand. Responding officers gave verbal commands – "Drop the gun", and "Show us your hands!" – but Minard did not comply.

Officers attempted to negotiate with Minard for over an hour to get him to put the gun down. Minard held the shotgun in his hand during the entire time of these negotiations, commenting that he was not going back to prison. Minard also stated that law enforcement was going to have to shoot him. Minard stepped out from behind the passenger door of the Acura and raised the barrel of the shotgun upward toward the officers, at which time one Antigo police officer, two Lincoln County deputies and one Langlade County deputy fired their rifles at Minard. Officers fired multiple shots at Minard until he fell to the ground. The investigation determined that the officers fired at Minard at 7:50 a.m. Once Minard was down, officers approached him and rendered lifesaving aid, assisted by Merrill Fire-EMS personnel. Minard died at the scene.

At approximately 8:00 a.m., the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Antigo Police Department, and Langlade County Sheriff's Office requested that the Wisconsin Department of Justice-(DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) conduct the officer involved death (OID) investigation. DCI Special Agent (S/A) Tami Augsburg was assigned as the lead investigator, and S/A Jay Yerges was assigned as the secondary investigator.

The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory Field Response Team – Wausau collected evidence from the scene, which included 26 fired cartridge casings, all fired by law enforcement.

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The investigation uncovered a spent cartridge casing in the ejection port of the shotgun held by Minard; however, the fired projectile could not be located. The Wisconsin State Patrol Total Reconstruction Unit responded and documented the scene.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office maintained security of the scene until the scene was cleared on July 27, 2016.

The squad video recorder in the patrol vehicle driven by Officer Husnick captured the pursuit of Minard by Officer Husnick. Squad video further captured the standoff and shooting of Minard. Interviews of the four shooting officers and all responding officers were conducted after the incident. The statements provided by all four shooting officers were consistent with the examined dash cam video recordings and with statements made by the responding officers. Evidence collected from the scene further supported the officers' account of what occurred.

DCI conducted a neighborhood canvass, identifying one critical witness who heard the negotiations between law enforcement and Minard. The witness stated that he heard repeated commands of "Let me see your hands!" and "You need to put your gun down!" The witness also heard Minard say, "Let's get this over, just shoot me!", to which the police responded by yelling, "No! We don't want to shoot you. You are a human being!" The witness eventually heard a series of gunshots. The witness thought the last five shots came from the same type of weapon. The witness then heard police yell "He's down! He's down!"

The Minard family was contacted and interviewed by DCI personnel on July 26, 2016, and the State of Wisconsin witness/victim rights form was provided to the family.

The autopsy of Scot Minard was conducted on July 27, 2016, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Robert Corliss. Minard died as a result of one gunshot to the front left armpit region; the bullet went through both lungs and the aorta.

On August 25, 2016, a copy of DCI's complete investigative file was turned over to Assistant Attorney General Shelly Rusch, who is serving as special prosecutor in this case at the request of the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office.