

SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH OF TYLER D. WHITMIRE

On Monday, August 21, 2017 at approximately 8:36 p.m., the Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Kewaunee County Sheriff's Office (KWSO) to respond to the scene of an officer-involved death located in the vicinity of County Highway (CTH) AB, Kewaunee County, Wisconsin. A law enforcement-related shooting occurred near a driveway located along CTH AB. The critical incident involved three deputies with the KWSO and one police officer with the Kewaunee Police Department.

At approximately 7:54 p.m., on 08/21/2017, the KWSO dispatch center received two simultaneous 911 cellular telephone calls which reported a subject ("Tyler") who had struck a female with a hammer. Additional reports were that the subject had a knife and he was requesting bystanders to "kill him."

At approximately 8:03 p.m., KWSO Deputy (Dep.) Jamie Tlachac arrived on-scene. Dep. Tlachac was followed by Kewaunee Police Officer (PO) Brian Gale and his canine partner, KWSO Deputy (Dep.) Jordan Salentine and KWSO Sergeant (Sgt.) Dustin Smidle. Upon arrival at the scene, Dep. Tlachac was met by a citizen witness who identified "Tyler." Tyler was later positively identified as Tyler Whitmire.

After exiting from his patrol vehicle and learning Tyler's identity, Dep. Tlachac observed Whitmire walking through the front yard of the residence located on CTH AB. Whitmire proceeded to walk down the driveway of the residence and then onto the CTH AB roadway. Whitmire was observed possessing a knife in his right hand while he simultaneously held a cellular telephone with his left hand up to his left ear. Whitmire walked behind a van which was parked near the end of driveway in the southbound lane of traffic. An automobile was parked adjacent to the van in the northbound lane of traffic. The automobile was partially off the roadway on the shoulder of the roadway and faced north. Whitmire proceeded to walk in front of the automobile. Whitmire momentarily paused in front of the automobile and faced the law enforcement officers who began to approach the scene. Law enforcement officers asked Whitmire to come talk to them. Law enforcement officers directed area bystanders to "back-up" away from Whitmire.

As law enforcement officers began to make a perpendicular line across the roadway, Whitmire ran along the northbound roadway's edge directly at Dep. Salentine who had his duty rifle pointed at Whitmire as Whitmire charged at Dep. Salentine with the knife overhead. Dep. Salentine attempted to back-step as Whitmire ran at Dep. Salentine. As Whitmire got close to Dep. Salentine's location, while running with the knife held overhead, Dep. Tlachac discharged his duty rifle at Whitmire. Whitmire immediately fell to the ground, at Dep. Salentine's feet. At approximately 8:04 p.m., Sgt. Smidle notified the dispatch center that "shots were fired."

Moments after Whitmire was shot, law enforcement offered emergency medical assessment and treatment of Whitmire. Whitmire died upon the roadway in the scene.

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S/A Yerges was assigned as the lead case investigator and S/A Kust was assigned as the secondary case investigator. DCI collected all items of evidence and documented the scene with the assistance of the Wisconsin State Patrol, Technical Reconstruction Unit. DCI was also assisted at the scene by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Whitmire's biological mother was identified and a death notification was made to her on 08/22/2017. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were provided to the mother by agents. A military death notification was made to Whitmire's spouse on 08/22/2017.

DCI agents interviewed the four identified-involved law enforcement officers on 08/24/2017. Six witnesses, five emergency medical workers and two victims all involved with the critical incident were interviewed by DCI special agents. An area canvass performed by DCI produced no significant information, additional witnesses or victims.

During the investigation, DCI collected three (3) law enforcement dash camera video recordings associated with the investigation. DCI examined all of the dash camera video recordings related to the critical incident which involved Whitmire. One of the three recordings did not capture anything related to the direct use-of-force event.

Evidence that was seized during the investigation included: the body of Whitmire, a knife, a cellular telephone, a hammer, an automobile, a duty pistol, a duty rifle, shell casings, three (3) dash camera videos, presumptive dried blood samples, clothing articles, personal effects, biological specimens, DNA evidence and other articles of evidence.

An autopsy of Whitmire was conducted at the Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner's Office on 08/22/2017 by forensic pathologist, Dr. Douglas Kelley, MD. The autopsy revealed Whitmire died as a result of internal chest injuries from a gunshot wound.

On 09/29/2017, the completed DCI investigative file, as of that date, was submitted to Kewaunee County, District Attorney (DA), Andrew Naze for his legal review.