

**SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH OF DEXTER D. A. BAXTER**

On Sunday, October 22, 2017 at approximately 11:10 p.m., the Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Crandon Police Department (CPD) to respond to the scene of an officer-involved death located in the vicinity of North Wildwood Avenue near the intersection of East Grant Street, Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. A law enforcement-related shooting occurred near mid-block upon North Wildwood Avenue. The officer-involved critical incident involved a patrolman with the CPD.

On 10/22/2017, CPD Patrolman (Off.) Ryan M. Wilson was performing a theft investigation which allegedly involved two subjects. One of the subjects had been identified as "Dexter." At approximately 10:34 p.m., Off. Wilson performed a traffic stop with a Chevrolet Camaro. The two subjects associated with the theft investigation were occupied inside the automobile.

After exiting from a CPD patrol vehicle, Off. Wilson performed a passenger-side approach up to the automobile. Upon contact with Dexter, who occupied the front passenger seat of the automobile, Dexter misidentified himself. Dexter became uncooperative and threw the automobile key out the passenger-side open window of the automobile. Off. Wilson directed Dexter's hands to be placed upon the dash while Off. Wilson opened the passenger door. Off. Wilson was in the process of placing a handcuff upon Dexter's right wrist when Dexter lunged out of the automobile and physically attacked Off. Wilson. Off. Wilson provided verbal commands for Dexter to stop resisting, all of which, Dexter disregarded. A physical struggle ensued for approximately one minute, 41 seconds (1:41) between the two. Off. Wilson was unable to gain physical control of Dexter. During the struggle, Dexter choked Off. Wilson at least two times which caused Off. Wilson to nearly lose consciousness and his sight. Dexter gouged both of Off. Wilson's eyes with Dexter's fingers. At no time did Dexter stop struggling with Off. Wilson. During the struggle, Off. Wilson shot Dexter three (3) times after Off. Wilson sensed that Dexter attempted to obtain Off. Wilson's duty pistol.

After Dexter was shot, Dexter was transferred to a Rhinelander hospital for emergency medical treatment where he was eventually pronounced deceased. Dexter was later positively identified as Dexter David Anthony Baxter.

S/A Yerges was assigned as the lead case investigator and S/A Wisch was assigned as the secondary case investigator. DCI documented the scene with the assistance of the Wisconsin State Patrol, Technical Reconstruction Unit. DCI was also assisted by the Forest County Sheriff's Office and the Forest County Medical Examiner's Office.

Baxter's biological mother was identified and a death notification was made to her on 10/23/2017. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were provided to the mother by special agents. A death notification was also made to Baxter's step-father on 10/23/2017.

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DCI agents interviewed Off. Wilson on 10/25/2017. One witness, six emergency medical workers and two back-up law enforcement officers, all involved with the critical incident, were interviewed by DCI special agents. An area canvass performed by DCI produced no additional significant information.

During the investigation, DCI collected three (3) law enforcement dash camera video recordings and three (3) law enforcement body-worn camera video recordings which depicted various elements of the incident. DCI examined all of the video recordings related to the critical incident which involved Baxter. DCI also examined a specially prepared video recording which synchronized the audio files from Off. Wilson's body camera with the visual recordings from Off. Wilson's dash camera video recorder.

DCI collected all items of evidence. Evidence that was seized during the investigation included: Baxter's body, a duty pistol, a pistol magazine, unfired bullets, fired cartridge casings, video recordings, an automobile, cellular telephones, white powdered substance, clothing articles, personal effects, biological specimens, DNA evidence and other miscellaneous articles of evidence.

An autopsy of Baxter was conducted at the University of Wisconsin Hospital Pathology Laboratory on 10/23/2017 by forensic pathologist, Dr. Michael A. Stier, MD. The autopsy revealed Baxter died as a result of internal organ injuries from gunshot wounds sustained during an engagement with law enforcement.

On 11/17/2017, the completed DCI investigative file, as of that date, was submitted to Forest County, District Attorney (DA), Charles J. Simono for his legal review.