

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Skyler Burnette

On Sunday January 7, 2018 the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Sparta Police Department and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to investigate an officer involved death (OID). The OID occurred at an apartment on Saint Anne St. in the City of Sparta, Monroe County, Wisconsin.

At approximately 10:00 A.M., The Monroe County Dispatch Center received an emergency call from a distraught female reporting a domestic related call and requested law enforcement. The initial information provided to responding officers was not clear due to the distraught female and limited information received.

As officers were responding to Saint Anne St., the dispatcher updated the call. Dispatch provided additional information and advised a 911 caller said the male had a knife to the throat of his girlfriend and the caller previously removed a knife from the male. Dispatch also broadcasted that the male and female were still in the residence and the caller was outside the residence waiting for police.

As Monroe County Sheriff's Office Deputy Murphy arrived on scene he stated two citizens directed him to the officers' locations that were on scene. Deputy Murphy recalled Sparta Police Department Sgt. Ferguson, Officer Nelson, and Officer Welker were on scene and the front door to the apartment was blocked by a couch.

Officers eventually forced entry into the apartment creating enough room to get between the door opening and the couch. As Deputy Murphy entered the apartment with Sgt. Ferguson, he observed a male with a knife, holding a female hostage. The male and female were seated on the floor near a hallway. Officer Nelson gave commands to the suspect.

The suspect backed up in the doorway/hallway with the female. Officer Nelson continued to give several commands none of which the suspect was complying with. The suspect made comments about having law enforcement shoot him as well as a suicide attempt the previous night. The suspect also mentioned the female he was holding hostage was pregnant.

Deputy Murphy shot the suspect in the head and observed him drop to the floor. As the suspect dropped to the floor additional officers removed the female from the apartment.

Emergency Medical personnel assessed the suspect shortly after the shooting.

Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report
Case/Report Number: 18-115/41

DCI Agents Adam L. Frederick and Jake E. Vosters interviewed Sparta Police Department Sergeant Booker Ferguson and Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Jesse Murphy on January 9, 2018.

An autopsy of Skyler Burnette was conducted at the University of Wisconsin Hospital Morgue and was conducted by Forensic Pathologist Robert F. Corless.

The autopsy revealed:

- Gunshot wound to the head. The wound pathway was front to back, downward and right to left.

A complete investigative file was turned over to the Monroe County District Attorney's Office on January 31, 2018.