

SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH OF JOSHUA M. GOMOLL

On Wednesday, May 23, 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Fox Crossing Police Department (FCPD) to respond to the scene of an officer-involved death (OID) located on the Fox Cities Trestle – Friendship Trail Bridge (Trestle Trail Bridge) located inside Fritse Park, 899 North Lake Street, Village of Fox Crossing (Neenah), Winnebago County, Wisconsin. A law enforcement-related shooting death occurred on the bridge. The officer-involved critical incident involved one (1) officer with the FCPD.

On 05/23/2018, FCPD Officer Seely Moe responded to an "erratic acting individual" call-for-service which had been reported to law enforcement by several callers. Minutes later, Officer Moe arrived inside Fritse Park and began to follow a male subject who matched the description of the subject called-in by citizen-witnesses. The subject was reported to have been walking in the middle of the roadway, knocked over a mailbox and went after individuals with a knife in the park. Upon Officer Moe's initial arrival inside the park, the subject was observed running after two (2) citizens who were walking on the Trestle Trail Bridge. The subject was eventually identified as Joshua M. Gomoll.

Officer Moe exited his patrol vehicle armed with a duty rifle. Officer Moe yelled for the citizens to get away from Gomoll. Officer Moe ran to catch-up to Gomoll. Gomoll was making "shrilly" noises. Upon crossing the threshold of the bridge, Officer Moe gave verbal commands for Gomoll to "get down" and "stop." Gomoll slashed the knife at the bridge's railing and pointed the knife at Officer Moe.

Gomoll refused Officer Moe's orders to get down and/or stop. Gomoll continued to deliberately walk at Officer Moe while armed with the knife. As Gomoll walked at Officer Moe, Gomoll stated, "Come on. Do it." Officer Moe repeatedly ordered Gomoll to "get down." As Gomoll came to approximately 18 feet of Officer Moe's position, Officer Moe discharged his duty rifle three (3) rapid times at Gomoll in self-defense of himself. Gomoll immediately fell forward and face down onto the bridge decking. Gomoll immediately attempted to raise to his feet, at which time, Officer Moe back-stepped, yelled additional commands and discharged a single fourth duty rifle round at Gomoll. Gomoll immediately fell onto his back. Officer Moe immediately called shots fired. Four (4) FCPD back-up officers responded to the bridge immediately after shots were fired by Officer Moe. Gomoll attempted to raise, again, from off of the bridge decking. Gomoll eventually collapsed with the knife underneath him.

In an effort to disarm Gomoll of the knife and to offer emergency first-aid treatment to him, back-up officers Tased Gomoll, disarmed him of his knife and handcuffed him. Officers immediately offered emergency first-aid treatment to Gomoll until fire department and ambulance personnel relieved the officers. Eventually, life saving efforts ceased and Gomoll was pronounced dead at the scene. Gomoll was positively identified at the scene.

Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report
Case/Report Number: 18-3713/70

DCI Special Agent (S/A) Yerges was assigned as the lead case investigator and DCI S/A Schallhorn was assigned as the secondary case investigator. DCI special agents documented the scene with the assistance of the Wisconsin State Patrol, Technical Reconstruction Unit. DCI special agents were also assisted by the FCPD, Menasha Police Department, Neenah Police Department, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and the Winnebago County Coroner's Office.

Gomoll's biological parents were identified and death notifications were made to them on 05/23/2018. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were provided to each of the parents by DCI special agents.

DCI special agents conducted the following interviews: 11 witness interviews, 13 back-up law enforcement officer interviews, ten (10) fire department personnel interviews, two (2) emergency medical personnel interviews and a neighborhood canvass for any additional witnesses was performed. The neighborhood canvass produced no additional incident witnesses or information. DCI special agents interviewed Officer Moe on 05/26/2018.

During the investigation, a DCI digital records analyst collected three (3) law enforcement patrol vehicle dash camera video recordings. A total of seven (7) law enforcement body-worn camera video recordings, which depicted various segments of the critical incident, were collected. Four (4) Fritse Park recordings were obtained from the Village of Fox Crossing. DCI special agents examined all of the video recordings related to the critical incident which involved Gomoll.

DCI special agents collected and maintained all articles of scene evidence. Evidence that was seized during the investigation included: Gomoll's body, a folding knife, a cellular telephone, a duty rifle, duty ammunition (bullets), fired cartridge casings, a recovered fired bullet, video recordings, clothing articles, personal effects, biological specimens, forensic evidence and other miscellaneous articles of evidence.

An autopsy of Gomoll was performed at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Laboratory on 05/24/2018 by Milwaukee County Deputy Chief Medical Examiner and forensic pathologist, Dr. P. Douglas Kelley, MD. The autopsy revealed Gomoll died as a result of four (4) gunshot wound injuries sustained during an engagement with law enforcement.

On 06/22/2018, the completed DCI investigative file, as of that date, was submitted to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office for the legal review of the case.