

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Adam D. Knowlton

On Sunday, August 12, 2018, at approximately 11:00 P.M., Special Agent (S/A) Adam L. Frederick received a phone call from Rusk County Sheriff Jeffery S. Wallace regarding a request for Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation to be the lead investigative agency in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Factory Street in the Village of Hawkins.

Rusk County Deputies responded to a domestic incident on Factory Street. As a result two Rusk County Deputies spoke to three family members who reported Adam D. Knowlton was inside the residence. The owner of the residence gave permission for the deputies to enter the residence. Prior to entering, deputies walked to the back of the house and observed a male, believed to be Adam, on a bed from the back window.

Deputies entered the front door of the residence and eventually made their way to the back bedroom. The male was no longer on the bed and eventually deputies located him in the closet of that same bedroom. The suspect failed to comply with the deputies' commands and OC spray was utilized. The suspect began to cough and eventually came out of the closet brandishing an edged weapon. An attempt to utilize an electronic control device (Taser) was made however it did not have an impact on the suspect. The suspect continued to move towards the deputies and was shot in the chest.

Life saving measures were provided to Adam by law enforcement and continued to be provided by EMS. Adam was transported by EMS to a medical facility where he was pronounced deceased.

Numerous DCI agents responded to the scene. Special Agent in Charge (SAIC) Robert C. Powell supervised the OID investigation. S/A Adam L. Frederick was lead investigator. The Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit (WSP TRU) assisted with the investigation/created a scene diagram. The Office of Crime Victim Services assisted in the investigation (OCVS).

The mother of Adam D. Knowlton was provided with the death notification by DCI. The Wisconsin Office of Crime Victim Services contacted the family of Adam D. Knowlton.

An autopsy of Adam D. Knowlton was conducted at the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office by Pathologist Butch Huston, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, on August 13, 2018. The autopsy was attended by:

- S/A Joseph W. Welsch, Wisconsin DOJ-DCI
- Rusk County Medical Examiner's Office

The final autopsy report was received on September 21, 2018 and revealed:

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Case/Report Number: 18-5750/30

- The decedent had a total (3) gunshot wounds; (2) gunshot wounds to the chest and (1) gunshot wound to the abdomen. Dr. Huston reports the cause of death as exsanguination due to multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death as a homicide.

An interactive case file was turned over to the Rusk County District Attorney's Office on September 7, 2018.