

SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH OF SHAWN D. BLOWERS

On Tuesday, June 25, 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from Neenah Police Department (NEPD) and Menasha Police Department (MEPD) to respond to the scene of an officer-involved death (OID) located at an apartment complex identified as Butte Des Morts View Apartments, 935 Tayco Street, Apartment 4, Menasha, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. A law enforcement-related shooting death had occurred at the apartment complex. The officer-involved critical incident involved multiple law enforcement officers confronted by one (1) subject who possessed a knife. The single shooting investigator related to the incident was affiliated with NEPD.

On June 25, 2019, investigators affiliated with MEPD and NEPD were in the process of executing a search warrant at the aforementioned apartment. While investigators were speaking with the subject-of-interest inside his apartment, the subject acquired a knife. The subject proceeded to confront an investigator with the knife while making statements consistent with, "kill me" and "do it." The investigator attempted to retreat from the subject and backed outdoors from inside the apartment. As the investigator attempted to create distance away from the subject and continued backing, loud law enforcement commands directed at the subject to "stop," "drop the knife" and "get down" were repeatedly made. The subject ignored all law enforcement commands. The subject proceeded to make a "lunging" motion with the knife in his hand toward the threatened and pursued investigator. Another investigator simultaneously discharged two (2) gun shots at the subject in order to stop the subject. After the subject fell to the ground, the subject re-acquired the dropped knife with his right hand and refused to surrender the knife. An electronic control device (Taser) was subsequently deployed to control the subject, at which time, the knife was removed from the subject's hand. The subject was handcuffed and first-aid was provided to the subject. The subject was transported to a local hospital by ambulance. The subject later died from a gunshot wound injury sustained during the confrontation with law enforcement. The subject was identified as Shawn D. Blowers. The shooting investigator was identified as NEPD Investigator (Inv.) Christopher P. Gorden.

DCI Special Agent (S/A) Yerges was assigned as the lead case investigator and DCI S/A Kust 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 MEPD and the Winnebago County Coroner's Office.

Blowers' parents and daughter were identified by agents. Death notifications were made to Blowers' family members on June 25, 2019. Wisconsin DOJ Crime Victim Services were offered to Blowers' family members.

DCI special agents conducted the following interviews: Five (5) critical witness law enforcement officer interviews, ten (10) neighborhood canvass interviews, five (5) back-up law enforcement officer interviews, three (3) fire department personnel interviews and two (2) paramedic

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(ambulance) personnel interviews. DCI special agents interviewed the referenced threatened investigator and Inv. Gorden on June 28, 2019.

During the investigation, four (4) law enforcement body-worn video camera recordings were seized and extracted for examinations. The video recordings depicted various segments of the critical incident. DCI special agents examined all of the video recordings related to the critical incident which involved Blowers. No other video recordings of the critical incident event were identified or seized during the investigation.

DCI special agents collected and maintained all articles of case evidence. Evidence that was seized during the investigation included: Blowers' body, a folding knife, bullet casings, recovered fired bullets, firearm pistols, Taser cartridge effects/contents, fabric, buttons, eyeglasses, ball cap, video recordings, handcuffs, clothing articles, personal effects, biological specimens, forensic evidence, an electronic device and other miscellaneous articles of evidence.

An autopsy of Blowers was performed at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Laboratory on June 26, 2019 by Milwaukee County Deputy Chief Medical Examiner and forensic pathologist, Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak, MD. The autopsy revealed Blowers died as a result of one (1) gunshot wound injury sustained during the engagement with law enforcement.

On July 24, 2019, 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.