

SYNOPSIS FOR OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH OF FOREST K. SPRINGSTUBE

On Sunday, December 22, 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a formal request from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office (MTSO) to investigate an officer-involved death (OID). The incident occurred during an attempted traffic stop on Hawthorne Avenue (State Highway [STH] 310), approximately 221 feet west of Columbus Street in the City of Two Rivers, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. While law enforcement was attempting to catch up to the offending automobile, the operator of the automobile crashed. The operator and lone occupant of the automobile, identified as Forest K. Springstube, died as a result of injuries sustained in the motor vehicle crash. The incident involved one (1) deputy employed by the MTSO.

On Sunday, December 22, 2019, at approximately 2:55 a.m., MTSO Deputy (Dep.) Eric Roehl began his attempt to catch up to an automobile after identifying the automobile was traveling 90 miles per hour (mph) in a posted 70 mph on Interstate 43. The automobile exited onto STH 310 from the interstate. In an attempt to stop the operator of the automobile for speeding, Dep. Roehl activated his patrol vehicle's visual emergency lights and audible siren. The operator eluded Dep. Roehl and achieved high rates of speed. As Dep. Roehl continued his attempt to catch up to the fleeing automobile, Dep. Roehl negotiated a gradual curve as he approached the city limits of Two Rivers. At approximately 2:57 a.m., Dep. Roehl came upon an automobile that had crashed broadside into a utility pole. The crashed automobile was that of the one being followed by Dep. Roehl. Dep. Roehl eventually discovered the deceased male inside the crashed automobile. The crash scene was consistent with a high speed crash. Springstube resided in close proximity to the crash scene.

DCI Special Agent (S/A) Yerges was assigned as the lead case investigator and DCI S/A Windorff was assigned as the secondary case investigator. The scene was documented with the assistance of the Wisconsin State Patrol, Technical Reconstruction Unit. DCI was also assisted by the Two Rivers Police Department (TRPD), the Two Rivers Fire Department and the Manitowoc County Coroner's Office.

Springstube's parents were identified by DCI agents. Death notifications were made to Springstube's parents on December 22, 2019. DCI received assistance with the death notifications by the DOJ - Office of Crime Victim Services.

There were no witnesses identified to the motor vehicle crash. DCI special agents interviewed Dep. Roehl on December 26, 2019.

During the investigation, one (1) law enforcement body-worn video camera recording was acquired for examination. Five (5) patrol vehicle video recordings were acquired for examination during the investigation.

DCI special agents collected and maintained all articles of case evidence. Evidence that was seized during the investigation included: Springstube's body, Springstube's automobile, a cellular telephone, a body-worn video camera recording, patrol vehicle video recordings, clothing articles,

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personal effects, biological specimens and other miscellaneous articles of evidence.

An autopsy upon Springstube was performed at the Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner's Office on December 26, 2019 by Chief Medical Examiner and forensic pathologist, Dr. Adam Covach, MD. The autopsy revealed Springstube died as a result of injuries sustained in the referenced motor vehicle crash.

On January 22, 2020, the completed DCI investigative file, as of that date, was submitted to the Manitowoc County District Attorney's Office for the legal review of the case.