

**Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Jack Bolinger**

On January 16th, 2020, the Wausau Police Department was dispatched to [REDACTED] City of Wausau, Marathon County, Wisconsin for a report of a male attempting to enter a locked, running vehicle. A Wausau Police Officer and a Marathon County Deputy Sheriff responded to the call for service and began to follow foot prints left in the snow by the suspect between several homes. The suspect was tracked to the area of the Urban West Apartments on N. 12th Avenue, between Merrill Avenue and West Randolph Street in the City of Wausau, Marathon County, Wisconsin.

Marathon County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Stroik and Wausau Police Officer Shawn Pierschalla were walking east in the driveway of the Urban West Apartments located at 1425 N. 12th Avenue that led to the underground parking garage for the apartment building. Officer Pierschalla walked towards the open overhead garage door which led to the parking garage. Deputy Stroik walked toward a brick wall which was located immediately to the east of the overhead garage door, running perpendicular to the south side of the structure. Directly to the east of the brick wall was a concrete retaining wall which created a void between the brick wall and the concrete retaining wall.

As Deputy Stroik looked behind the brick wall from the south end, Deputy Stroik encountered the suspect, Jack D. Bolinger (herein referred to as Bolinger). Bolinger was armed with a semi-automatic handgun and Bolinger had the semi-automatic handgun pointed directly at Deputy Stroik's head. Deputy Stroik announced, "gun - gun - gun" and retreated towards the open overhead garage door of the parking garage. Officer Pierschalla also entered the parking garage.

The overhead door to the parking garage of the Urban West Apartment Complex had been opened by a tenant entering the parking garage in a vehicle while Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla were walking into the driveway of the complex.

Bolinger fired his handgun several times in the direction of Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla. Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla, fearing for their lives and the people in the Urban West Apartment's and the occupied residences on N. 12th Avenue, fired their handguns until the immediate threat had been stopped.

During the exchange of gunfire with Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla, Bolinger also fired his handgun at a citizen's vehicle driving towards the parking garage. The citizen's vehicle was struck in the front passenger's side hood area of the vehicle.

Bolinger ran out from behind the wall, firing his handgun towards Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla. Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla both returned fire at Bolinger, striking Bolinger. Bolinger fell to the ground and remained armed with the handgun. Both Deputy Stroik and Officer Pierschalla gave Bolinger multiple verbal commands to drop the gun and attempted to persuade Bolinger to drop the gun so they could provide medical treatment.

**Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report**  
**Case/Report Number: 20-307/105 - Case Synopsis**

Over the course of approximately ten minutes, additional law enforcement officers arrived on scene, all the while Bolinger was given commands to drop his weapon. Bolinger raised his weapon in the direction of law enforcement once again, resulting in the officers firing at Bolinger.

As a result of the injuries Bolinger sustained by gunfire, Bolinger succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

On January 16, 2020, Special Agent in Charge (SAIC) Cynthia Giese received a formal request from the Marathon County Sheriff's Office and the Wausau Police Department to lead the investigation into the officer involved death investigation.

Numerous Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation (WIDCJ - DCI) Special Agents responded to the scene. SA Shane Heiser was assigned as lead investigator/case agent and SA Michael Reimer was the secondary investigator. The Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit (WSP TRU) assisted with the investigation/created a scene diagram. The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory Crime Lab Response Unit also responded and assisted with processing the crime scene and collecting evidence.

An extensive neighborhood canvas was conducted to locate witnesses to the incident and obtain any video captured by witnesses.

Bolinger's parents were identified and a death notification was made by WI DOJ - DCI Special Agents. A Wisconsin Crime Victim Services form was provided to the family and The Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) was in communication with the Bolinger family.

On January 19th, 2020, and January 20, 2020, WI DOJ - DCI conducted interviews with all law enforcement officers who fired their service weapons to include: Marathon County Lieutenant Steven DeNovi, Marathon County Deputy Brandon Stroik, Wausau Police Officer Shawn Pierschalla, Wausau Police Officer Michael Horejs and Wausau Police Officer Benjamin Price. In addition, Deputy James Toth of the Marathon Co. Sheriff's Office was interviewed as he had fired a less than lethal bean bag gun during the incident. Numerous other law enforcement officers who witnessed the shooting were interviewed as well.

Squad videos and body camera videos were obtained and reviewed by WI DOJ - DCI Special Agents as was security video from the Urban West Apartments.

Evidence from the investigation included four law enforcement officer handguns, one law enforcement officer's rifle, one handgun from Bolinger, as well as numerous cartridge casings, metal fragments, unfired bullets and magazines. Evidence relevant to the shooting was transmitted to the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in Milwaukee for analysis.

**Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report**  
**Case/Report Number: 20-307/105 - Case Synopsis**

An autopsy of Jack Bolinger was conducted at the UW Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Wisconsin by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Robert Corliss. The autopsy occurred on January 17th, 2020. The autopsy was attended by the following:

- Special Agent Ryan Volenberg
- WI DOJ/DCI Intern Megan Feeley
- Marathon County Deputy Medical Examiner Christina Wimmer
- Wisconsin State Crime Lab Personnel Tim Erlandson
- Wisconsin State Crime Lab Personnel Brooke Laxton
- Wisconsin State Crime Lab Personnel Nick Stahlke

The preliminary autopsy findings revealed the following:

The decedent sustained at least 13 gunshot wounds, all of indeterminate range.

On Monday, February 17, 2020, the completed investigative file, as of that date, was turned over to Marathon County District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon.