

SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH OF KEVAN O. RUFFIN, JR.

On Thursday, July 02, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) - Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a formal request from the Sheboygan Police Department (SBPD) to investigate an officer-involved death (OID). The incident occurred upon South 15th Street, approximately mid-block between Illinois Avenue and Indiana Avenue, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. Prior to the OID incident, an individual identified as Kevan O. Ruffin, Jr. had attacked a private citizen with two (2) "Sai" (Japanese three-pronged handheld weapons) which caused injuries. SBPD Officer Bryan Pray responded to the incident. Ruffin was shot by Officer Pray and Ruffin died as a result of gunshot wound injuries.

On Thursday, July 02, 2020, the SBPD was called to investigate a "disturbance" call-for-service in which a "man with two (2) knives" reportedly had physically attacked a female citizen in public while in possession of the "knives." After the female victim called 911 at approximately 5:50 a.m., a SBPD response occurred. SBPD Officer Pray was the nearest officer to the incident location and immediately responded to the call-for-service. Upon initial contact with the "hysterical" female victim, Ruffin was identified as the individual who had caused the female victim's injuries. Officer Pray visually observed Ruffin present near the corner of South 15th Street and Illinois Avenue. Officer Pray parked his patrol vehicle approximately mid-block on South 15th Street as he made his attempted initial contact with Ruffin. As Officer Pray was in the process of exiting from the patrol vehicle, Ruffin began to walk toward Officer Pray. Ruffin possessed two (2) Sai, one in each hand. Officer Pray attempted dialogue with Ruffin. Ruffin then suddenly charged at Officer Pray. Officer Pray deployed his electronic control device (Taser) at Ruffin in an attempt to stop Ruffin from charging at him with the Sai. Officer Pray reported the Taser had no effect on Ruffin. Ruffin continued to foot chase after Officer Pray, while armed with the Sai. Officer Pray attempted to retreat from Ruffin. As a result, Officer Pray discharged his duty pistol at Ruffin at approximately 5:53 a.m. Ruffin was shot multiple times and eventually became incapacitated and unresponsive at the scene. The first responding SBPD back-up officer at the scene delivered attempted life saving measures to Ruffin. Ruffin died at the scene as a result of being shot by Officer Pray.

DCI Special Agent (S/A) Yerges was assigned as the lead case investigator. DCI S/A Waterstreet was assigned as the secondary case investigator. DCI special agents received scene assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol (Technical Reconstruction Unit), the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office, the Sheboygan County Medical Examiner's Office, the Sheboygan County District Attorney's Office, the Sheboygan Fire Department and the DOJ - Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS).

Ruffin's mother was identified by the DCI. An in-person death notification was made to Ruffin's mother on July 02, 2020. The mother and other family members were offered support services and assistance by the DOJ - OCVS.

The following case interviews were conducted: one (1) victim interview, six (6) citizen-witness interviews, one (1) primary involved law enforcement interview, three (3) related law

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enforcement interviews and eight (8) Sheboygan Fire Department personnel interviews. DCI special agents interviewed Officer Pray on July 06, 2020.

During the investigation, 46 law enforcement body camera video recordings and six (6) patrol vehicle video recordings were acquired for examinations of the critical incident event. A local business video surveillance recording which captured the critical incident was also acquired for examination.

DCI special agents collected and maintained all articles of case evidence. Evidence that was seized during the investigation included: Ruffin's body, one (1) firearm (and associated evidence), one (1) Taser (with associated evidence), two (2) Sai, fired bullet casings, fired bullets, extracted bullets, agency duty ammunition, assorted audio and video recordings, clothing articles, personal effects, biological specimens, forensic evidence and other miscellaneous articles of evidence.

An autopsy upon Ruffin was performed at the University of Wisconsin (UW) Pathology Unit, Madison, Wisconsin on Friday, July 03, 2020 by Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Robert F. Corliss, MD. Ruffin died as a result of four (4) gunshot wound injuries sustained to the upper chest during the described encounter. A single Taser probe and four (4) projectiles (bullets) were recovered from Ruffin's body at autopsy.

On July 14, 2020, limited DCI investigative reports, as of that date, were submitted to the Sheboygan County District Attorney's Office at the district attorney's request. The investigation was on-going and would continue.