

David J. O’Leary
District Attorney

Anne T. Nack
Deputy District Attorney



Office of District Attorney
Rock County Courthouse
51 South Main Street
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545
Phone 608-757-5615
FAX 608-757-5725

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Issued 07/02/2024**

Contact: David J. O’Leary, Rock County District Attorney
Phone: 608-757-5615

Janesville, Wis. – Rock County District Attorney David J. O’Leary announced today that the District Attorney has received and reviewed the investigative reports prepared by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), including investigative reports and interviews with police and citizen witnesses, body camera and squad videos from the Beloit Police Department, concerning the police officer involved shooting which occurred on Thursday, May 16, 2024, in the City of Beloit.

On May 16, 2024, at 3:26pm, officers of the Beloit Police Department responded to report of a stabbing at a residence in the 2000 block of Frederick Street. The subject was identified as Gregory Tracy (age 54). Information from dispatch was that Tracy was intoxicated and armed with two knives, that he had stabbed his girlfriend, and that he had said "no one was leaving the residence alive."

Officers arrived and found Tracy in the home, behind a screen door. He was holding two large knives, and he was covered in blood. As officers spoke with Tracy through the front screen door, the victim simultaneously escaped the residence through a bedroom window and officers observed that she had numerous injuries to her arms and face, and her hair and shirt were soaked with blood. The victim repeatedly told officers she could not breathe and had to be assisted by officers to an ambulance. Paramedics examined the victim and found she had approximately forty (40) stab wounds to her torso and arms. Officers asked her who had stabbed her and she replied "Greg Tracy". The victim was taken to Beloit Memorial hospital where she was treated for her injuries, including a partially collapsed lung and internal bleeding. The victim was stabilized and subsequently flown by MedFlight to UW Hospital in Madison in critical condition.

Officers repeatedly asked Tracy to drop the knives and talk, but Tracy refused. Initially, officers attempted to deescalate the situation by talking with Tracy through the screen door. Officers asked Tracy if anyone else was in the home, and he told them that he had two grandchildren there, one 3-½ and another 18 month old, in a crib. He then started

pointing knives at officers through the screen door as he spoke to them, saying things like "who wants to get their first body" and "this guy, he looks ready."

Based on the purported presence of small children and Tracy's refusal to put down his knives, when Tracy appeared to be about to retreat into the residence, officers used a 40mm less-lethal round. The plan was to stun Tracy, rush in, and arrest him; however, before officers could open the door, Tracy almost immediately stood up and was holding a knife above his shoulders ready to attack the officers as they entered. The officers backed up from the door to create distance, and asked if anyone knew where the children were. Tracy said, "I've got one right here," and moved quickly away from the door. Officer Cole Gille fired three (3) rounds. All three rounds hit Tracy, and he fell to the floor. Officers immediately entered the residence and secured the weapons. They cleared the home and found that there were no children inside. Officers and paramedics administered emergency aid to Tracy until he was pronounced deceased on scene.

Officer Gille has been a sworn BPD officer since 2018 and is a part of the Mobile Field Force Unit and Tactical Operations Unit, serving as a police sniper and firearms instructor. Witnesses reported that Tracy was an alcoholic, who admitted drinking again after about a year of sobriety. Witnesses also reported that when Tracy consumed alcohol, he became violent and emotional. Tracy called multiple family members and admitted stabbing the victim and stated he was going to kill her. The family then called 911. Before police arrived at the front door, Tracy told a family member, "This is it for me. I'm not getting out of here alive."

After reviewing the reports, the body camera and squad videos and photographs of the incident, and the witness statements, the District Attorney has concluded that Officer Gille acted lawfully and in accordance with his duty as a sworn law enforcement officer. Officer Gille acted in order to protect the lives of the children he believed to be in danger from Tracy, based on Tracy's statements and actions. It is the conclusion of the Rock County District Attorney that Tracy was shot and died as a direct result of his own actions. The District Attorney further concludes that the use of force by Officer Gille was both legal and appropriate under the facts as presented by the independent investigation conducted by DCI, and there is no basis for prosecution based on the officer's actions.

Wisconsin statute § 175.47 requires that, in the event of a death of an individual as the result of an action or inaction of a law enforcement officer, the ensuing investigation must be conducted by an investigative team from an independent agency; DCI therefore conducted the investigation into this matter. The lead investigator in this matter was Special Agent Ken Folkers. DCI reviewed all reports, body camera, squad camera and witness interviews, interviewed law enforcement and civilian witnesses, reviewed the Rock County Medical Examiner's findings, and collected and examined all necessary evidence.

When the DCI serves as the independent investigative agency, it provides a complete report to the District Attorney for review. The District Attorney has determined that there is no basis for prosecution of the law enforcement officer; therefore, access to the reports as required by § 175.47(5)(b) will be posted on DOJ's website:

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/officer-involved-critical-incident>

(end)