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NEWS

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Janesville, Wis. - Rock County District Attorney David J. O'Leary announced today that he has received and reviewed the investigative reports prepared by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), including reports from the Janesville Police Department (JPD), Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) and the Rock County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) concerning the police officer involved shooting which occurred on Thursday, March 26, 2020, following a vehicle crash in the City of Janesville, Rock County, WI. Wisconsin Statute §175.47 requires that, in the event of the death of an individual as the result of an action or inaction by a law enforcement officer, the ensuing investigation must be conducted by an investigative team from an independent agency. JPD requested DCI investigate the incident and DCI assigned a lead investigator.

DCI's investigation concluded that officers from JPD and WSP had been dispatched to a vehicle crash involving a full-size pickup truck towing a large camper that was southbound on Interstate 39/90 at US Highway (USH) 14. The southbound truck travelled off the right side of the interstate, down a steep embankment and struck a power pole near USH 14. A citizen called about the accident and reported that the driver was out of the truck holding a large knife to his own throat. The driver was later identified by law enforcement as Christian A. Cargill.

Officers from JPD, WSP and RCSO responded to the area. As officers attempted to make contact with Cargill, they observed Cargill with a knife which was described as a 6 inch blade, fixed handle hunting knife. Cargill held the knife to his neck and made his way to an embankment just below the southbound lanes of Interstate 39/90. Officers followed Cargill and attempted to get him to drop the knife, attempted to prevent Cargill from making it onto the interstate which could cause an accident and attempted to prevent Cargill from having contact with any civilians in the area which would put them in danger. Cargill ignored officers' commands including orders to drop the knife and to stop moving. Less lethal options were deployed including multiple electronic control devices (ECD) and several .40 MM foam rounds but all less lethal attempts were

unsuccessful in getting Cargill to drop the knife. As the incident progressed, Cargill ignored officer commands and at one point began to advance toward the officers while still possessing the knife. Cargill was subsequently shot two times by JPD Officer Lyle Hollingshead, Cargill fell to the ground but continued to struggle with officers while continuing to possess the knife. While on the ground, Cargill began to cut his own throat with the knife. One officer deployed OC spray to Cargill's face in a further attempt to get Cargill to drop the knife but he rolled onto his stomach while continuing to hold the knife under his body. It took approximately 8 officers to subdue Cargill, including additional ECD deployments to remove the knife from Cargill's hand and take him into custody.

DCI investigators responded to the hospital where they met with medical staff. While at the hospital, medical staff from the hospital provided DCI investigators with a solid metal, silver-colored bolt with threading on one end and a small eyelet on the other. The medical staff member said that this item had been removed from Cargill's stomach. Cargill later told investigators that he swallowed the bolt when he was confronted by the police in an attempt to commit suicide. Cargill sustained a bullet wound to his left upper leg and one to his right shoulder. Cargill survived his injuries, received medical treatment and was eventually released from the hospital.

DCI conducted interviews of all the law enforcement officers involved as well as numerous citizen witnesses to the incident. DCI also reviewed body camera videos, squad car videos and videos taken from civilians related to the incident. DCI forwarded a complete set of their investigative reports to the Rock County District Attorney.

DCI interviewed Cargill who stated he knew he was being confronted by police officers but believed they were corrupt and working with the mafia. Cargill also stated that he held the knife to his throat because he did not want to be tortured by the Aryan Brotherhood. Cargill stated he left the State of Oklahoma approximately 2 weeks ago so he would not continue to smoke methamphetamine which he was smoking daily at the time. He advised that he purchased meth from the Aryan Brotherhood but could not explain why they or the mafia would be out to get him.

After reviewing the investigative reports, it is abundantly clear that the officers acted lawfully and in accordance with their duty as sworn law enforcement officers when they made multiple attempts to disarm Cargill. Officer Hollingshead fired at Cargill only after all less lethal methods had failed and Cargill began to advance toward the law enforcement officers. Officer Hollingshead was attempting to protect not only the lives of the law enforcement officers but of the civilians in the area had Cargill been able to get away from the officers. The actions by the law enforcement officers involved was lawful and reasonable based upon all of the facts of the investigation.

The Rock County District Attorney will be reviewing with JPD what, if any, criminal charges should be filed against Cargill as a result of DCI's investigation.

The Department of Justice only proactively releases the reports following a DCI investigation mandated by Wisconsin Statute Sec. 175.47 into an officer involved death. The records generated pursuant to any other DCI investigation are only released pursuant to a public records request via the office of open government.

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of records from this investigation should contact the Attorney General's office at:

Department of Justice
Office of Open Government
608-267-2220
dojcommunications@doj.state.wi.us

(end)

(Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, SCR 20:3.6, Trial Publicity, you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.)