



OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
PETER J. RINDAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ANGELA L. BERANEK, DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



April 12, 2022

Chief Kelly Bakken
Altoona Police Department
1904 Spooner Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720

Sheriff Ron Cramer
Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office
721 Oxford Avenue, Ste # 1400
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Chief Matt Rokus
Eau Claire Police Department
740 2nd Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Special Agent Joseph Welsch
Wisconsin Div. of Criminal Investigation
Eau Claire Field Office
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Re: Demetrio Jackson Incident

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To Whom It May Concern:

I have now received complete documentation relating to the incident on October 8, 2021 involving Demetrio Jackson and officers from your various agencies. Upon review and consideration of that information, I have concluded that this incident does not meet the statutory definition of "officer-involved death."

Reports from this incident reflect that on October 8, 2021, Demetrio Jackson was contacted by officers from various agencies after reportedly acting erratic and jumping on cars. During an eventual attempt to arrest Mr. Jackson, officers deployed Tasers at least twice. After a short time passed, Mr. Jackson told officers that he could not breathe. Emergency medical personnel were summoned and upon arrival, assisted Mr. Jackson to a gurney and placed him in an ambulance. After another short while, Mr. Jackson became unresponsive and emergency medical personnel began ventilating him. Mr. Jackson was transported to Sacred Heart Hospital where he remained minimally responsive for approximately two weeks. On October 22, 2021, Mr. Jackson's family elected to discontinue life support, after which his death was pronounced.

Following Mr. Jackson's death, an autopsy was completed at the Ramsey County (Minnesota) Medical Examiner's Office. While the pathologist who actually completed the autopsy has since retired, I spoke to Dr. Kelly Mills regarding the results of the autopsy. Dr. Mills noted several findings from the autopsy, including that Mr. Jackson appeared to have a pre-existing enlarged heart with left ventricular hypertrophy and that according to toxicology reports, Mr. Jackson had a level of methamphetamine present in his system which by itself would be considered lethal. The autopsy found that Mr. Jackson had suffered anoxic encephalopathy following cardiopulmonary arrest. Based on these factors coupled with observations documented on-scene at the time of Mr. Jackson's contact with officers, Dr. Mills indicated that she would be unable to conclude that officers' actions were a direct cause of Mr. Jackson's death.

Based on this set of facts, I do not believe there is sufficient evidence to conclude that actions taken by law enforcement officers were the direct cause of Mr. Jackson's death. Thus, this incident does not meet the legal definition of "officer-involved death" pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 175.47(1)(c) and does not trigger the district attorney review contemplated by Wis. Stat. § 175.47(5). I will be taking no further action regarding this incident.

Sincerely,

Peter Rindal

Peter J. Rindal
District Attorney
Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

Kelly Ronquist | Andrew J. Gunderson | Afton B. Lewis
Robert Stoiber | Tiffany M. Winter | Monica Fallon