



City of Racine, Wisconsin

March 20, 2018

PRESS STATEMENT

After an extensive review of the facts and circumstances involved in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on January 17, 2018, District Attorney Patricia Hanson has ruled that the actions taken by Racine Police Department (RPD) personnel were lawful and justified.

The officers involved in this incident are members of the Greater Racine FBI Gang Task Force. Members of this special investigative unit are tasked with identifying, disrupting, and dismantling organized networks of gang members, drug dealers, felons, and other violent individuals. The traffic stop initiated in this case was directly connected to the investigative work performed by FBI Gang Task Force members. Such work is performed to enhance the safety and security of the broader community.

As affirmed within the external investigative report compiled by State of Wisconsin Department of Justice Department of Criminal Investigation personnel, the use of force in this case was precipitated by the threat of deadly force being used against officers. Initial reports that no firearm was located in connection with this incident were erroneous. All facts in this case will now be made known to the public.

Statement from Mayor Cory Mason:

It is the goal of the City that everyone gets to go home safely. Police work, at its heart, is about public safety. The loss of life is never the desired outcome. In this case, the use of lethal force was justified. Sadly, a family is missing someone who did not come home. This incident should serve as a somber reminder to our community of both the dangers and consequences faced by law enforcement officers and citizens when firearms are introduced into the instant decision-making of a threatening encounter. We are thankful that our RPD officers returned home to their families alive and physically unharmed.

Statement from Chief Arthel Howell:

With the close of this investigation, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank a number of individuals and groups who assisted our department and our community in responding to this incident in a peaceful manner. From our department chaplains, to a number of local pastors and community leaders, we are grateful for your support and demonstrated leadership. Most notably, I would like to acknowledge and thank the men and women of the Racine Police Department who continued to serve with honor and dignity while protecting the constitutional rights of all citizens in the process.

During the history of the Racine Police Department, twelve brave officers lost their lives in the line of duty in selfless service to others. We are grateful this list has not grown longer as our members face danger day in and day out in service to the citizens of our community.