



Monona Police Department

“Service, Leadership, Teamwork”

Brian Chaney – Chief of Police



MONONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

News Release: January 1st Fatal Crash Investigation

Case # MO24-00034

Update: May 10, 2024

The actions of the driver in the fatal crash on January 1, 2024 were incredibly tragic.

I would like to commend the WI Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation and the Wisconsin State Patrol for conducting a full and thorough investigation in the interest of transparency, accountability and public trust.

Video evidence and statements collected by DCI support the facts in this incident. An MOPD Supervisor observed a vehicle make a series of turning maneuvers before pulling into a vacant school parking lot, well into the evening hours on a holiday. While investigating, and before any contact was made or initiated, the driver quickly accelerated, nearly striking the driver’s side door of the MOPD squad. The driver then exited the parking lot at a high rate of speed. This act prompted a legal justification for a traffic stop. The driver attempted to elude MOPD, despite visual and audible signal to stop and in violation of state law. During the incident, the driver traveled at high speeds along Femrite Dr in the Town of Cottage Grove as MOPD remained a safe and appropriate distance while in pursuit. A tire deflation device deployed by an outside agency was determined to be intact and did not deflate the tires. The driver and vehicle then proceeded through a four way stop sign, left the roadway and tragically collided into a large tree. All three occupants were pronounced deceased at the scene.

The independent investigation has concluded, and a review and determination has been made by the Dane County District Attorney. Additional details and reports of the incident will be released to the public by the WI DOJ. The drug evidence, firearm and stolen gun collected from the vehicle will soon be transferred into the custody of MOPD (as the primary agency) so that we may complete our criminal investigation. We do not intend to release additional details until we are certain that doing so will not interfere with any potentially associated criminal investigation.

We hope that those impacted are finding the support and comfort they need in these difficult times. I ask that the community continue to show compassion for those dealing with this loss, while also maintaining their faith and confidence in law enforcement. It is possible to do both, as we strived to demonstrate over these past several months.

The women and men of MOPD have an incredibly challenging and dangerous job. They are backed by professional policies and exceptional training to support them in their mission. The people who do this work care deeply about their fellow human being, risking their own personal safety in order to protect others. The supervisor involved in this incident is one of the many professionals at MOPD, each of them serving with exceptional courtesy, integrity and care.

So as we continue to do the work expected of us, I urge everyone to drive safely, obey the law and stop for the police. We can and must do better here in Dane County.

-Chief Brian Chaney

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