



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Jamar F. Ferguson

On November 5, 2017, the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team (MAIT) was called out to investigate an officer involved death in the area of N. 9th St. and W. North Av. in the City of Milwaukee pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 175.47. The request was made by the involved agency, the City of Milwaukee Police Department. The deceased was subsequently identified as Jamar Ferguson.

Agencies participating in the investigation were; the West Allis Police Department, Wauwatosa Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Marquette University Police Department, Oak Creek Police Department and the Waukesha Police Department.

The initial Milwaukee Police contact with Ferguson occurred on the night of Sunday November 5, 2017 at approximately 8:11p.m. Uniformed officers Ndiva Malafa (3240) and Karlee Kennon (3240) attempted a “Terry Stop” for suspected drug activity pertaining to the driver of a 2002 Volvo parked on the British Petroleum (BP) gas station lot at N. 12 St. and W. North Av. After Malafa activated his squad’s emergency lights, the driver (later identified as Jamar F. Ferguson) drove away (fled) west through the lot and subsequently south on N. 12 St. Ferguson turned onto W. Garfield Av and drove east at a high rate of speed. Officers Malafa and Kennon initially pursued Ferguson however did not think they could safely continue.

Ferguson crashed his vehicle through a cyclone fence, at the intersection of W. Garfield Av. at N. Lindsay St. Ferguson exited the vehicle and ran north from the crash scene. Other responding officers set up a perimeter in attempt to contain and locate Ferguson.

At approximately 8:19p.m, Ferguson was located lying in a brush pile by Officer Eric Sweeney (3281) and Officer Malafa, approximately 150 yards north of the crash location. (The arrest occurred off the southeast corner of W. North Av. and N. 9 St.) Upon his arrest, Ferguson complained he was stuck and could not move. Ferguson also complained of leg pain and difficulty breathing. Officer Jason Dewitt (3281) was the first to reach Ferguson

and handcuffed him in front. Approximately three minutes after Ferguson's arrest, Officer Malafa requested medical attention for Ferguson by way of police radio for complaint of leg (pain). Officers Sweeney, Matthew Link (3282) and Markel McKinley (3283) removed/freed Ferguson from the brush pile and carried him to a clearing area.

Officer Margaret Devito (3231) and Officer Kyle Baus (3231) monitored Ferguson in the clearing area. Officers Devito, Baus and McKinley moved Ferguson's handcuffs to the rear and also offered Ferguson positional accommodation for his difficulty breathing complaint. Ferguson continued to complain he was having trouble breathing. Sergeant Raymond Brock (3210) had responded to the scene after hearing the request for medical, and upon observing Ferguson's demeanor requested "can you have medical to step it up" by way of portable radio.

Bell Ambulance arrived on scene at approximately 8:27p.m. Officers Baus and McKinley assisted Ferguson to the ambulance.

At 8:44p.m, Ferguson was conveyed to from the arrest location to Sinai Samaritan Medical Center by Bell Ambulance. At 8:47p.m, Bell ambulance arrived at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center. At 8:50p.m, Ferguson was moved to an emergency room and medical staff began treating him. At 8:58p.m, Sinai medical staff determined that Ferguson was not breathing.

Jamar Ferguson was pronounced dead at 9:48p.m.

Eight of the nine officers on scene were wearing body cameras during their contact with Ferguson. All body camera footage was collected and reviewed. Officer Malafa's squad video along with BP Gas Station surveillance video was collected and reviewed as well.

All officers at the scene of this incident provided statements.

Officer statements suggest no police force was used against Ferguson. Body worn camera and squad video footage does not depict officers using force against Ferguson.

Evidence was collected by both the West Allis and Glendale Police Departments. All evidence pertaining to this case is in the custody of the West Allis Police Department.

On 03/09/18, Dr. W. Tlomak of the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office concluded that Jamar Ferguson's "Immediate Cause of "Death" was "Complications of Sickle Cell Trait." The "Final Manner of Death" is listed as "Undetermined."