



## WEST ALLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Patrick S. Mitchell**  
Chief of Police

**Robert Fletcher**  
Deputy Chief of Police

**Christopher Marks**  
Deputy Chief of Police

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### Investigative Synopsis of Motor Vehicle Crash during Milwaukee Police Department Pursuit

On Thursday 14 May 2020, the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team (M.A.I.T.) was called out to investigate a motor vehicle crash that occurred during a pursuit by the Milwaukee Police Department. The crash occurred in the intersection of N. 30 St. and W. Fond du Lac Ave. in the City of Milwaukee. Due to the crash occurring during a police pursuit and significant injury to the passenger of the fleeing vehicle, the investigative request was made by the City of Milwaukee Police Department, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 175.47.

Agencies participating in the investigation were: the West Allis Police Department, Brown Deer Police Department, Franklin Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Greendale Police Department, Greenfield Police Department, Hales Corners Police Department, Oak Creek Police Department, St. Francis Police Department, State Fair Park Police Department, Waukesha Police Department, Wauwatosa Police Department, West Milwaukee Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol and investigative assistance from the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory.

On 14 May 2020, Milwaukee Police Department District #3 Officers Antonio Obregon and Adam Gonzalez were on duty in full uniform and marked City of Milwaukee Police Department S.U.V. when they engaged in a pursuit of a suspected stolen vehicle (white Ford Econoline Van). Officers were aware the van was stolen earlier on the same date during a business burglary at 1401 W. Center St. Officers initially observed the van at approximately 0632hrs. travelling east on W. North Ave. The pursuit began in approximately the 2300blk. of N. 30 St. The pursuit continued northbound until the intersection of N. 30 St. and W. Fond du Lac Ave. The suspect vehicle disregarded a stop sign for northbound traffic on N. 30 St. and entered the intersection of W. Fond du Lac Ave., striking an eastbound semi tractor/trailer. The Milwaukee Police squad had its emergency lights, siren and squad camera activated during the pursuit. Both officers were equipped with body-worn cameras that were recording during this incident. The pursuit lasted approximately 51 seconds and covered approximately five (5) city blocks.

During the collision, the passenger of the suspect vehicle (later identified as Ravid D. Smith) was ejected from the vehicle onto the roadway. The driver of the suspect vehicle (later identified as Ronnie R. Gilbert) fled on foot. Officer Gonzalez exited the squad from the passenger side and began to chase Gilbert on foot. Officer Obregon stayed in the squad and drove north on N. 30 St., running over Smith as he lay in the street. Smith was dragged under the squad as Officer Obregon turned right onto eastbound W. Fond du Lac Ave. Smith came to rest in the curb line on the southwest side of W. Fond du Lac Ave.

Officer Obregon was unaware that he struck Smith and continued south, then east on W. Elder Wallace Dr. to assist Officer Gonzalez, who was still in foot pursuit of Gilbert. Gilbert was taken into custody in front of 2768 N. 28 St. by Officers Obregon and Gonzalez after a resisting incident and C.E.W. deployment. Milwaukee Fire Department responded to both scenes to render aid to Smith and Gilbert. Smith was transported to Froedtert Hospital by the Milwaukee



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Fire Department for treatment. Gilbert was transported to Sinai Hospital by Bell Ambulance for treatment. Smith was admitted to Froedtert in critical, but stable condition. Gilbert was treated and released to the custody of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The driver of the semi was not injured and provided a statement on scene.

Officer Gonzalez and Officer Obregon later provided statements to West Allis Police Detectives.

Gilbert was later charged with the following crimes:

- Fleeing / Eluding an Officer – resulting in Great Bodily Harm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety
- Hit and Run – Involving Great Bodily Harm
- Drive or Operate a Vehicle Without Owner's Consent
- Resisting an Officer

Smith is considered a suspect in the burglary incident. He continues to recover in a long term care facility.

The burglary and motor vehicle theft is documented under Milwaukee Police Department Case #201350030. The Recklessly Endangering Safety and Operate Without Owner's Consent is documented under Milwaukee Police Department Case #201350034.

Supplementary reports were completed by other agencies assisting with the investigation and are attached to the case file.

This incident was reviewed by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and was determined to be accidental.