
POLICE DEPARTMENT

For Immediate Release

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Officer Cleared in April 28, 2024, Officer Involved Shooting

June 20, 2024 -- Today, the Beloit Police Department announces that Police Officer Nicholas Rodenbeck has been officially cleared of any wrongdoing in the officer-involved death that occurred on April 28, 2024. Following a comprehensive investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, and the Rock County District Attorney's Office, it has been determined that Officer Rodenbeck's actions were justified.

The incident in question took place during a challenging situation while Officer Rodenbeck and other officers were on patrol. Officer Rodenbeck encountered a situation that posed an imminent threat to his safety and the safety of the community. After all evidence was meticulously reviewed, including body camera footage and witness statements, it was concluded that Officer Rodenbeck acted within the scope of his duty and responded appropriately to the threat.

The investigative reports, including the body worn camera footage, is available on the Wisconsin Department of Justice's website at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/officer-involved-critical-incident>.

Please see the following statement from Chief of Police Andre Sayles:

"I stand firmly by Officer Rodenbeck and his commitment to upholding the law and protecting the residents of our community. Our officers are trained to make split-second decisions under extreme pressure, and in this instance, Officer Rodenbeck's actions were necessary to prevent harm.

We understand that this outcome does not ease the pain for the family and friends of Mr. Michael Ward, who lost his life. Our hearts go out to them during this difficult time. Losing a loved one is never easy, and the circumstances surrounding such a loss can be particularly challenging. We extend our deepest condolences.

Our department remains dedicated to transparency and accountability. We will continue to work tirelessly to foster trust and strengthen our relationship with the community. This incident underscores the complexities and dangers our officers face daily, and we are

committed to providing them with the training and resources needed to navigate these challenges safely and effectively.

We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as the investigation was conducted. Moving forward, we will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all community members and strive to prevent such tragic events."

For further inquiries, please contact Director of Strategic Communications Sarah Lock

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