



Madison Police Department

Michael C. Koval, Chief of Police
City-County Building
211 S. Carroll St.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4022 | Fax: (608) 266-4855
madisonpolice.com

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The Madison Police Department has completed its internal investigation into a use-of-force incident that occurred on June 3rd, 2019.

On June 3rd, 2019, MPD officers responded to a home on the West side of Madison to take a 17-year old male into custody. The male had been exhibiting disruptive and concerning behavior earlier in the day at school, and had gone home for the day. A School Resource Officer (SRO) had a brief encounter with the male at school, and later consulted with school officials and mental health workers about the male's behavior. The male's foster father contacted the SRO after the male had returned home, and requested police assistance. The SRO knew that the male was under a Chapter 51 Mental Health commitment, which provides for involuntary treatment of individuals who are dangerous to themselves or to others as a result of mental illness. The SRO contacted Journey Mental Health and it was agreed that the male needed to be taken into custody pursuant to the commitment for evaluation and treatment.

MPD patrol personnel responded to the male's residence and made contact with him. The male resisted officers' efforts to take him into custody, and a physical altercation ensued. During the incident, the male spit at and on one of the officers attempting to control him. An MPD sergeant arrived to assist and delivered three strikes to the male's head; officers were then able to control him and place him in handcuffs. The male was not injured during the incident; one officer sustained wrist and shoulder injuries that resulted in several months of restricted duty.

The male was conveyed to Winnebago Mental Health Institute pursuant to the Chapter 51 commitment. MPD later referred criminal charges for the male to the Dane County District Attorney's Office; prosecution was declined, with a note that the male was engaged with the mental health system and a recognition that continued treatment reflected the best outcome in the case.

A few hours after the incident, the male's foster father contacted MPD to express concerns about what had occurred and provided video showing excerpts of the incident. MPD immediately initiated an internal investigation into the matter, and placed the involved sergeant on restricted duty. The investigation entailed interviews with officers and other involved parties as well as review of video and other evidence. The male subject involved in the altercation declined to be interviewed. MPD also requested that an outside agency – the University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Department – review the circumstances and provide an independent review of the use of force.

The investigation showed two minor violations of MPD standard operating procedure on the part of the involved sergeant. The investigation determined that the officers' use of force during the incident was reasonable (consistent with the UWPD external review).

The disposition of this investigation does not mean that the outcome in this case was desirable. The department recognizes a responsibility to use force in a professional and appropriate manner, and to continually evaluate the tools, training and policy guidance that are provided to officers. The review identified a number of opportunities for improvement that might have resulted in a better outcome in this particular incident. Also, the department recognizes that some internal improvements could lead to better outcomes in future similar situations. Officers are involved in

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thousands of incidents involving mental illness or mental health concerns in our community every year, with the objective in each case of reaching the best possible resolution under the circumstances. As a result of this incident and review, MPD is committing to the following steps:

- The MPD personnel involved in the incident will receive follow-up coaching/training to identify areas for improvement and recognize decision-points that could have resulted in a better outcome.
- MPD will be reviewing internal use-of-force training to identify strategies to improve outcomes and provide appropriate training to department personnel.
- The department will be sending internal use of force trainers to external trainings focused on team tactics and other strategies to reduce the need for application of higher levels of physical force.
- The department will provide updated use of force training to all commissioned personnel this fall and again in early 2020.
- The department will review applicable standard operating procedures and evaluate if modifications should occur to align with the training described above or provide additional guidance to MPD personnel.
- The department is pursuing training to provide officers with updated information and skills to improve interactions with youth. This training – anticipated in 2020 – will address adolescent brain development/behavior, de-escalation strategies, and working cooperatively with other service providers.

Due to the community interest in this incident, MPD is releasing the internal investigation through a link on our website.

MPD would like to thank Chief Roman and UYPD for their assistance with this investigation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief Michael C. Kora". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.