



# Press Release

**Date: December 9, 2015**  
**Re: Armed Subject with Hostages**

The City of Neenah experienced a significant and difficult incident on Saturday, December 5. This incident was apparently initiated by a person with criminal – even homicidal – intent. As a result, one person is dead and others are physically and emotionally injured.

It is our duty to provide the public with timely, accurate information that is not tainted by personal agenda. However, we also must be careful not to jeopardize the ongoing investigation. Currently the lead agency, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, is completing critical interviews of those involved in the incident.

Thus, there are competing objectives: to provide factual information to the public, and protect the investigation. In the interest of balancing those objectives, we offer the following updates:

- No one should ever have to learn of the death of a loved one by watching, listening to, or reading the news. We therefore will not release victim names prematurely. We can confirm the subject's name as Michael Funk, age 60, of Neenah.
- The District Attorney has identified the suspect who was taken into custody as Brian Flatoff, age 45. The Neenah Police Department has no role in any prosecutorial decisions in this case.
- It is not uncommon for groups to attempt to manipulate news media to propagate a biased and sometimes false representation of an incident. Due to misleading statements being made about the Neenah case, the Department of Justice has released limited information to counter those claims.
- The Neenah Police Department advocates for full release of all video, statements, and other evidence in this case as early as practical.
- We applaud the Department of Justice policy of posting investigative reports on their website for all citizens to review. We encourage the public to be patient, knowing these investigations commonly last several months.
- The initial press briefing on the night of December 5 was completed with the best information available at the time, which was quite limited. We know that ultimately the videos and full report will clarify any ambiguities, and reveal the full truth about the incident.
- That press briefing should have included information that 3 officers were placed on administrative leave or duty as a matter of standard procedure based on their involvement in this incident.
- We are proud of the character and skills displayed by our officers during and after this challenging incident.

Watch our Facebook page for frequent updates related to this incident.

**NEENAH'S GUARDIANS**

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