



MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: May 6, 2016
TO: Local Media Outlets
FROM: Mayor Dean R. Kaufert
RE: Statement of Mayor Kaufert

I know this has been a long wait to get to this day, however a necessary process to insure that all the information is taken together and not just one video or statement by itself. We have consistently communicated to the DOJ, and the public, our position that the sooner the investigation, and evidence, can be released to the public, the better.

After viewing the hundreds of statements and videos it is clear that no single piece of evidence tells the whole story of what happened the morning of December 5, 2015.

A person decided to initiate a violent situation by bringing a Mach 10 pistol with a large magazine after a night of drinking into one of our downtown businesses and fired a shot and took hostages.

This was followed by a series of events that put the hostages, officers, and the community at risk and ultimately led to the tragic death of Michael Funk, a hostage that exited the building with a gun.

From the time the HASTY Team tried to enter the building and were met with gunfire that hit one of our officers in the head only to be saved by his armored helmet, until the shots by Police of Mr. Funk was shot, 3 mins 37 seconds had passed.

We appreciate the conclusions of the DOJ report given earlier that found no criminal intent or any basis for charges warranted in this officer involved shooting. This was a very complex investigation by an outside agency that took 5 months to complete.

During this time the city, under the responsibility to review if our internal procedures were met we had an independent review of policies and procedures done by former Police Chief James Lewis, an expert in his field that found no deficiencies by officers.

As Mayor, and the direct authority over the operation of our Police Department, we will take this report and review it to determine what we did correct and where we may need to improve. This will happen given my authority with possible inclusion of our City Council.

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This community has been patient waiting for this report. Most understand that when critical incidents happen police officers are forced to make split second decisions that will impact them and others lives.

That morning I was within 100 yards of this event due to its proximity to my business and watched as it unfolded before me. The officer's immediate concern for bystanders, securing a perimeter and acknowledgement of the safety of hostages was clearly evident. The training and professionalism displayed by many that day assures our community's residents that our officers will continue to serve and protect when called upon.

Now that this decision has been rendered all the information will be made public through DOJ and we will continue to be transparent and answer what questions we can knowing that potential civil litigation may begin.

Lastly as you go through all of the reports and videos understand that a highly stressful event took place and some reports, videos and information may lead to additional questions. I only ask that the complete body of evidence be reviewed, not bits and pieces, before you draw conclusions.

Our hearts and condolences go out to the Funk family on the loss life of Michael during this tragic event started by the actions of Mr. Flatoff.

We will take your questions to the best of our ability. Due to our counsels advice certain particular questions may not be able to be answered today. Thank you

Dean R. Kaufert
Neenah Mayor