



## OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Gary King | District Attorney

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February 26, 2021

### **PRESS RELEASE – OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

On Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 3:54 p.m., the Eau Claire Communication Center dispatched two Eau Claire County Deputies, Brandon Ring and Jacob Taylor, to a disturbance at 2514 Corona Avenue. At 3:52 p.m., the Communication Center received a call from SL indicating that Randy LaCoursiere was on a “no drink” but was currently intoxicated. SL advised the Communication Center that “you need to come get him.” SL then told the dispatcher that she had to hang up because if Randy “catches me on the phone he’s gonna be freaking out” and that “he’s gonna be pissed.” The dispatcher asked SL how many people were in the house but the line disconnected. Dispatch relayed information to the Sheriff Deputies that Randy LaCoursiere had a history of being disorderly and combative with law enforcement. Randy LaCoursiere’s history included battery, disorderly conduct, battery to law enforcement, resisting and obstructing. LaCoursiere was also on supervision as of November 22, 2020. In addition to the initial call to dispatch, a second call from the residence was made to dispatch at 4:30 p.m. This call was from a juvenile in the household. The juvenile told dispatch that “my stepdad’s being abusive to my mother verbally” and that he was “being violent” and that he was “breaking stuff.”

The Sheriff’s Deputies that were dispatched staged near the residence of 2514 Corona Avenue and made multiple contacts by telephone with the residence. Both SL and Randy LaCoursiere spoke with the Sheriff Deputy. Randy LaCoursiere initially indicated that he would voluntarily leave the residence and find a ride to go elsewhere for the evening. After a period of time, the Sheriff Deputies did not see LaCoursiere leave the residence. The matter escalated as Sheriff Department personnel notified dispatch at 4:31 p.m. that Randy LaCoursiere had a knife and that Sheriff Department personnel were trying to deescalate him. At 4:33 p.m. Sheriff Department personnel requested EMS as Randy LaCoursiere was actively stabbing himself. Dispatch paged EMS at 4:33 p.m. to stage in the area of 2514 Corona Avenue.

At 4:34 p.m., Sheriff Department personnel advised dispatch that all other household residents but for Randy LaCoursiere had been removed from the residence. At that time, officers were not entering the residence since Randy LaCoursiere was armed with a knife and actively trying to hurt himself. Randy LaCoursiere smashed a picture window in the residence and was throwing the broken glass at

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#### ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

Kelly Ronquist | Crystal Jensen | Angela L. Beranek | Andrew J. Gunderson  
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law enforcement while screaming at them. Sheriff Department personnel had requested back-up assistance and that those individuals arrive with less lethal weapons. Randy LaCoursiere was observed in the residence with a knife; he was utilizing the knife against his own neck.

A short time later, Randy LaCoursiere exited the front of the residence where five law enforcement officers were staged. Randy LaCoursiere charged at the officers while armed with a knife. Less lethal rounds were fired at Randy LaCoursiere, with no apparent effect. Two law enforcement officers, Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Ring and State Patrol Trooper Ryan Roth both fired their service weapons at Randy LaCoursiere in an attempt to stop the threat. Randy LaCoursiere fell to the ground with the knife still in his hand. Law enforcement exercised a tactical approach to Randy LaCoursiere and removed the weapon from his hand. Law enforcement then attempted life-saving measures on Randy LaCoursiere. It became apparent to law enforcement that Randy LaCoursiere was deceased. LaCoursiere was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Pursuant to the laws of the State of Wisconsin, an outside law enforcement agency was charged with conducting an investigation of this incident. The investigating agency was the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office led by Investigator Jim Mikla and Sergeant Brandie Hart. They also enlisted the assistance of other agencies in the investigation. Officers involved in the shooting were interviewed and the scene was diagramed and photographed. A forensic autopsy was performed on Randy LaCoursiere. Several interviews were conducted, hundreds of photographs were taken of the scene, and reconstruction of the scene was done. Investigators also reviewed all relevant squad car video, examined all calls and transmissions to dispatch, reviewed the relevant history of Randy LaCoursiere, and reviewed miscellaneous other information as part of the investigation.

### **Dispatch and Record Information**

Dispatch records were reviewed as part of the investigation. Sergeant Hart authored a report on the 911 calls and radio traffic with regard to this matter. The first call to dispatch came at 15:52 hours on November 22, 2020. The following is a summary of some of those transmissions.

15:52:27 SL called 911 and said that Randy was "on parole" and "you need to come get him." SL said Randy was on a "no-drink" but was currently intoxicated and positive for Covid-19. SL told the dispatcher that she had to hang up because if Randy "catches me on the phone he's gonna be freaking out." SL told the dispatcher again that she had to go and if Randy caught her on the phone, "he's gonna be pissed." The dispatcher tried to ask SL how many other people were in the house, but the line disconnected. The call lasts approximately one minute, six seconds.

15:54:17 The call was dispatched to Deputies Jacob Taylor and Brandon Ring as a disturbance at 2514 Coronal Avenue and that Randy LaCoursiere was also positive for Covid-19. Dispatch relayed that LaCoursiere had a history of being disorderly and combative with law enforcement. Dispatch relayed that according to the caller, SL, Randy would be very upset if he knew she called 911. Deputy Taylor advised they were in route. Dispatch relayed that the caller said law enforcement needed to "get him out of here."

15:55:41 Dispatch relayed that LaCoursiere was on probation/parole as a felony offender with a history that included battery, disorderly, conduct, battery to law enforcement, resisting and obstructing.

15:56:19 Deputy Taylor requested the caller's information.

15:57:32 Dispatch advises they will supply the caller's number.

15:58:49 Dispatch advised they have updated the caller's number.

15:59:37 Dispatch inquires if another unit is requested to assist. Deputy Taylor replies "negative at this time." Sergeant Prorok radioed and said he was on his way to assist.

16:30:58 A juvenile male called 911 and said, "hello, my stepdad's being abusive to my mother, um verbally." The juvenile also said, "he's being violent." The juvenile gave his address as 2514 Corona Avenue. As he spoke, yelling can be heard in the background. The juvenile advises that he is in his room. The juvenile later advises that Randy is "breaking stuff."

16:31:28 Sergeant Prorok requests that additional units respond.

16:31:46 Dispatch radioed for City of Eau Claire Officer Mark Vang to divert to 2514 Corona Avenue to assist the county with a subject armed with a knife. City of Eau Claire Officers Tom Xiong and Jason Kaveney radioed that they would also be en route.

16:31:50 Sergeant Prorok radioed "he's got a knife" and that officers were "trying to deescalate him."

16:32:24 A deputy radioed that the subject had a knife and to clear the channel.

16:33:03 Dispatch radioed to deputies there were two children locked in the bedroom with the mom, but another juvenile was locked in another room. A deputy acknowledged the radio transmission and requested EMS for the male who was actively stabbing himself.

16:33:28 Dispatch paged EMS to stage in the area of 2514 Corona Avenue for a subject with stab wounds.

16:33:57 The medic acknowledged the page and indicated he was responding.

16:34:16 Sergeant Prorok radioed that everyone was out of the house and that officers were not entering at this point since Randy was actively trying to hurt himself. Deputy Ring radioed to dispatch that the scene was not safe and requested EMS to stage in the area.

16:34:57 An officer radioed, "he's coming out the front door, the front door."

16:35:14 Sergeant Prorok requested a city officer come up with a "40." Officer Vang acknowledged the radio transmission.

16:35:18 EMS radioed that they were staging in the area.

16:37:05 An officer radioed, "shots fired, shots fired, suspect down."

16:37:31 Sergeant Prorok radioed that officers were giving commands and that the suspect still had a knife in his hand.

## **SL INTERVIEWS**

SL was interviewed two times as part of the investigation. The first interview took place on November 22, 2020 and was conducted by Investigator Sally Standaert of the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office. SL said that she has been married to Randy for three years and that they live in the apartment together with the children. SL said that she and Randy began to argue on Saturday, November 21, 2020 in the evening hours. SL said that Randy had been drinking and that she knew he was drunk. SL said she took the two younger children and went into the bedroom, locked the door and went to bed. SL said she told the oldest child to lock the door to his bedroom and go to bed. SL said she did this because Randy gets aggressive when he drinks.

SL said Randy was upset with her about an e-cigarette. SL said she didn't know why Randy was upset, as she had given up smoking e-cigarettes. SL said Randy's behavior was unusual, but he had been smoking marijuana more frequently. SL said that Randy is a heavy drinker and uses marijuana quite often.

SL said that on Sunday morning, Randy acted like nothing had happened the night before. SL said she was still upset with his behavior the previous night. SL said she told Randy she was sick of taking care of the kids all day while he stayed in the garage drinking. SL described Randy's drinking as "one long relapse." SL said she located one beer in the garage and confronted Randy about going to Kwik Trip. SL said that Randy dismissed her concerns. SL said she then told Randy he needed to find a different place to stay.

SL said Randy didn't leave the residence and they continued to argue throughout the day. SL said some food was dropped off, as the family was quarantined. SL said after they were done eating, she told her son to go to his room because she could tell Randy was becoming more agitated. SL said Randy continued to fuel the argument. SL said Randy started smoking marijuana in the house and she told him he needed to get out. SL said Randy ignored the request and that she knew not to attempt to stop him because he would become more aggressive towards her.

SL said she heard something fall on the floor and went to look to pick it up. SL said Randy grabbed her and threw her on the couch. SL said Randy pushed her face into the couch by putting his fist on

her temple and applying pressure. SL said she feared her jaw was going to break due to how hard Randy was pushing. SL said this was the most aggressive Randy had been. SL described Randy as “just snapping.” SL said when Randy let her go, she got up and was fearful it would get worse if she reacted.

SL said her phone fell out of her pocket while she was on the couch. SL said Randy took her phone and referenced her not being able to call the cops. SL said she was able to stay calm and got her phone back from Randy. SL said she walked out the back door with her phone and around the house to call 911. SL said she told dispatchers they needed to pick Randy up and that if he knew she called 911, he would be very upset. SL said she received a text from police about what was happening with Randy. SL said she started packing belongings acting like she was going to leave the house instead. SL said Randy was very intoxicated at this point and was switching between emotional and aggressive.

SL said she continued to text with police while acting like she was calling to find a place to stay. While on the phone with police, SL went back into the house and gave the phone to Randy to speak with police. Randy was told by police he needed to find a ride and a place to stay. After speaking with SL, police advised SL they would not be taking Randy into custody. SL said she later received a text from police checking to see how things were going with Randy. SL advised that Randy was being a jerk and “talking a bunch of crazy stuff” in reference to a knife and how he was going to kill himself.

SL said Randy came into the kitchen to give her the phone back. SL said Randy then rushed at her, grabbed her by the throat and pushed her into the window. SL described it as Randy “crushing her throat.” SL said Randy then pushed her into the living room and tackled her. While on the floor in the living room, Randy began to choke SL while she was on her back. SL said she grabbed Randy and tried to push him into the chair to get away from him. SL said at this time, Randy ran outside with his hands up. SL said Randy then came back into the house and she could hear him digging in the silverware drawer. SL said she believe he was getting a knife.

SL said she went into the bedroom with the two young children and locked the door. SL said she also yelled to her son to stay in his room and lock the door. SL said she opened the window and an officer was standing outside the window. SL said she saw officers holding tasers. SL asked if they had found Randy or if he was still in the house. SL said that the police took her and her two children out of the house through the bedroom window and also removed her son from his bedroom window. SL said she could hear breaking glass during this time.

SL said that Randy had become more aggressive with her as time went on. SL described this date as being the worst. SL said on this date, she thought Randy was going to kill her.

SL was interviewed a second time on December 7, 2020. This interview was conducted by Sergeant Hart and Investigator Mikla. SL discussed Randy’s relapse with alcohol. SL said that Covid-19 did not help as in-person meetings were stopped. SL said that Randy had a “hard time” with alcohol. SL

recalled a couple weeks prior to his death, Randy had been welding in the garage and she smelled beer in the garage and observed full beer cans in a bag. SL said she disposed of the beer.

SL said that Randy struggled with mental health problems. SL said that Randy took medications and that one medication made him super aggressive and another was prescribed to help with the aggression. SL said a few weeks before his death, one medication dosage was increased to two pills. SL said when Randy took three of the pills, he got very aggressive. SL said at the time of his death, Randy was out of this medication and was drinking to “fill the gaps” until the medication could be refilled. SL said this medication was usually gone about ten days before Randy could get his next refill.

SL discussed Randy’s legal history, including his interactions with law enforcement. SL said that when Randy was released from prison, he was sober for about six months. Then, after an incident in November of 2019, SL didn’t let him return home until he got his medications straightened out. SL said when Randy misused his medications and then started drinking, he got “really weird.” SL confirmed that Randy was out of his medication on November 22, 2020. SL said Randy’s behavior was worse on that date than the other times he had misused his medications and consumed alcohol. SL said he had “never choked me out before” or pushed his fist into her jaw.

SL went over the events of the evening of November 22, 2020. SL recalled how Randy had pushed his fist into her face “as hard as he could.” SL said she thought her jaw was going to break. SL said when Randy was on the phone talking to the police officer, he handed her the phone with one hand and grabbed her neck with the other. SL said that Randy squeezed her throat and that once in the living room he got her down on the floor and put both of his hands around her neck. SL denied losing consciousness but said she feared for her life when Randy grabbed her by the throat. SL said she believed Randy was squeezing her throat as tight as he could. SL said Randy had never hurt any of the children.

SL described how she got up and was going to push Randy down onto the chair. SL said Randy saw the police outside the home and put his hands up in the air “right away.” SL said Randy then went outside and laid down on the lawn. SL said she followed Randy outside and told officers “he was hurting me” and “he hurt me.” SL said she went back inside and got her son. SL said she thought the police had Randy but then he came back inside. SL said she couldn’t understand why the officers would let Randy come back in the house and arm himself.

SL said she did not have any discussion with Randy when he came back in the house. SL said that Randy ran past her and into the kitchen where he started digging in a drawer. SL said she grabbed her kids and ran into her room because she thought Randy was going to hurt her. SL said she screamed at her other son to lock his door and stay in his room. SL said she didn’t see Randy arm himself with a knife but assumed that he was doing this because she heard him rummaging in the silverware drawer.

SL said once she was in the bedroom, she heard glass breaking but didn't know what happened next or what was going on. SL said she opened the bedroom window but couldn't see what was going on next to her. SL said she asked the officers, "did you guys get him?" SL said she handed the children to the officer and then she climbed out the window. SL said she ran to her other son's window and told him to come out the window and that they would catch him.

SL discussed the final moments of the incident with investigators and became emotional. SL expressed that she was very angry and didn't feel like the shooting was justified.

## **TL INTERVIEW**

TL was interviewed at the Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center as part of the investigation. The interview was conducted by a trained forensic interviewer. At the beginning of the interview, basic rules were discussed including not to guess at answers but simply say "I don't know" if the answer to a question was not known. Also discussed was the importance of telling the truth and to correct any misstatements of the interviewer, if any.

TL is the son of SL and the stepson of Randy LaCoursiere. TL said that on the day before the shooting, he had spent time with Randy welding in the garage. TL said that Randy got "really weird" and thought maybe it was because Randy had used CBD and alcohol. TL said he left and went into the house. TL said it was best to leave Randy alone and not start anything with him. TL said Randy had come inside and was "passing out" in the doorway. TL said he thought Randy drank a 6-pack of beer because he remembered seeing an empty 6-pack yoke on the floor in the garage. TL said that when Randy woke up, Randy and SL started arguing. TL said he went to his room, put headphones on and started playing video games.

TL said the next day, he spent a lot of time in his room but came out to eat lunch with everybody. TL said he stayed out to watch television before Randy and SL started arguing again. TL said Randy had been in the garage and suspected Randy had been drinking beer because he smelled like it. TL said Randy was acting the same way as he had been the day before. TL said "things got really bad" with Randy and SL arguing and that SL told TL to go to his room. TL said he came out of his room a short time later but SL told him to back into his room. TL said he came out of his room again, but a short time later SL told him to go back into his room as she and Randy were arguing for a third time.

TL said he could hear Randy getting violent because he heard a loud bang on the floor. TL said he could hear Randy ripping up the baby gate that was set up near the front door. TL said his mom called the police. TL said when he heard Randy in the living room, he also called the police. TL said he could hear his mom telling him to stay in his room. TL said the cops arrived and that they called for him to come out via his bedroom window. TL said he climbed out his window and ran behind a police car. TL said that right before the gunshots, he heard Randy screaming and crying. TL said he did not see the shooting but heard police fire "a good amount" of guns and described it as sounding like fireworks.

TL said on the day of the shooting, SL was mad at Randy because he wasn't supposed to be drinking. TL said Randy was acting "weird again" and was saying "weird things" like "I'm the devil." TL said Randy was getting "more mad" and "aggressive" and that Randy had consumed "enough beers to be violent." TL said he was in the living room when SL called 911 the first time because Randy wouldn't leave the house. TL said he recalled thinking there's "something serious going on." TL said he heard the window breaking at the front of the house but wasn't sure where Randy was at the time.

TL said he cut his hand when he climbed out of his bedroom window. TL said he recalled seeing red marks on SL's neck and that she later complained that her shoulder hurt. TL said he'd never had to call the police before and said he hadn't known Randy to be violent in the three years he'd known Randy. TL said Randy only got "weird" when he used CBD. TL said that if Randy drank multiple days in a row like he had that weekend, Randy would get physically aggressive.

## **RESPONSE TO SCENE AND SCENE WALKTHROUGHS**

Investigator Mikla reports that on November 22, 2020, he responded to the scene at 2514 Corona Avenue with Sergeant Hart and Investigator Standaert. Investigator Mikla reports he was advised by DCI Special Agent Joe Welsch that DCI Special Agent Brad Ruff was at the Sheriff's Department with several officers involved in the incident. Investigator Mikla reports that he requested DCI Special Agent Ruff photograph, secure, and seize officers' weapons, as well as photograph the uniforms that the officers were wearing.

Upon arrival at the incident location, Investigator Mikla reports the scene had been secured with evidence tape, barricades and numerous officers. The scene had been marked with cones notating where potential evidence was located and the officers' positions during the incident. Investigator Mikla reports that Investigators Coleman and Drost of the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office set up stations to reconstruct and map the scene. Investigator Mikla was briefed on the incident and provided the names of the officers involved. Investigator Mikla reports that investigators were assigned various tasks and that he stayed at the scene for processing and coordinated a neighborhood canvas.

As part of the investigation, scene walkthroughs were conducted on November 22, 2020. Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart conducted a scene walkthrough with Deputy Jacob Taylor. Deputy Taylor pointed out his location during the incident and stated he fired two rounds of less lethal shotgun rounds with his 870 shotgun. Deputy Taylor's location was labeled with a card placard G. Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart conducted a scene walkthrough with Deputy Brandon Ring. Deputy Ring pointed out his location and advised he fired his .40 caliber service weapon. Deputy Ring's location was labeled with a card placard T.

Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart conducted a scene walkthrough with Officer Mark Vang. Officer Vang pointed out his location which was marked with placard 9. Officer Vang indicated he fired one foam baton with his 40mm less lethal gun.



Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart conducted a scene walkthrough with Officer Tom Xiong. Officer Xiong pointed out his location which was marked with placard D. Officer Xiong advised he fired a 40mm less lethal baton.

Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart conducted a scene walkthrough with Officer Jason Kaveney. Officer Kaveney advised that he had his rifle out during the incident but did not fire it.

DCI Special Agent Joe Welsch conducted a scene walkthrough with Trooper Ryan Roth. Trooper Roth's position during the incident was marked with placard S.

Following the scene walkthroughs, Investigator Mikla reports that investigators started collecting evidence after being photographed and documented with total station. The first items logged were the weapons that were seized. After assisting collecting and processing the evidence, Investigator Mikla walked through the residence and photographed and videotaped the interior of the residence after receiving consent to do so. Investigator Mikla noted several bloody spots near the entrance door, in the living room, and in the kitchen. There was also a broken living room window on the south side of the residence near the entrance door, a broken window in the southwest bedroom, and a broken bedroom window on the northwest side of the residence.

Investigator Mikla reports the body of Randy LaCoursiere was turned over to Eau Claire County Medical Examiner Marcie Rosas.

## **DEPUTY BRANDON RING INTERVIEW**

Deputy Brandon Ring was interviewed on November 24, 2020 by Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Deputy Ring has been employed with the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office since 2014. Prior to that he was a police officer at the University of Wisconsin – Stout. Deputy Ring advised his current primary function was that of a patrol deputy. He is also assigned as a field training officer, an emergency vehicle operations course instructor, a vehicle contacts instructor, a firearms instructor, and a member of the special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team. On November 22, 2020, Deputy Ring was working the 0600-1800 shift and was field training Deputy Jacob Taylor. Deputy Taylor was driving the squad car and taking calls as the primary officer.

Deputy Ring advised that he and Deputy Taylor were dispatched to a disturbance after a 911 call came in from a female who said there was a disorderly subject at her home who needed to leave. The call was disconnected and Deputy Taylor tried to call the number back but there was no answer. Deputy Ring said since Deputy Taylor was driving, he sent a text message to the caller asking her to call him. Deputy Ring said a short time later, a female (SL) called his work phone. SL said her husband, Randy LaCoursiere, was on a no-drink through probation but had been drinking all day. SL said Randy was acting "aggressive" and that he needed to go. SL advised Deputy Ring that she thought Randy looked like he was going to hit her.

Deputy Ring advised that he asked to speak with Randy and eventually Randy came on the line. Randy denied to Deputy Ring that he had been drinking. Deputy Ring could detect a slight slur as Randy spoke. Randy told Deputy Ring he was willing to leave the residence and would make some phone calls to find a ride. After this, Deputy Ring concluded the conversation with Randy. Deputy Ring then spoke with SL and informed her that Randy was going to make some phone calls to get a ride in order to leave the residence. Before the call ended, Deputy Ring told SL he would call back in approximately ten minutes to check in. Deputy Ring told SL that if things escalated before he called back that she should call 911. At that time, Deputy Ring and Deputy Taylor had arrived in the area and were parked about 500 feet from 2514 Corona Avenue.

Deputy Ring advised that Sergeant Prorok arrived at their location. A short time later, Deputy Ring sent SL a text message asking if Randy had found a ride. Deputy Ring learned that Randy was being a "jerk." Deputy Ring then called SL and spoke again with Randy. Randy admitted that he hadn't made any attempts to find a ride. Deputy Ring heard yelling and then the phone went dead. Deputy Ring said he, Deputy Taylor and Sergeant Prorok responded to the residence and arrived within seconds. Deputy Ring said that as the officers approached the driveway, a male subject came out the front door of the residence and said, "I'm leaving." Deputy Ring said the male subject did not appear armed and said something to the effect of "shoot me, shoot me." Deputy Ring said the male subject fell down on the ground but got up and ran inside of the house.

Deputy Ring said he could see an adult female (SL) inside the residence through the large window that looked into the living room. Deputy Ring said he then saw the male subject run into the living room and the male subject had a large kitchen knife in his hand. Deputy Ring said he had been standing on the sidewalk right outside the living room window, so he jumped back into the grass when he saw the male subject with the knife. Deputy Ring said he saw SL run west toward a bedroom. Deputy Ring said he retreated further into the yard and remembered standing near a child's playground set in the front yard. Deputy Ring said he called out to Deputy Taylor and Sergeant Prorok that the male subject had a knife.

Deputy Ring said that he drew his department issued Glock 22 .40 caliber firearm and gave several commands to the subject to drop the knife. Deputy Ring said he could see the male pace back and forth from the living room toward the window near the front door. Deputy Ring said he could see SL gathering children and going toward another room of the residence. Deputy Ring said Deputy Taylor was able to help SL and some small children evacuate the residence through a window. Deputy Ring said that as Deputy Taylor evacuated SL and the children, the male subject continued to pace back and forth between the living room and the front door. Deputy Ring said as he continued to verbalize to the male subject to drop the knife, he observed the male subject start punching the living room window. Deputy Ring said that he saw the male subject start swiping the knife back and forth against his neck. Deputy Ring observed red marks on the male subject's neck. Deputy Ring said the male subject then started to stab himself in the abdomen. Deputy Ring said at that time, he requested the Communication Center to have EMS stage in the area. Deputy Ring said he continued to verbalize to the male subject to drop the knife and come outside.

Deputy Ring said the male subject began backing up from inside the living room and running toward the living room window where he kicked it several times. Deputy Ring said that the window broke and he could see that the male subject placed the knife on the windowsill with the blade pointed upward. Deputy Ring said the male subject rested his Adam's apple/neck on the tip of the blade and appeared to rest his weight on the tip of the knife, causing the knife to penetrate the skin.

Deputy Ring said he continued to command the male subject to drop the knife. Deputy Ring said the male subject then started to take large pieces of glass and throw them at him and the other officers, similar to how a person might throw a Frisbee. Deputy Ring said the male subject eventually threw the knife out the window but continued to break and throw glass at officers.

Deputy Ring said as he continued to give commands to the male subject to drop the knife and come outside, he observed the male subject come toward the front door with another knife in his hand. Deputy Ring said he knew a trooper had arrived so he told the trooper they needed to get into a better position to cover. Deputy Ring said they moved backward and to the right towards Sergeant Prorok's squad car. Deputy Ring said that as they moved to a position of cover, the male subject continued to throw large pieces of glass at him and the trooper.

Deputy Ring said a short time later, the male subject exited the residence and swiftly approached him and the trooper. Deputy Ring said that the male was armed with a knife and he told the male subject to drop the knife. Deputy Ring said the male subject didn't pause but kept walking swiftly toward him. Deputy Ring said he feared for his life and that of the trooper. Deputy Ring said the man continued to come toward him and the trooper with the knife in his hand. Deputy Ring said he discharged his firearm at the male subject and the male subject fell to the ground.

Deputy Ring said that he stayed in position and maintained lethal cover as a three-man team approached the male subject. Deputy Ring said that he saw the knife was still in the male subject's hand. Deputy Ring said he maintained his position until it was marked by Officer Kaveney. Deputy Ring said Sheriff Cramer arrived and transported him back to the sheriff's office. Deputy Ring said once he got to the sheriff's office, he turned over his duty weapon and was photographed by a DCI Special Agent. Deputy Ring said he later returned to the scene to do a walkthrough.

Deputy Ring said his squad dash cam was activated and that Deputy Taylor had the audio recording device attached to his person. Deputy Ring said he was wearing his full uniform and that the squad car was a fully marked squad car.

## **DEPUTY JACOB TAYLOR INTERVIEW**

Deputy Jacob Taylor was interviewed on November 24, 2020 by Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Deputy Taylor advised he is a deputy with the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office and was in field training with Deputy Ring at the time of the incident. Deputy Taylor has been a certified police officer since 2016 and had recently joined the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Taylor previously worked as a police officer with the City of Rice Lake for four and half years.

Deputy Taylor was working the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift on the day of the incident and was the primary officer/call taker as he field trained with Deputy Ring.

Deputy Taylor advised being dispatched to a disturbance call on Corona Avenue. Deputy Taylor advised the caller was a female who wanted an aggressive male out of the house. Deputy Taylor advised learning the residence was Covid positive and attempted to handle the complaint over the phone. Deputy Taylor advised he attempted to contact the complainant but was unsuccessful. Deputy Taylor said that Deputy Ring sent a text to the female complainant and she called him back.

Deputy Taylor advised that the female wanted a male out of the house. The male was being aggressive, drinking and was also on probation. Deputy Taylor said Deputy Ring made contact with the male in the house, who identified himself as Randy. Randy was going to make some phone calls and leave the residence. Deputy Taylor said that Deputy Ring followed up with a text to the female complainant. Deputy Taylor said Deputy Ring got a text back that read something to the effect of "rude" or "jerk." Deputy Taylor advised that Deputy Ring then placed a phone call to the female, following up on that text. Deputy Taylor advised hearing screaming and yelling and then the phone was disconnected.

Deputy Taylor advised that he, Deputy Ring and Sergeant Prorok then responded to the residence of 2514 Corona Avenue. Deputy Taylor said that when they arrived, a male came outside of the residence acting erratically and that he laid on the ground. Deputy Taylor advised that they attempted to talk to this person, but that the person got up and ran back into the house. Deputy Taylor advised he and Deputy Ring approached the house and attempted to make contact with this male to figure out what was going on. Deputy Taylor said that Deputy Ring got to an area near the front door and came back, saying something to the effect of "the suspect having a knife." Deputy Taylor advised that he observed a male appear with a knife at the front door. Deputy Taylor said there were several orders given telling the male to drop the knife. Deputy Taylor said the male subject then tore off a baby gate that was near the front door of the residence.

Deputy Taylor said he proceeded to a window just west of the front door and observed a female carrying an infant, running into another room. Deputy Taylor advised that the male subject then reappeared and was holding a knife to his neck and he started harming himself with that knife. Deputy Taylor advised that the male continued to be very erratic in his behavior with the knife and then broke out a window.

Deputy Taylor advised that he feared for the occupants in the residence and developed a plan to get the occupants evacuated out of the house. Deputy Taylor advised that he and Sergeant Prorok broke out windows and evacuated a female, two infants and a juvenile male. Deputy Taylor advised that after the evacuation, he heard some more windows breaking and said the male started throwing something at officers. Deputy Taylor said these items were being thrown at Deputy Ring. Deputy Taylor advised that shortly after that, the Wisconsin State Patrol arrived and he took cover behind that vehicle.

Deputy Taylor said that he then went and loaded his less lethal shotgun with super sock beanbag rounds. Deputy Taylor advised he was also carrying his Glock 40 caliber handgun, which he is trained and certified to use. After loading his less lethal shotgun he returned to the incident. At some point, he heard the male subject yell something to the effect of "kill me" or "shoot me." Deputy Taylor observed the subject coming out of the residence at a fast pace with a knife in his hand. Deputy Taylor said the male came down the steps of the residence toward Deputy Ring. Deputy Taylor said he feared for his safety and the safety of the other officers. Deputy Taylor said he fired two less lethal rounds at the suspect as the suspect continued to approach officers with a knife in his hand. Deputy Taylor also remembers hearing other shots as well.

Deputy Taylor said after the male suspect fell to the ground, he covered the male until officers were able to secure the male who was still holding a knife in his hand. Deputy Taylor then assessed the suspect, who was lifeless. Deputy Taylor said he then secured his less lethal shotgun in his squad car. Deputy Taylor then stood in the area where he had fired his weapon until he was relieved of his position. Deputy Taylor assisted in locating, marking and pointing out potential evidence. Deputy Taylor was then transported to the sheriff's office where his uniform was photographed. Deputy Taylor then responded to the scene and conducted a walk through. Deputy Taylor pointed out where he was standing when he fired. Deputy Taylor advised he had fired two super soft bean bag rounds and was unaware if he struck the suspect or not.

## **TROOPER RYAN ROTH INTERVIEW**

Trooper Ryan Roth was interviewed on November 25, 2020 by Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Trooper Roth has been with the Wisconsin State Patrol since October of 2016 and has been assigned to the Eau Claire Post since April of 2017. Prior to this, Trooper Roth was a civilian corrections officer in Cedar County, Iowa for six years and a part-time reserve deputy for the Cedar County Sheriff's Office for five years. Trooper Roth was also an emergency medical technician for six years and has been a certified as an EMT for the past ten years. Trooper Roth has taught first aid, CPR, tactical EMS and Stop the Bleed training. In addition to his duties as a trooper, Trooper Roth is a field training officer, a member of the Air Support Unit and a member of the Technical Reconstruction Unit.

Trooper Roth said on November 22, 2020, he checked on duty at 1500 hours and that he typically scans the radio frequencies for the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office and the Eau Claire Police Department. Trooper Roth said he heard "bits and pieces" of a call the county had been dispatched to. Trooper Roth said he remembered he'd heard that there was a male subject armed with a knife, heard the word "stabbing" and heard officers were evacuating people from the residence. Trooper Roth also recalled officers were sent to the residence emergent. Trooper Roth said he was about one mile away from 2514 Corona Avenue and responded emergent with his fully marked squad car's lights and siren activated. Trooper Roth said he was in full uniform and that his shirt had patches on the shoulders with the WSP emblem on them. While en route, Trooper Roth heard radio traffic that the male subject was "stabbing himself." Trooper Roth also heard a transmission to have EMS stage in the area.

Trooper Roth said that as he pulled up and parked on Corona Avenue, he observed a deputy kneeling at the front of a sheriff's squad car and that the deputy was holding a couple of children in a manner that appeared to Trooper Roth that the deputy was trying to shield or protect them. Trooper Roth said as he exited his squad, he heard the deputy say something about the family or male subject being positive for Covid-19.

Trooper Roth said that he saw Deputy Ring standing near a van parked in the driveway at 2514 Corona Avenue and that Deputy Ring had drawn his firearm. As he approached, Trooper Roth heard Deputy Ring say something to the effect of "up here, one on me." Trooper Roth ran up the driveway and took cover near the van. Trooper Roth said he observed a male subject in the front window of the residence and that the male subject was breaking the window glass with his bare hands. Trooper Roth said that the male subject then started "frisbee whipping" large pieces of glass at him and Deputy Ring. Trooper Roth said he and Deputy Ring both jumped and moved behind the van.

Trooper Roth said he told the male subject to stop throwing glass and the male subject asked him something to the effect of "what are you gonna do about it?" Trooper Roth said the male subject was leaning out of the window, throwing large pieces of glass at him and Deputy Ring. Trooper Roth said the male subject was screaming at the top of his lungs and appeared to have blood on himself. Trooper Roth said the male subject appeared "tensed up" and it seemed to him, based on his professional experiences, that the male subject was under the influence of something and/or having a mental health crisis.

Trooper Roth said the male subject continued to scream at the top of his lungs and described them as "loud, forceful screams." Trooper Roth said the male was mostly not saying anything as he screamed. At times, Trooper Roth heard the words "life" and "house." Trooper Roth said he felt the male subject was "amped up." Trooper Roth said he was afraid and felt that he and Deputy Ring were in danger. Trooper Roth said he was aware from his training that a person could bleed out in three to five minutes from a cut to an artery. Trooper Roth said he was afraid of being struck with one of the large pieces of glass the male subject was throwing at them. Trooper Roth said the male subject continued to yell loudly and unintelligibly at him and Deputy Ring. Trooper Roth did hear the male subject yell something similar to "come get me" or "come at me."

Trooper Roth said that Deputy Ring pointed toward the yard and said the male subject had dropped the knife out the window. Trooper Roth said he observed a knife just in the grassy portion of the yard near the sidewalk. Trooper Roth said he considered that if the male subject jumped out the window, he could reach for the knife and arm himself with it. Trooper Roth said this didn't seem out of the realm of possibility given the male subject's behavior that had been displayed already.

Trooper Roth said that he saw Sergeant Prorok with a rifle. Trooper Roth said that since he had officers with lethal coverage on either side of him, he holstered his department issued Glock 9mm firearm and drew his taser. Trooper Roth said that should the male subject jump out of the window, he would deploy the taser to prevent him from grabbing the knife on the ground. Trooper Roth said

he informed Deputy Ring and Sergeant Prorok that he was transitioning to a taser. Trooper Roth said he heard city officers arrive and announced "40 is here." Trooper Roth knew this to mean less lethal munitions. Trooper Roth said he then saw a city officer with a 40mm less lethal launcher. Trooper Roth said he, Deputy Ring and Sergeant Prorok then moved to the end of the driveway to position themselves near Sergeant Prorok's squad car.

Trooper Roth said the male subject then disappeared from the front window and went further into the home. Trooper Roth said he was very concerned about where the male subject was going, what the male subject was doing and/or what the male subject was getting. Trooper Roth remembered yelling to other officers asking if there were other weapons in the home but was uncertain as to whether or not anyone answered him. Trooper Roth said he and Deputy Ring held cover on the front of the house and Sergeant Prorok and a city officer with less lethal munitions moved toward the east side of the residence in the event the male subject fled the house from the north or east.

Trooper Roth said that from his position, he saw an interior light on near the back of the house and the outline of a male subject. Trooper Roth said he yelled to officers that he'd seen movement inside the residence. Trooper Roth said he then saw the male subject "very, very clearly" holding a large knife. Trooper Roth said he yelled to officers that the male subject had another knife. Trooper Roth said he drew his department issued firearm. Trooper Roth said he briefly lost sight of the male subject. Trooper Roth said suddenly the front door "flung" open and the male subject came out with a large knife in his hand. Trooper Roth said the male subject came charging at him and Deputy Ring with his arms swinging. Trooper Roth said he didn't remember if the male subject said anything but that the male subject "looked angry." Trooper Roth said he and other officers yelled "drop the knife, drop the knife." Trooper Roth said he started to retreat backwards in an attempt to create distance between himself and the armed male subject.

Trooper Roth said the male subject held a large knife and didn't seem to care what happened to himself or the officers. Trooper Roth said the male subject seemed to have no regard for the officers and made no movements that indicated he acknowledged the commands of officers to drop the knife. Trooper Roth described the male subject as walking "fast paced, moving with purpose, and coming right at us." Trooper Roth said he was extremely fearful for his safety and the safety of the other officers. Trooper Roth said it was the most scared he had ever felt. As he recounted the incident, Trooper Roth became emotional and took some time to regain his composure.

Trooper Roth said he heard a shot and doesn't believe he fired first. Trooper Roth said he fired his handgun while continuing to step backward away from the suspect. Trooper Roth thought he fired three or four rounds. Trooper Roth said that when the male subject fell to the ground, he stopped shooting. Trooper Roth said he maintained lethal cover on the male subject and saw that the male subject was still holding a knife. Trooper Roth said that he gave commands to "drop the knife" but the male subject didn't respond.

Trooper Roth said he performed an in-battery reload of his firearm and as he removed the magazine from his handgun, he observed he had fired five rounds. Trooper Roth said he and Deputy Ring

continued to provide lethal cover while Sergeant Prorok and two city officers moved toward the male subject from the east. Trooper Roth said he observed whom he believed to be Sergeant Prorok kick the knife out of the male subject's hand.

Trooper Roth said that other officers began to arrive on scene and he was told to remain in position so officers could mark his location. Trooper Roth said he eventually went to his squad car until Trooper Luck arrived and brought him to headquarters. Trooper Roth said DCI Special Agent Joe Welsch arrived and took photographs of him, performed a round count, and collected his firearm and taser.

Trooper Roth reiterated the incident had been the scariest situation he had ever been in. Trooper Roth said the officers never went after the male subject, instead they refrained from going inside the male subject's residence. Trooper Roth said the officers were trying to maintain a perimeter and keep the incident contained. Trooper Roth said he and Deputy Ring were trying to create space/distance between themselves and the male subject. Trooper Roth said the male subject threw glass at them and ultimately came at them with a knife. Trooper Roth said the male subject left him and other officers with no other option. Trooper Roth said he fired his weapon to stop the threat. Trooper Roth said his squad camera was activated during the incident and said there was a one to two second delay between the audio and video.

#### **OFFICER MARK VANG INTERVIEW**

Officer Mark Vang was interviewed on November 24, 2020 by Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Officer Vang is a six and a half year veteran of the Eau Claire Police Department. Officer Vang has prior experience as a Community Service Officer in the City of Appleton. Officer Vang is a certified taser instructor.

Officer Vang advised that on November 22, 2020, he was working the 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. shift. Officer Vang was wearing his uniform, including badge and shoulder patches. Officer Vang was operating his fully marked department squad car. Officer Vang was carrying his 9mm Glock sidearm, which was not utilized.

Officer Vang said that while working the shift, he was diverted to an incident on Corona Avenue. Officer Vang responded emergent, using his lights and siren. Officer Vang advised that county units were requesting less lethal options. Officer Vang said he arrived and angled his squad car in front of the residence, with his camera facing the suspect's residence. Officer Vang said he immediately armed himself with his single shot 40mm less lethal weapon, which he is trained and certified to use. Officer Vang said he loaded one round into the chamber and proceeded to take cover behind Sergeant Prorok's squad car. Officer Vang advised that there was a male breaking out a front window. Officer Vang advised the male in the window was saying "kill me." Officer Vang said he lost sight of the suspect as the suspect went back into the residence. Officer Vang said he proceeded to the east side of the residence in an attempt to contain the suspect. Officer Vang said as he was



working his way around the east side of the residence, he observed the suspect heading back to the front door of the residence with a knife.

Officer Vang said as he got back to the front of the residence, the male was coming out of the residence with a knife. Officer Vang described the male was coming out of the residence at a fast walk. Officer Vang said the male had a very determined look. Officer Vang said he remembers officers yelling "drop the knife." Officer Vang said he remembers yelling "40, 40,40." Officer Vang advised the suspect continued approaching officers with the knife. Officer Vang said he feared an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm. Officer Vang said he deployed his 40mm less lethal weapon, striking the suspect's inner thigh. Officer Vang said the suspect went down and that he heard additional shots. Officer Vang said he reloaded his weapon as the suspect still had a knife in his hand after going to the ground. Officer Vang said they tactfully approached and disarmed the suspect who still had a knife in his hand. Officer Vang advised that the suspect was checked and there were no signs of life.

Officer Vang went back to the position that he was at when he discharged his weapon. Officer Vang said the place he was standing was marked with cones. Officer Vang said he turned his less lethal 40mm weapon over to Sergeant Coit and was later transported to the sheriff's office by Officer Johnson. Officer Vang said that while at the sheriff's office, DCI Special Agent Ruff took pictures of his clothing. Officer Vang said he was later brought back to the scene for a walk through. Officer Vang said he confirmed the position where he fired and confirmed that he had fired one less lethal foam round at the suspect.

## **OFFICER TOM XOING INTERVIEW**

Officer Tom Xiong was interviewed on November 24, 2020 by Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Officer Xiong has been employed as a police officer by the Eau Claire Police Department for the past four years. Prior to this, he worked in a part-time capacity as an officer at the University of Wisconsin – Stout. Officer Xiong said that he currently worked as a patrol officer on the afternoon shift from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Officer Xiong said he is also a member of the Force Options Team as a Defense and Arrest Tactics trainer. Officer Xiong said he was also responsible for training new hires in defense and arrest tactics. Officer Xiong said he was also a member of the Tactical Response Team.

Officer Xiong said that on November 22, 2020, he checked on duty at 10:30 hours and was in full uniform and operating a fully marked squad car. Officer Xiong said he was in his squad car at the police department when he heard the Communication Center divert Officer Mark Vang to assist county deputies on Corona Avenue with a report of a man armed with a knife. Officer Xiong said he responded in emergency mode, with lights and siren activated. Officer Xiong said that Officer Kaveney was behind him and responded as well.

Officer Xiong said that as he monitored the radio, he felt the situation progressively worsened. Officer Xiong said he heard radio communications that the male subject was agitated and harming himself,

and that family members were being evacuated from inside. Officer Xiong also heard county units request that EMS stage in the area.

Officer Xiong said that as he got into the area, Officer Vang was ahead of him and he observed Officer Vang pull into Corona Avenue and park near the scene. Officer Xiong said he parked on Blakeley Avenue with Officer Kaveney. Officer Xiong said that while en route, he heard county deputies request less lethal force options. Officer Xiong said he exited his squad, grabbed his 40mm less lethal launcher, inserted a foam round into it, and charged it, rendering the launcher “call ready.” Officer Xiong said he saw Officer Kaveney remove an AR-15 .223 rifle from Officer Kaveney’s squad car. Officer Xiong said he and Officer Kaveney approached the target residence northbound from the parking lot of 2513 Corona Avenue. Officer Xiong said he heard officers yelling “less lethal” and “forty.” Officer Xiong said he couldn’t see the suspect, who he believed to be inside the house, but heard officers saying “drop the knife.”

Officer Xiong said when he arrived and got into position near the other officers, he saw a male subject exit the front door of the house. Officer Xiong described the male subject as walking “fast paced” southbound toward the officers with a knife in his hand. Officer Xiong heard the male subject say something to the effect of “kill me” and “are you gonna kill me.” Officer Xiong said he feared for the safety of himself, the other officers, and the general public. Officer Xiong said the male subject showed no signs of slowing or stopping as he came toward officers and was ignoring officers’ commands to drop the knife.

Officer Xiong said the male subject had the knife raised and was pointing it outward toward officers. Officer Xiong said he feared for his and other officers’ safety and believed there to be a strong likelihood of great bodily harm or death to him or other officers. Officer Xiong said he fired one less lethal 40mm foam round at the male subject. Officer Xiong believed he struck the male subject with the less lethal round. Officer Xiong said he never drew or fired his department issued Glock 45 9mm firearm. Officer Xiong said he heard other rounds fired and that all rounds sounded like they were fired in close succession to one another. Officer Xiong said he believed that if he didn’t deploy less lethal on the male subject, the male subject would have hurt him and/or the others.

Officer Xiong said he saw the male subject fall face down onto the ground in the front yard of the residence. Officer Xiong said he observed a three-man team make a tactical approach to the male subject and he saw someone kick the knife out of the subject’s hand. Officer Xiong said the three-man team evaluated the male subject and determined that the male subject was deceased.

## **OFFICER JASON KAVENEY INTERVIEW**

Officer Jason Kaveney was interviewed on November 24, 2020 by Investigator Mikla and Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Officer Kaveney has been a police officer for twenty-one years and employed by the Eau Claire Police Department for the past nineteen years. Prior to working for the Eau Claire Police Department, Officer Kaveney worked with the Chippewa County Sheriff’s Office, the Stanley Police Department, and the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Officer Kaveney’s current

function is a patrol officer. During his time with the Eau Claire Police Department, he has spent five years as a community service officer, five years as a detective, and fourteen years as an investigator on the department's crime scene unit.

Officer Kaveney said on November 22, 2020, he checked on duty at 0630 hours. Officer Kaveney said he was in his squad at the police department when he heard the Communication Center divert Officer Mark Vang to assist county deputies on a man with a knife call. Officer Kaveney said he and Officer Xiong headed toward the address on Corona Avenue in emergency mode, with lights and siren activated. While en route, Officer Kaveney said he heard radio traffic that deputies were breaking windows in order to evacuate people from the residence. Officer Kaveney said he also heard on the radio there was a male subject inside who was armed with a knife and cutting himself. Officer Kaveney also heard county deputies request less lethal munitions and that they were making attempts to communicate with the male subject and deescalate the situation. Officer Kaveney said he heard on the radio that the male subject had been in front of a window cutting himself and that the male subject had eventually smashed out the front window. Officer Kaveney said he heard deputies request that EMS stage in the area.

Officer Kaveney said when he pulled up toward the scene, he and Officer Xiong parked on Blakeley Avenue and he observed squad cars parked in front of 2514 Corona Avenue. Officer Kaveney said he and Officer Xiong got out of their squad cars and communicated briefly. It was determined that Officer Xiong would bring the department issued 40mm less lethal launcher while Officer Kaveney grabbed his department issued AR-15 .223 rifle. Officer Kaveney said he charged the rifle, resulting in a round being loaded into the chamber and making the rifle "call ready."

Officer Kaveney said he and Officer Xiong crossed the parking lot at 2513 Corona Avenue and approached the south side of the scene at 2514 Corona Avenue. Officer Kaveney said that as he approached the scene, he heard a lot of yelling and heard officers shouting something to the effect of "put the knife down" and "drop the knife." Officer Kaveney said he also heard someone yelling something to the effect of "stop, don't do it." Officer Kaveney said that as he arrived in the vicinity of the officers, he observed a male "charging" from the front door of the residence at 2514 Corona Avenue. Officer Kaveney said he observed the male had a large knife in his hand and he was moving quickly toward the officers and appeared to be agitated. Officer Kaveney said that he heard officers continue to yell commands to the male to drop the knife, but the male was not listening.

Officer Kaveney said that he was extremely fearful for his safety as well as the safety of the other officers and felt there was a likelihood of the male inflicting great bodily harm or death with the knife. Officer Kaveney said that he raised his rifle, took the safety off, and had his finger on the trigger in preparation to fire it. Officer Kaveney said that there was an obstruction and he didn't have a clear sight picture. Officer Kaveney said that as the male continued coming toward officers, he heard multiple shots fired. Officer Kaveney said the male subject fell to the ground in the front yard in a prone position with the knife still in his hand. Officer Kaveney said he heard officers yelling at the male to drop the knife but that the male didn't respond.

Officer Kaveney said he told the officers to remain in their positions, as he transitioned toward Sergeant Adam Prorok. Officer Kaveney said he and Officer Vang went east around a squad car, and together with Sergeant Prorok, formed a three-man team to make a tactical approach to the male subject. Officer Kaveney said that Sergeant Prorok led the team as they approached the male subject and that Sergeant Prorok kicked the knife out of the male subject's hand. Officer Kaveney said that he donned rubber gloves and turned the male subject over to attempt to perform life-saving measures. Officer Kaveney said that based on his observations of the injuries and a lack of pulse, he believed the male subject was deceased.

Officer Kaveney said that he rolled the subject back to a prone position. Officer Vang held lethal cover while he and Sergeant Prorok cleared the residence. Officer Kaveney said there was blood everywhere inside of the residence. Officer Kaveney said that he observed broken glass all over. Officer Kaveney said it was determined there was no one else inside of the residence. Officer Kaveney said upon his exit from the residence, he began to secure the scene and secure items of evidence while EMS was brought onto the scene. Officer Kaveney said he began marking the locations of the officers involved with paper and traffic cones. Officer Kaveney said he directed the securing of a primary and secondary scene with crime scene tape. Officer Kaveney also started a scene log at the primary scene.

Officer Kaveney said he had not seen the male subject until he exited the residence and charged toward the officers. Officer Kaveney said he never fired any rounds during the incident. Officer Kaveney said that he had his squad video activated, as well as the audio recording device. Officer Kaveney said he was wearing his full department issued uniform and operated a fully marked squad car at the time of the incident.

## **SERGEANT ADAM PROROK INTERVIEW**

Sergeant Adam Prorok was interviewed on November 23, 2020 by Investigators Mikla and Haefner as part of the investigation. Sergeant Prorok has been with the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office for approximately six years. Sergeant Prorok also has four and a half years of prior experience with Fall Creek. On November 22, 2020, Sergeant Prorok was working the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift. He was in full uniform and driving an unmarked black Ford Explorer. His uniform was marked with sheriff's patches. He also wore a full duty belt with a load bearing vest.

Sergeant Prorok advised that deputies were dispatched to 2514 Corona Avenue to take a report of a wife calling to report her husband was on a no-drink. The complainant stated her husband was acting strange and she wanted him removed from the house. Deputies made contact with this female who stated she wanted her husband out of the house. Deputies talked with the female's husband and he agreed to leave and get a ride out of there for the night. Sergeant Prorok said about ten minutes later, Deputy Ring contacted the female to see if the male had left. The female advised the male had not left. The Deputy again talked with the male who stated he could not get a ride. The talk continued with the male to see if he would just walk away from the house. Sergeant Prorok said they

then heard a blood curling scream from the female and the phone went dead. Sergeant Prorok said he, Deputy Ring, and Deputy Taylor proceeded to the residence.

Sergeant Prorok said that when they arrived, a male came running out of the house screaming and hollering. Sergeant Prorok said they identified themselves as law enforcement officers/Sheriff's Office and advised they wanted to talk with the suspect. The suspect then laid on the ground as officers continued to verbalize with him. As officers moved in to detain the suspect so they could figure out what was going on, the suspect got up and ran back into the house just as fast as he had come out of the house. Sergeant Prorok said the male suspect ran into the door and the wall as he reentered the house. Sergeant Prorok said once the suspect entered the residence, he broke out a picture window in the living room of the residence. Sergeant Prorok said the suspect started grabbing large shards of glass and throwing them at officers. The suspect then grabbed a knife and started stabbing himself in the upper torso and acting like he was going to slit his throat. Sergeant Prorok said that as this was going on, he and Deputy Taylor noticed a female with two children had barricaded themselves in a bedroom. Sergeant Prorok said he and Deputy Taylor then broke out a window and screen and evacuated the two children and the female. Sergeant Prorok said the occupants were just one room away from where the incident was occurring. Sergeant Prorok said he and Deputy Taylor evacuated a juvenile male from a back bedroom of the residence.

After evacuating the occupants of the residence, Sergeant Prorok said he returned to the front portion of the residence where other officers were covering the suspect who was still holding a knife. Sergeant Prorok said the male subject was screaming, hollering, acting erratically, and stabbing himself. Sergeant Prorok said the suspect was screaming and yelling throughout the whole incident. Sergeant Prorok said based on the situation, he made a radio call for additional assistance. Sergeant Prorok said based on the situation, he felt there was an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to the occupants that were in the house and the officers around the house or at the scene. Sergeant Prorok proceeded to the front of the residence with additional officers and continued to provide updated information. He requested that city officers respond with 40mm less lethal weapons. Sergeant Prorok said the suspect continued to be covered with lethal force with a less lethal option. Sergeant Prorok said he instructed all officers at the scene that the house was clear except for the suspect.

Sergeant Prorok requested officers on scene not to approach until less lethal options arrive. Sergeant Prorok said that when less lethal options arrived, they would come up with a plan to attempt to get the suspect to drop the knife to end the situation peacefully. Sergeant Prorok stated as he was getting in a position to cover the less lethal officers that arrived, the suspect came running/charging out the front door of the house. Sergeant Prorok said the suspect came out with a knife or two in his hands and was continually running toward the officers. Sergeant Prorok said he stepped out from behind cover to engage the suspect as he was coming at officers. Sergeant Prorok said he could not engage the target due to the location of other officers that were in his line of sight. Sergeant Prorok said he was armed with his Colt 223 rifle.

Sergeant Prorok advised other officers engaged the subject who had been coming at them with a knife and stopped the threat. Sergeant Prorok said the male suspect was yelling when he was charging officers. Sergeant Prorok believed that the size of the knife the suspect had was an eight to twelve-inch knife. Sergeant Prorok said the knife was pointed in the direction of the officers as the suspect charged them. Sergeant Prorok said there was continued verbalization during this incident. The verbalization included "stop; police; drop the knife; come out peacefully." Sergeant Prorok said they continued to identify themselves as the police. Sergeant Prorok believed the less lethal person fired first at the suspect which was approximately fifteen to twenty feet away. Sergeant Prorok said the less lethal round had no effect. Sergeant Prorok stated the threat continued to other officers and additional shots were fired which stopped the threat.

Sergeant Prorok said they regrouped after the threat was stopped and tactically approached the male suspect who was laying in the yard with a knife still in his hand. Sergeant Prorok said he kicked the knife from the suspect's hand, checked for signs of life with additional officers. Sergeant Prorok said there was no pulse and that the suspect was beyond life saving measures that could be done. Sergeant Prorok cleared the residence, checked on officers, and remained at the scene until Sergeant Bridget Coit took over the scene.

Sergeant Prorok said the scene was taped and secured for investigative purposes. Evidence was marked, officers were taken to the Sheriff's Office, and appropriate supervisors were notified. When asked how he felt when the suspect came out of the house, Sergeant Prorok said he feared for his life and life of other officers as the suspect was running straight at them with a knife.

## **TROOPER CAMERON GARCIA INTERVIEW**

Trooper Cameron Garcia was interviewed on November 23, 2020 by Investigators Mikla and Haefner as part of the investigation. Trooper Garcia advised he has been a Wisconsin State Trooper for just over three years. Trooper Garcia advised he had eight years of experience with the military police. Trooper Garcia said on the day of the incident, he was working the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift. He was operating his fully marked squad car and wearing his marked State Patrol uniform. Trooper Garcia said he was dispatched to an address on Corona Avenue to assist with a person with a knife threatening self-harm. Trooper Garcia said he arrived and made contact with an Eau Claire officer who was attempting to set up a perimeter and shielding family members from the incident. Trooper Garcia said he placed the family members in his car for safety purposes. Trooper Garcia advised he approached the scene to ensure the scene was safe and secure. Trooper Garcia stated he assisted the Eau Claire Police Department with maintaining scene safety, and preserving any evidence at the scene.

Trooper Garcia advised that he arrived when the incident was over and he knew there had been an officer-involved shooting. Trooper Garcia said that while en route, based on the radio traffic, he was hearing the situation was escalating. Trooper Garcia said that Trooper Roth aired the suspect was throwing glass and other projectiles at officers. Trooper Garcia said the last thing he heard from Trooper Roth was that the suspect dropped one knife and picked up another knife and then shots

were fired. Trooper Garcia said he realized while he was going to this call, this was a potentially violent scene.

## **TROOPER JUSTIN GLASENER INTERVIEW**

Trooper Justin Glasener was interviewed on November 28, 2020 by Sergeant Hart as part of the investigation. Trooper Glasener said he has been with the Wisconsin State Patrol for twelve years. Prior to this employment, he worked with the Wisconsin DNR and the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office. Trooper Glasener said he is currently assigned as a trooper and has also been a K9 handler for the past five years. Trooper Glasener said he is also a field training officer, a Vascar/radar/laser instructor and an evidence custodian.

Trooper Glasener said that on November 22, 2020, he was working from 1500-2300 hours in full uniform and in an unmarked squad car. Trooper Glasener said he typically monitors radio traffic for the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office and the Eau Claire Police Department. Trooper Glasener said on November 22, 2020 he missed the details of the original call that Eau Claire County Sheriff's Deputies had been dispatched to as he had been on a traffic stop. Trooper Glasener said once he cleared the stop, he heard radio traffic from deputies that the male subject had a knife. Trooper Glasener said he heard that a family had been evacuated and the male subject had stabbed himself.

Trooper Glasener said he was approximately two miles from the incident at 2514 Corona Avenue. Trooper Glasener said he responded emergent with his squad car's lights and siren activated. Trooper Glasener said that while en route, he heard deputies request mutual aid from city officers with less lethal force options. Trooper Glasener said that upon his arrival, he pulled onto Corona Avenue via Blakeley Avenue and parked behind Trooper Ryan Roth's squad car. Trooper Glasener said that as he pulled up, he observed a sheriff's deputy with a woman and children standing behind Trooper Roth's squad car. Trooper Glasener said he could see Trooper Roth and another sheriff's deputy near a van that was parked in the driveway of 2514 Corona Avenue. Trooper Glasener said that when he exited his squad car, the deputy motioned for him to stay with the family.

Trooper Glasener said that as he stood with the family, he heard a male subject yelling profanity at officers, including the word "fuck" from the area of the front window of the residence. Trooper Glasener said there was a tree in the way, so he didn't see the male subject. Trooper Glasener said he heard glass breaking and heard the male subject yelling at deputies something to the effect of "if you wanna fucking kill me, do it now." Trooper Glasener described the male subject as sounding "hostile." Trooper Glasener said he observed Trooper Roth and sheriff's deputies backing out of the driveway on foot and moving to a position of better cover near a squad car. Trooper Glasener said he tried as best he could to comfort the family. Trooper Glasener said he enveloped the four of them in his arms to shield and protect them.

Trooper Glasener said shortly thereafter, the male subject opened the front door of the residence and jumped down from the steps on to the lawn. Trooper Glasener said the male subject then walked "fast and aggressive" at officers. Trooper Glasener said he heard the male subject say something to

the effect of “fucking kill me” and “kill me now.” Trooper Glasener said he heard officers yelling commands to “stop” and “drop the knife” but the male subject continued walking aggressively toward the officers. Trooper Glasener said the male subject wasn’t running but was “moving fast” and appeared to be “closing the distance” between himself and officers. Trooper Glasener said when the male subject got closer to the officers, he heard shots being fired and then saw the male subject fall face first onto the lawn. Trooper Glasener said then the male subject fell to the ground, the firing stopped.

Trooper Glasener said he observed three officers approach the male subject on the ground of the yard at 2514 Corona Avenue. Trooper Glasener said he observed a deputy kick something away from the male subject. Trooper Glasener said he observed more officers arrive on scene, including Trooper Garcia. Trooper Glasener said Trooper Garcia transferred the family to Trooper Garcia’s squad car. Trooper Glasener said he then assisted officers with establishing primary and secondary perimeters.

Trooper Glasener described the incident as a “tense and scary situation.” Trooper Glasener said the male subject was not responding to the officers’ commands. Trooper Glasener said it appeared to him that the male subject didn’t care about anyone. Trooper Glasener said that when he heard the male subject breaking out the window, he had a “bad feeling” something bad was going to happen. Trooper Glasener said that the armed male subject had the opportunity to do harm to officers and others.

## **DW INTERVIEW**

DW was interviewed on December 1, 2020 by Investigator Mikla as part of the investigation. DW resides on Corona Avenue and had previously filled out a written statement regarding the incident on November 22, 2020. DW said that on November 22, 2020 at about 4:37 p.m., the first thing that caught his attention was a shattering noise. DW said he looked out his window at a duplex across from him and noticed one of the main windows of that duplex was missing. DW said he observed a male in front of another window screaming incoherently and tearing apart the remaining part of that window. DW described the screams as loud and stated the scream was so high that it was actually quiet. DW said he could not remember ever hearing anything like that even in a horror movie.

DW said he felt very scared with his first thought as something being very wrong and that he should call 911. DW said he looked around and noticed police cars on the street and approximately five armed officers closing in on the duplex across the street from him. DW said with the screaming, hollering, smashing and the violence, he had no idea what was going on. DW described the officers on scene as being in full uniform and trying to engage the suspect who was in direct sight of the officers. DW described the behavior of the suspect as “psycho.”

DW said he went back to his computer and looked out the window a short time later and saw the suspect running out on the lawn at the line of officers. DW stated as the suspect was running towards the officers, he heard gunshots and observed the suspect go down. DW said he heard



officers call for a bus which he knows is an ambulance. DW further described the suspect screaming a horrible scream as he was running at officers. DW said he had the sense the officers were yelling at the suspect but could not hear what they were yelling.

DW said during the incident, he texted his neighbor and advised his neighbor to stay in their residence. DW described the suspect as having a "short circuit." DW said when the incident was occurring, he feared for the safety of the neighborhood as well as his life. DW said this was a type of person you do not want to get into physical contact with. DW said you would go into a basic survival mode if physical contact was made with this type of person. DW said the officers worked with what they had and did what they needed to do in self-defense. DW believed the officers did what they were supposed to do to protect themselves and others.

## **FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORT**

A forensic autopsy was performed on November 23, 2020 as part of the investigation. The autopsy was performed at the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office in St. Paul, MN by Dr. Victor Froloff, Assistant Medical Examiner. Investigators Charles Coleman and Chris Drost of the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office attended the autopsy and collected evidence. Eau Claire County Medical Examiner Marcie Rosas also attended the autopsy. The manner of death was determined to be homicide and the cause of death was "cerebral lacerations and exsanguination due to multiple gunshot wounds." The autopsy identified six different gunshot wounds. The autopsy also identified sharp force injuries to the body, including: multiple oblique superficial incised wounds to the left and right sides of the neck; a stab wound to the right inguinal area of the body; and small superficial sharp force injuries to both hands and forearms. The autopsy also identified blunt force injuries to the body including: abrasions to the top of the head, torso and extremities; abrasions and contusions of the left anterior femoral area; and abrasions of the right back.

As part of the autopsy, toxicology tests were performed. The blood panel screen found the deceased to have a blood alcohol level of .214. The screen also showed a positive test for delta-9 THC.

## **RANDY LACOURSIERE HISTORY**

As part of the investigation, Sergeant Hart provided records regarding Randy LaCoursiere and past law enforcement contacts. One such report was from the Prescott Police Department, namely case number 2011-2075. A review of this report shows Randy LaCoursiere was arrested following a domestic disturbance. The report indicates LaCoursiere had fled the scene. Dispatch provided a description as well as a caution that LaCoursiere had been known to fight with cops.

The officer in that report noted observing a subject matching the description of LaCoursiere. When the officer asked if his name was Randy LaCoursiere, LaCoursiere said "yeah, what the fuck about it?" LaCoursiere admitted he had been drinking that evening and then proceeded to walk away from the officer. The officer ordered him to stop and LaCoursiere told the officer to "fuck off" and that he didn't have to listen to the officer. LaCoursiere was put into an escort hold and he then tensed his

shoulders and arms and had both hands clenched into fists. LaCoursiere was told to stop resisting several times.

LaCoursiere was told to put his left hand on top of his head. He responded by stating “what the fuck for?” and “fuck you I’m not fucking doing it.” LaCoursiere then became very agitated and pushed against the officers.

Officers spoke with the complainant. The complainant indicated that LaCoursiere grabbed her by the throat and pushed her up against the sliding glass door. After speaking with the complainant, LaCoursiere was advised he was being arrested for domestic battery. LaCoursiere said “no fucking way” was he under arrest. He was asked to cooperate but started crying and yelling and throwing his body around. At this point, he was already in the back seat of a squad car. A preliminary breath test showed an alcohol concentration over four times the legal limit.

As he was transported, LaCoursiere kicked the side back window twice and also hit his head against the bars on the window. Officers stopped the vehicle and attempted to restrain LaCoursiere further. LaCoursiere was kicking and screaming and fighting with the officers. While doing so, LaCoursiere screamed, “I’m gonna fucking kill you and everyone around here! You fucking asshole fuck.” At one point, LaCoursiere slammed his head into the pavement three to four times. LaCoursiere then lifted up his head and mouth toward the officer and spit a large amount of blood at the officer. LaCoursiere then said, “how the fuck do you like that?” EMS was notified and eventually evaluated LaCoursiere. While under the care of EMS, LaCoursiere got angry and was combative with them. This included pulling an IV out and punching a medic in the groin.

As a result of the incident, LaCoursiere was booked on the following charges: strangulation, disorderly conduct, assault on a health care worker, throwing/discharging bodily fluids at public safety workers, battery to a police officer and battery to a paramedic.

A record review indicates this matter resulted in felony convictions for battery to a law enforcement officer and battery to a rescue worker.

In addition to the above incident, records indicate Randy LaCoursiere has also been convicted of disorderly conduct, felony attempted battery to an emergency rescue worker, felony throwing/discharging bodily fluid at a public safety worker, and felony threat to a law enforcement officer.

## **PHOTOGRAPH – VIDEO REVIEW**

Several hundred photographs were taken as part of the investigation. Also, several hours of video footage was reviewed as part of the investigation. Sergeant Hart provided summaries of the relevant video footage.

Sergeant Hart authored a report summarizing the audio-video recording from Trooper Roth's squad camera. The first video segment is 17:03 in length. The next nine video segments were approximately 40 minutes in length and the last video segment was 11:03 minutes in length. The following highlights the contents of that report. Sergeant Hart observed as Trooper Roth turned onto Corona Avenue, Deputy Taylor was kneeling down in front of Deputy Ring's squad car, holding two small children. Trooper Roth parked at the driveway to the west of 2514 Corona Avenue and made contact with Deputy Taylor. Sergeant Hart observes Deputy Ring in the front yard of 2514 Corona Avenue, appearing as though he was standing south of the front door. Trooper Roth walked along the driver's side door of Deputy Ring's squad car, with what appeared to be his department issued firearm in his right hand. Trooper Roth joined Trooper Ring in the front yard of 2514 Corona Avenue. As Trooper Roth jogged toward Deputy Ring, Sergeant Hart observes Deputy Ring duck down, jump backward and retreat southbound toward the street. Sergeant Hart also hears what sounds like glass breaking.

Deputy Ring appeared to have his department issued firearm pointed toward the residence. Trooper Roth also started to retreat backwards. Sergeant Hart hears an officer relay that the knife is outside. Sergeant Hart also hears officers yelling at the subject "don't throw the glass." At that time, Sergeant Prorok enters the camera view and walks onto the driveway of 2514 Corona Avenue.

Deputy Ring and Trooper Roth then retreated to the driveway and appeared to be standing behind the dark blue minivan. Sergeant Hart hears the male subject at 2514 Corona Avenue yelling. Sergeant Hart hears Trooper Roth say he was transitioning to "non-lethal" and observed him holster his firearm. At that time, Officer Mark Vang arrived and parked near Deputy Ring's squad car. Sergeant Hart continues to hear the male subject shrieking and making unintelligible statements.

Sergeant Hart hears Trooper Roth relay to dispatch that the male subject had dropped the knife but was breaking and throwing glass at officers. Trooper Roth also relayed that he had non-lethal munitions and lethal cover. Sergeant Hart observes Deputy Ring, Sergeant Prorok, and Trooper Roth retreat southbound onto Corona Avenue. Sergeant Hart hears Trooper Roth ask if there are weapons in the house. After retrieving a less lethal shotgun, Deputy Taylor walked westbound and asked if there were weapons in the house. Sergeant Hart hears a female say "no." Sergeant Hart hears officers say, "he got another knife."

Sergeant Hart then observes the front door of 2514 Corona Avenue open and heard several officers yell, "drop the knife, drop the knife." The male subject appears to have an object in his left hand and swiftly walked toward the officers who were standing on the roadway of Corona Avenue. Sergeant Hart hears gunshots and observed the male subject fall to the ground in a prone position. At this time in the video, Officer Tom Xiong and Officer Jason Kaveney come into camera view from the south. Sergeant Hart hears an officer relay to dispatch that shots had been fired and that the male subject was down with a knife in his hand.

Sergeant Hart hears officers yelling for the male subject to drop the knife. Sergeant Hart hears an officer state they were going to make an approach. Sergeant Hart observes three officers approach

the male subject who was prone on the ground. The lead officer appears to kick something away from the male subject. Sergeant Hart observes Officer Kaveney roll the male subject over and check for signs of life. Officers then begin to process the scene.

Sergeant Hart authored a report summarizing the audio-video recording from Deputy Ring's squad camera. The first recording was timestamped 16:31:33 to 19:47:08. The second recording was timestamped 19:47:09 to 23:02:43. The third recording was timestamped 23:02:44 to 01:54:22. The following highlights the contents of that report. The video begins at 16:31:33 and appears mounted to the dash of Deputy Ring's squad car. The video is pointed west toward Blakeley Avenue. Sergeant Hart notes that Deputy Taylor had the audio recorder device affixed to his uniform.

At approximately 16:32:26, Deputy Ring says the subject had a knife and requested dispatch to clear the channel. At 16:32:33, Sergeant Hart hears Deputy Ring call out, "Randy, can we talk to you please?" Sergeant Hart also hears an officer say something to the effect of "nobody's going to go in there right now." At 16:33:34, Sergeant Hart hears glass breaking. At 16:34:24, Sergeant Hart hear an officer say, "he's trying to hurt himself." At 16:35:01 Trooper Roth arrives on scene and pulls up in front of Deputy Ring's squad car. Deputy Taylor relays to Trooper Roth that the male subject was actively hurting himself and that "he's coming out, he's coming out."

At 16:36:00, Sergeant Hart hears a male screaming. At approximately 16:36:06, it sounds like the male screaming said "fucking kill me." Sergeant Hart hears more glass breaking. At approximately 16:36:20 Trooper Glasener arrives. At 16:36:53, Sergeant Hart hears officers say "he's got another knife." At 16:36:55, Sergeant Hart hears Deputy Taylor say "less lethal." At 16:36:59, Sergeant Hart hears officers yell "drop the knife." Sergeant Hart then hears a series of shots fired.

Sergeant Hart authored a report summarizing the audio-video recording from Officer Vang's squad camera. The first recording was timestamped 16:31:37 to 17:20:31. The second recording was timestamped 17:20:31 to 18:09:25. The third recording was timestamped 18:09:25 to 18:58:19. The fourth recording was timestamped 18:58:19 to 19:43:29. The following highlights the contents of that report. At 16:33 hours, Sergeant Hart hears a deputy over the radio state that everyone was out of the house and that law enforcement was not entering at this time because the male subject was actively trying to hurt himself.

As Officer Vang approached the area, Sergeant Hart hears a deputy request the PD to come up with a "40," which Sergeant Hart knows to be a 40mm less lethal launcher. Shortly after Officer Vang's arrival, Sergeant Hart hears the male subject inside 2514 Corona Avenue shrieking loudly and saying something to the effect of "fucking kill me." As the male continues to shriek, Sergeant Hart observes that the storm door was open to the residence. Sergeant Hart observes movement inside the window to the left/west of the front door. Sergeant Hart observes something appear to hit the storm door, as it moved back and forth. At 16:36:19, Sergeant Hart observes Deputy Ring in the driveway and retreating backwards away from the residence. At approximately 16:36:20, Sergeant Hart observes Sergeant Prorok and Trooper Roth retreat backwards away from the residence. Officer Vang joins them and all four officers move east alongside Sergeant Prorok's unmarked squad car.

Sergeant Hart hears an officer ask if anyone is positioned on the back door of the residence and another officer responded “no.” Sergeant Hart hears Officer Vang say “I’ll go with you.” Officer Vang then relays that he saw movement from the front of the residence. Officer Vang yells “he’s out front” and then “he’s right there.”

At 16:36:57, Sergeant Hart observes the front door of 2514 Corona Avenue open. Sergeant Hart hears something to the effect of “are you going to fucking kill me or what.” At the time the front door opened, Deputy Ring was standing in front of Sergeant Prorok’s squad car. Deputy Taylor had retrieved the less lethal shotgun from the squad car and was standing near the front driver’s side quarter panel of Officer Vang’s squad car. Sergeant Hart hears Officer Vang yell “40, 40, 40” several times. Sergeant Hart observes Deputy Ring and Trooper Roth retreating backward onto Corona Avenue.

The male subject exits the residence and walked to the front yard. Sergeant Hart hears officers yelling and then hears shots fired. Sergeant Hart observes the male subject appearing to have something in his left hand. The male subject fell to the ground in a prone position. Officers yelled for “Randy” to drop the knife several times but there was no response. Officer Kaveney, Officer Vang, and Sergeant Prorok approach the male subject. Officer Kaveney tells Sergeant Prorok to “kick the knife out.” Sergeant Hart observes Sergeant Prorok kick something out of the male subject’s left hand. Sergeant Hart then observes Sergeant Prorok kick something else on the ground near the male subject and hears Sergeant Prorok say “knives are away.” Officer Kaveney is observed rolling the male subject over to check for signs of life. Officers begin to process the scene.

## **USE OF FORCE JUSTIFICATION**

After a review of the investigation done by the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Office, I have concluded that the use of force against Randy LaCoursiere on November 22, 2020 was justified. The analysis of this decision includes, but is not limited to, the following information.

1. Multiple 911 calls were made from the residence at 2514 Corona Avenue on November 22, 2020. During these calls, erratic and violent behavior was described as well as the fact that Randy LaCoursiere had been consuming alcohol.
2. In follow up interviews, the spouse of Randy LaCoursiere, SL, described significant violent behavior against her on the day of the incident. This included squeezing her jaw, pushing her head up against glass, and choking her with both hands. SL expressed that she thought she was going to die that day.
3. After expressing initial cooperation with law enforcement over the phone, Randy LaCoursiere repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to follow the commands of officers throughout the incident.

4. Randy LaCoursiere demonstrated erratic behavior throughout the incident. This included breaking glass, throwing glass at law enforcement, screaming very loudly and speaking unintelligibly.
5. Randy LaCoursiere engaged in multiple acts of self-harm on the day of the incident. This included cutting his neck with a knife and stabbing himself in the upper leg and groin.
6. Randy LaCoursiere armed himself multiple times with knives during the incident.
7. Randy LaCoursiere was under the influence of alcohol and THC during the incident.
8. Randy LaCoursiere ignored repeated commands from law enforcement to drop the knife.
9. Randy LaCoursiere made multiple statements during the incident to law enforcement about being killed.
10. Despite repeated commands from law enforcement, Randy LaCoursiere advanced on officers while wielding knives.
11. The weapons wielded by Randy LaCoursiere during the incident were capable of inflicting great bodily harm or death.
12. Randy LaCoursiere had a history of being combative with law enforcement. Dispatch relayed this information to the initial law enforcement who responded to the scene.
13. The officers involved, given the actions of Randy LaCoursiere, had a reasonable basis to fear great bodily harm or death, especially when LaCoursiere ignored their multiple commands and continued to advance on them with a knife.

I would like to thank the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office, and specifically Investigator Jim Mikla and Sergeant Brandie Hart for performing the investigation into the incident that took place on November 22, 2020 at 2514 Corona Avenue. The materials submitted as a result of this investigation were voluminous, informative, and extremely thorough. The totality of the circumstances, as evidenced by the investigation materials submitted, support the use of lethal force by law enforcement on November 22, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this information.

Gary King  
District Attorney  
Eau Claire County, WI