



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**January 9, 2024**

**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley and the Winnebago Boone County Integrity Task Force provide the following update on the officer involved shooting that occurred on December 24, 2023. In a previous memo, the officer involved was not named. The updated press release including his name is below.

It is imperative that the community understand that the following information is based on a preliminary and ongoing investigation, which continues to evolve as investigators interview witnesses, review physical and electronic records, and analyze forensic evidence. The Task Force and the State's Attorney's understanding of the facts and circumstances may change as additional evidence is collected and analyzed. Further, the State's Attorney will, and must, reserve all judgment until the investigation is complete.

On December 24, 2023, at approximately 12:11 a.m., a resident of an apartment at 1309 Charles St. called 911 to report her neighbor in another apartment saying things like "help me" and "kill me" repeatedly. Two Rockford Police Department Officers responded to the location. After arriving on scene, Officers couldn't immediately gain entry and called the landlord to gain access to the common area stairwell. Upon gaining access to the apartment, the Officers immediately encountered Patrick R. Kirby at the door of his apartment. Kirby had a knife and a boxcutter in his hands. Officers gave commands for Kirby to drop the knife. Kirby advanced towards the Officers refusing to drop the weapons. At that time, Officer Michael Rhein fired three rounds at Kirby. Kirby was given medical attention at the scene but died a short time later.

After the officer involved shooting, and at the request of Rockford Police Department Chief Carla Redd, the Winnebago Boone County Integrity Task Force arrived on scene and took over the investigation. Officers from Rockford Police Department are not participating in the investigation.

Any allegations contained herein are merely allegations and all are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.



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