



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**March 17, 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 March 16, 2024.

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 March 16, 2024, at approximately 9:10 AM, South Beloit Police Officer Paul Reed conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at IL 251 southbound north of Prairie Hill Road. It was discovered that the male front seat passenger, Ray Castro, had two warrants out for his arrest. Assisting Officers arrived and Castro was asked to exit the vehicle. Castro refused and the Officers attempted to forcibly remove him. Castro resisted and a struggle ensued. The female driver accelerated the vehicle from the scene at a high rate of speed. A South Beloit Police Officer was knocked down, but was able to escape being run over. Officer Reed was inside the vehicle attempting to arrest Castro while the vehicle accelerated. During the struggle, Officer Reed fired his service weapon, striking the female driver in the leg. The vehicle went through the center median and through the northbound lanes of IL 251 before coming to rest in the ditch on the east side of IL 251.

Castro exited the vehicle and fled on foot. He eventually entered Macktown Lounge at 1339 Dearborn Avenue in South Beloit. Once inside, Castro accosted a man at knifepoint, took his car and fled northbound in the stolen vehicle. Roscoe and Beloit Police Officers located the stolen vehicle and attempted to stop it. Officers performed a "pit maneuver" and stopped the vehicle. Castro rammed the Roscoe Officers squad car with his vehicle in the driver's door. The Roscoe Officer fired his weapon striking Castro. Castro was transported to a local hospital where he



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succumbed to his injuries. The female was transported to a Rockford hospital where she remains in stable condition.

After the officer involved shooting, and at the request of South Beloit Police Chief Adam Truman and Roscoe Police Chief Samuel Hawley, the Winnebago Boone County Integrity Task Force arrived on scene and took over the investigation. Officers from the South Beloit and Roscoe Police Departments will not participate in the investigation.

Task Force investigators are in the preliminary portion of the investigation and will begin interviewing witnesses, collecting evidence from the scene, and obtaining video evidence, including officers' body cam footage. Once their investigation of the incident in which the female was shot is complete, they will turn over their investigative reports to the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office for review and a determination of whether criminal charges are warranted against any of the involved officers.

The Winnebago County State's Attorney will not be reviewing the officer involved death that occurred in Rock County, Wisconsin. Rather, that incident will be investigated by Wisconsin's Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). The Rock County District Attorney will then review DCI's investigation to determine whether criminal charges are warranted.

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

### **CONTACT PERSON:**

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