



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
January 29, 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 the afternoon of January 28, 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 January 28, 2024, at approximately 1:46pm, Rockford Police Officers responded to a domestic violence call in the 3000 Block of Jacqueline Dr. Upon arrival, officers met with a victim who reported that she got into a verbal argument with Malik Trotter. Trotter subsequently left the apartment, with the victim's phone. The victim also reported that her son heard three gunshots right before Trotter left the area.

A short time later, at approximately 3:15pm, the victim told police her phone was located via Life 360 at a business in the 2800 Block of 11th Street. Rockford Police Officer Vargas and his K-9 Nyx responded and located Trotter who fled on foot. Officer Vargas and Nyx pursued Trotter over a fence where the K-9 quickly caught up to the suspect. Before Officer Vargas was able to catch up to Trotter and his K-9, he heard three gunshots. As Officer Vargas got closer, he saw Nyx lying next to a residence with what appeared to be gunshot wounds. Officer Vargas located Trotter across the street. Trotter fired at Officer Vargas, who returned fire. Trotter fell to the ground with a gunshot wound to his leg. Officer Vargas approached Trotter, and placed him into custody. Trotter was given first aid at the scene until Rockford Fire arrived to transport him to the hospital. A short time later, it was confirmed that K-9 Nyx had succumbed to her injuries.



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

Task Force investigators are in the preliminary portion of the investigation. Task Force Officers are currently interviewing witnesses, collecting evidence from the scene, and obtaining video evidence, including officers; body and dash camera footage.

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

This press release and further information about the investigation of officer involved shootings can be found at <https://winnebagocountystatesattorney.com/transparency>.

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