



PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG.
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BUREAU OF POLICE

This release is from the Office of the Chief of Police for the City of Oneonta and is not to be confused with an investigative finding. This investigation is still in progress, I will not be releasing details in regard to the incident outside of what the New York State Police have currently released.

As the Acting Police Chief for the City of Oneonta I have a duty to keep the public informed of incidents occurring within the city that are of public interest. On April 6th, 2021 at or about 1:10 pm, Officers from the Oneonta Police Department responded to 48 River Street in the City of Oneonta to the report of a domestic dispute involving a knife. This call for service subsequently resulted in an officer involved lethal shooting.

Unfortunately, this type of incident is a difficult reality of policing and one which needs to be fully and professionally investigated by independent, outside agencies. We have called upon the New York State Police to conduct the investigation. We have also notified the New York State Attorney General's Office who, per statute, now has oversight of these types of investigations. The New York State Attorney General's Office of Special Investigations is not a Law Enforcement Affiliate and has the authority to prosecute cases of police misconduct.

There has been a good deal of commentary regarding this incident that has been inaccurate, which is not unusual given the nature and seriousness of the event. We are committed, hardworking professionals and have cooperated fully with the investigation. Though we are not the investigating agency, I have had the opportunity to review a considerable amount of evidence concerning this incident. I am confident based on my training and experience that the Office of Special Investigations will clear up any doubt that this response was appropriate, logical, reasonable and necessary as the law requires.

We are not naive in understanding the public concern and scrutiny of such events, but I ask that we refrain from passing judgement on this incident until the facts and actions can be made public. The public demands that the investigation process for incidents such as these are thorough and meticulous. I truly understand your desire for information, but I must ask that all requests for comment continue to be directed to the State Attorney General's Office of Special Investigation.

The Police Department will continue to operate normally during this investigative process and as always we are committed to your public trust and safeguarding public safety.

Yours in service,

Lieutenant C.J. Witzenburg (Acting Chief) City of Oneonta Police