



# OFFICE OF THE WINONA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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June 6, 2019

Mark Ostrem  
Olmsted County Attorney  
Olmsted County Government Center  
151 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Rochester, Minnesota 55904

Re: Conflict Case Review for Olmsted County of the  
In-Custody Death of Albert T. Dashow on March 27, 2019

Dear County Attorney Ostrem:

At your request, due to the potential conflict of interest identified, our office reviewed the matter of the in-custody death in Rochester, Minnesota of Albert T. Dashow on March 27, 2019 for potential criminal charges. Based on that review, I find that the evidence does not support bringing criminal charges against any of the officers who responded to the traffic stop involving Mr. Dashow. Therefore, I am declining to bring criminal charges in this matter. My findings are as follows:

Three of my assistant county attorneys, including two of my most senior criminal attorneys, and I, reviewed law enforcement reports, materials from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, squad videos, body camera recordings, photos, audio recordings, autopsy materials, and other information related to the in-custody death of Mr. Dashow. We also interviewed Dr. Reade Quinton of the Medical Examiner's Office, concerning his autopsy findings.

The evidence indicates that Mr. Dashow's tragic death appears to have resulted from Mr. Dashow's medical conditions in combination with the stress of the incident. The various video and audio recordings of the incident demonstrate that law enforcement personnel acted in a manner consistent with the response necessary and appropriate under the circumstances of the incident and did not use excessive force toward Mr. Dashow. Law enforcement personnel also provided medical care as soon as a medical need became apparent. The autopsy finding as to the manner of death does not imply fault. Mr. Dashow's death was not the result of criminal conduct by any of the responding Rochester Police Department personnel.

Based upon our review of the evidence and the applicable law, it is my conclusion that no criminal charges against Officer Wade Blazejak, Officer Collin Winters, Officer Jason Wesley, Sgt. John Mitchell, Officer David Dezell, or Officer Matthew Loken, related to the death of Albert T. Dashow, are appropriate. For these reasons, my office is declining to bring any criminal charges in this matter.

Very truly yours,  
WINONA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



Karin L. Sonneman  
Winona County Attorney

cc: Thomas Kelly, Attorney for Officers (by email)  
Dustin VanderHagen, Minnesota BCA Special Agent (by email)