

Investigation of fatal North Minneapolis police shooting turned over to Hennepin County Attorney

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FULL TEXT

Dec. 20--The investigation into the fatal police shooting of Travis Jordan has been turned over to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, which will decide whether two Minneapolis police officers acted properly when they fired at the apparently suicidal man during an encounter on the city's North Side last month.

Chuck Laszewski, a spokesman for the office, confirmed Thursday that prosecutors had accepted the case from the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the state agency that typically investigates police-involved shootings. No timeline has been offered for a decision of whether the officers were justified in shooting Jordan.

Authorities say that a woman, thought to be Jordan's girlfriend, called police at 1:58 p.m. on Nov. 7 to do a wellness check on Jordan, after he started making suicidal comments during a phone conversation. Officers Ryan Keyes and Neal Walsh arrived at his home in the 3700 block of Morgan Avenue N. within six minutes of her 911 call and encountered Jordan, who was holding a knife, according to authorities.

What happens next remains murky, but authorities said the two officers shot Jordan, 36, multiple times as he clutched the knife. He died later at a nearby hospital.

Body cameras captured video and audio of the shooting, which were immediately turned over to the BCA. Keyes and Walsh, both relative newcomers to the Fourth Precinct where the shooting occurred, remain on standard administrative leave.

The shooting reignited calls for better police responses to mental health crisis, and prompted the City Council to fund an expansion of the department's mental health co-responder program, which pairs officers with counselors on certain calls involving mentally unstable individuals.

Friends and relatives have disputed the official account of what occurred and questioned why officers didn't use a Taser instead of bullets to subdue Jordan, who court records show had a history of mental health issues and substance abuse.

The Police Department through a spokeswoman declined to comment on Thursday.

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