

St. Paul - BCA's probe of fatal police shooting is - St. Paul Pioneer Press (MN) - September 20, 2018 - page A2

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The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has turned its investigation into the fatal shooting of **William James Hughes** by St. Paul police officers over to the Ramsey County attorney's office, the state agency said Wednesday.

The Ramsey County attorney's office has "been reviewing the evidence as it has been gathered since this investigation began," spokesman Dennis Gerhardstein said Wednesday. "We are committed to being thorough and diligent in our review and hope to have a decision made in the coming weeks."

The BCA began its investigation when Hughes was killed Aug. 5 in the Summit-University neighborhood.

St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell released body camera footage of the incident on Aug. 17, saying two officers open fire after Hughes, 43, raised a gun "in a sweeping fashion over the officers."

The confrontation with Hughes began after a 911 caller reported on Aug. 5 at 2:34 a.m.: "Multiple gun shots. 905 St. Anthony (Ave.) on the second floor" and then hung up, according to a transcript of the call released by police on Friday.

The first officers to arrive, Vince Adams and Matt Jones, entered an enclosed porch, Axtell said. Adams knocked on an apartment door and a man could be heard saying, "I will kill you" and then Hughes opened the door, Axtell has said.

Ramsey County Attorney John Choi previously said his office will analyze all the evidence gathered by the BCA to decide whether the officers' use of lethal force was justified under the law.

Choi requested prosecutors conduct their review simultaneously with the BCA's investigation and the BCA agreed to present his office with evidence as they collected it.

-- Mara H. Gottfried

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