



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
*Milwaukee County*

JOHN T. CHISHOLM · District Attorney

Chief Deputy Kent L. Lovern, Deputies James J. Martin, Patrick J. Kenney, Lovell Johnson, Jr., Jeffrey J. Altenburg

October 19, 2012

Chief Edward Flynn  
 Milwaukee Police Department  
 749 W State St Rm 716  
 Milwaukee WI 53233

RE: Milwaukee Police Officers James Jordan (Employee #019726), Michael Connell (Employee #018625) and Blake Kasberger (Employee #019727), and the In-Custody Death of John A. Kriewaldt (d.o.b. 11-11-1981)

Dear Chief Flynn:

I participated in the investigation related to the use of force in connection with the above-referenced matter and have reviewed the reports and interviews related to the incident.

My investigation revealed that on July 28, 2012, Mr. John Kriewaldt was at the Thurston Group Home, located at 5734 N. 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, when Milwaukee police were contacted for assistance by employees at the home. John had a history of bi-polar disorder, autism, seizures and was mildly mentally challenged. John was well cared for primarily by his mother, Helen Kriewaldt, on a 24-hour basis, but because Ms. Kriewaldt's mother was terminally ill, she sought assistance on occasion from the group home. On July 19, 2012, John had been released from the group home back to the custody of his mother. Ms. Kriewaldt called police on July 28, 2012, at around 4:00pm, and said her son was acting strange. Officers went to the house, at 2253A S. Muskego Avenue, Milwaukee, and conducted a scene investigation. John was not taken into custody at that time.

Ms. Kriewaldt then conveyed John to the Thurston Group Home at approximately 5:00pm and told them he was acting violent, not taking his medications, breaking things in the house and eating his own feces. The group home continued having problems and they called 911 at approximately 10:00pm, saying John was being combative and was forcing himself to vomit.

Officers responded to the scene at 10:07pm and John walked up to one of the officers and slapped him. He was then handcuffed and taken into custody. He was placed in the back of a squad and police continued their investigation. While John was seated in the squad he was beating his head against the cage and "opened up his head." They sent for additional squads and removed the subject from the squad. Officers called for medical assistance at approximately 10:30pm and Paratech ambulance responded to the scene. While they were attending to him, John went unresponsive. Paratech personnel called for the Milwaukee Fire Department and a med unit responded. They recovered a faint pulse and John was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital. Mr. Kriewaldt subsequently was pronounced dead by attending physician Dr. Nena McElroy on July 30, 2012 at 10:39pm at St. Joseph's Hospital.

As part of my investigation, I or members of my staff personally interviewed Officers James Jordan, Michael Connell and Blake Kasberger, as well as citizen witnesses Kenneth Gold and

Donald S. Jackson  
 Gale G. Shelton  
 Gary D. Mahkorn  
 David Robles  
 Cynthia G. Brown  
 Norman A. Gahn  
 Steven H. Glamm  
 Mark S. Williams  
 John M. Stoiber  
 Thomas L. Potter  
 David Feiss  
 Rayann Chandler Szychlinski  
 Carole Manchester  
 Kenneth R. Berg  
 Warren D. Zier  
 Timothy J. Cotter  
 Steven V. Licata  
 Brad Vorpahl  
 Paul Tiffin  
 Miriam S. Falk  
 Phyllis M. DeCarvalho  
 Dennis P. Murphy  
 Bruce J. Landgraf  
 Denis J. Stingl  
 Janet C. Protasiewicz  
 DeAnn L. Heard  
 Patricia A. McGowan  
 Irene E. Parthum  
 Karen A. Loebel  
 Ronald S. Dague  
 Lori S. Kornblum  
 Karine O'Byrne  
 Maria Dorsey  
 James W. Frisch  
 Kurt B. Benkley  
 James C. Griffin  
 William P. Pipp  
 Joanne L. Hardtke  
 Christopher A. Liegel  
 Megan P. Carmody  
 Laura A. Crivello  
 Shawn Pompe  
 Kevin R. Shomin  
 Beth D. Zingibel  
 Karen A. Vespa'ec  
 Mark A. Sanders  
 Paul C. Dedinsky  
 David T. Malone  
 Kelly L. Hedge  
 Rachael Stencil  
 Mary M. Sowinski  
 Kathryn K. Sarner  
 Daniel J. Gabler  
 Sara P. Scullen  
 T. Christopher Dee  
 Jacob D. Corr  
 Joy Hammond  
 Katharine F. Kucharski  
 Elisabeth Mueller  
 Grant I. Huebner  
 Stephan Eduard Nolten  
 Michelle Ackerman Havas  
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 Claire Starling  
 Zach Whitney  
 Rebecca A. Kiefer  
 Matthew J. Torbenson  
 Kathryn L. Childs  
 Anthony White  
 Antoni Apollo  
 Nicole D. Loeb  
 Erin Karshen  
 Lucy Kronforst  
 Michael J. Lonski  
 Paul M. Hauer  
 Sara Beth Lewis  
 Jenni Spies  
 David M. Stegall  
 Amanda Kirklewski  
 Benjamin Wesson  
 Renee Heintz  
 Karl P. Hayes  
 Holly L. Bunch  
 Jacob A. Manian  
 Heather M. Placek  
 Megan M. Williamson  
 Dewey B. Martin  
 Sara Sweeney  
 Christopher J. Ladwig  
 Kimberley D. Schoepp  
 Nicole J. Sheldon  
 Dax C. Odom  
 Maureen A. Atwell  
 Christopher W. Ravsthorne  
 Jennifer L. Hanson  
 Patricia I. Daugherty  
 Meghan C. Lindberg  
 Jon Neuleib  
 Ann M. Lopez  
 Brian Sammons  
 Peter M. Tempelis  
 Matthew G. Puthukulam  
 Jeremiah C. Van Hecke  
 Randy Sitzberger  
 Karyn E. Behling  
 Kasey M. Deiss  
 Nicolas J. Heitman  
 Chad Wozniak  
 Estee E. Hart  
 Kristin M. Schrank  
 Claire E. Hartley  
 Francesco G. Mirneo  
 Jane Christopherson  
 Tyrone M. St. Junior  
 Hanna R. Kolberg  
 Joshua M. Mathy  
 Antonellis Schildgen  
 Cynthia M. Davis  
 Kristen Reddinger  
 Jessica A. Ballenger  
 William M. Levins  
 Matthew R. Westphal  
 Catelin A. Ringersma  
 Sara Volden Schroeder  
 Abbey Marzick

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Stephen Mnyapara, both employees of the Phoenix Corporation, which runs the Thurston Group Home. The officers confirmed that they did use restraint on John Kriewaldt by placing him in handcuffs and removing him from the squad after he was initially placed there because he was injuring himself by intentionally hitting his head against the car. While outside the car the officers restrained John until medical assistance arrived.

In addition, on August 20, 2012, September 24, 2012 and October 16, 2012, I met with Ms. Kriewaldt, mother of John Kriewaldt, and other members of her family. On September 24, 2012, Dr. Brian L. Peterson, the medical examiner who conducted the autopsy on John Kriewaldt, joined our meeting to address any questions Ms. Kriewaldt had concerning his conclusion that the cause of death was complications from lobar pneumonia. At that time, I explained to Ms. Kriewaldt that my investigation showed that at no time did Officers Jordan, Connell or Kasberger use unreasonable force with regard to John Kriewaldt.

Based upon my review of the information gathered through the investigation of this incident, as well as the credibility of both the officers involved and Messrs. Gold and Mnyapara, I am satisfied that Officers Jordan, Connell and Kasberger committed no crime in connection with this incident and that their use of force, to the extent any was actually used, was completely appropriate given the circumstances. I therefore leave to your discretion the decision to return Officers Jordan, Connell and Kasberger to full duty.

Sincerely yours,



John Chisholm  
District Attorney

cc: Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey J. Altenburg  
Assistant Chief James Harpole  
Assistant Chief Patrick Mitchell  
Attorney Jonathan Cermele