



**CITY OF WAUWATOSA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
1700 North 116th Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226-0426
(414) 471-8430 FAX (414) 471-8447

JAMES H. MACGILLIS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Investigative Synopsis – Officer-Involved Death of Justin R. Gonzales (M/W 3-20-87)

On September 28, 2023, the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team (MAIT) was activated to investigate an officer-involved shooting death at 1440 S. 71 St. in the City of West Allis, County of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin, pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §175.47. The request was made by the West Allis Police Department (WAPD). The decedent was identified as Justin R. Gonzales (M/W, 3-20-87).

The Wauwatosa Police Department was designated as the lead agency for the investigation. The following agencies assisted with the investigation: Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, Franklin Police Department, City of Brookfield Police Department, South Milwaukee Police Department, Waukesha Police Department, Hales Corners Police Department, West Milwaukee Police Department, Greenfield Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Saint Francis Police Department, Oak Creek Police Department, Wisconsin State Crime Lab, Wisconsin State Patrol, US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office responded to the scene for oversight.

On September 28th, 2023, West Allis Police Officers Sergio Santa-Cruz Medina, Connor laQuinta, Ryan Stuetgen, Kyle Brockmann, and Anthony Hayner all responded to 1440 S. 71 St. in reference to a temporary restraining order (TRO) violation. The caller, Cristina J. Gonzales (F/W, 12-15-86) was the petitioner of the TRO. Cristina stated that her husband, Justin R. Gonzales (M/W, 3-20-87), was ringing her doorbell and stated he was going to commit suicide. Justin was the respondent of the temporary restraining order. Prior to officer's arrival, Justin entered the house through a window and was armed with two knives. Cristina advised police dispatch that Justin wanted to say good bye to his kids and was going to charge at the police with the knives.

Upon arrival, officers approached the front of the residence where they encountered Justin on the front porch. Justin was armed with two knives. Officers gave commands for Justin to drop the knives. Justin did not drop the knives and instead began to raise his arms with the knives still in his hands. Officer Stuetgen deployed a less lethal shotgun and fired one shot from it striking Justin. Justin then ran back into the residence while holding both knives. Officers approached the front door, which was shut, while they could hear screaming coming from inside. As officers were about to enter the residence, Justin opened the front door while still armed with both knives. Officers again gave commands for Justin to drop the knives. Justin continued to hold the knives in front of him. Officer Stuetgen fired another shot from the less lethal shotgun while Officer laQuinta fired two shots from his rifle at Justin. Justin remained armed with the knives and then charged toward the officers with the knives in front of him. Officers fired at Justin as he charged at them. Officer Santa-Cruz Medina,

laQuinta, Brockmann, and Hayner fired at Justin and struck him numerous times. None of the officers were injured. Justin fell on the front porch where the officers were just standing prior to Justin charging toward them.

Officers removed one of the knives from Justin's hand and began to render aid. The West Allis Fire Department responded but found Justin was deceased from his injuries. All five officers provided statements to MAIT investigators and cooperated with this investigation. This case was presented to the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office on December 11th, 2023.