



***MOUNT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT***  
8811 Campus Drive • Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin 53406  
(262) 884-0454 Phone • (262) 664-7901 Fax

***Matthew J. Soens***  
***Chief of Police***

## **NEWS RELEASE**

TO: Local Media Representatives

FROM: Chief Matt Soens

DATE: 9/18/2019

REGARDING: District Attorney's Decision on MPPD Officer Involved Shooting involving Tyrese West

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Officer involved shootings are extremely tragic, and the aftermath is difficult to navigate for the community and law enforcement alike. While the Racine County District Attorney's decision brings some closure to this tragedy, we recognize that many people are grieving the loss of Tyrese West. We offer our condolences to the West family and for all those who are mourning his loss.

As required by state law, the investigation of the incident was turned over to an independent agency for review and consideration of possible criminal charges. The Racine Police Department and the State of Wisconsin's Division of Criminal Investigations carefully examined the facts surrounding the case. Many of the facts and details pertaining to this incident could not be previously released due to the pending criminal investigation and current civil litigation. We are hopeful that the release of the district attorney's decision, along with the facts gathered through the investigatory process, will clarify the events of January 15, 2019. With the district attorney's decision now final, and our own internal investigation near completion, Sergeant Giese is expected to return to unrestricted full-duty status to resume his assigned responsibilities.

Additionally, the Mount Pleasant Police Department will seek funding for the procurement of additional body-worn cameras through the 2020 budget process. The additional cameras would allow for all 56 sworn department members to have a camera issued and assigned to them, similar to other police equipment that is used on a daily basis. The Mount Pleasant Police Department is also reviewing its body-worn camera policy to address any changes that might be needed.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department continues to be dedicated to the community policing philosophy where the community and the police department collaborate to establish and maintain relationships built on trust and mutual respect. The community is stronger when law enforcement and community members forge partnerships and work to solve community issues collectively.

End of Release.  
Chief Matt Soens