



Barron County Sheriff's Department

SHERIFF
Chris D. Fitzgerald
chris.fitzgerald@co.barron.wi.us

CHIEF DEPUTY
Jason J. Leu
jason.leu@co.barron.wi.us

Press Release

12-8-23

Today, an independent administrative use of force review panel convened to evaluate the actions of our officers/deputy involved in the critical incident from October 8, 2023 at the Riverside Arms apartment complex in the City of Rice Lake. This panel is made up of various law enforcement professionals such as firearms instructors, internal and external law enforcement executives/supervisors/officers.

This review is necessary, and required by each of our departments in the event the use of force by our members results in a serious injury or death to another person. Its purpose is to ensure our officers/deputy followed policy. In addition to this review, on Monday November 6, 2023 the Barron County District Attorney released his findings based on his review of the criminal investigation that was completed by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The Barron County District Attorney determined that the use of deadly force by all involved officers/deputy was legally justified and reasonable to protect themselves and other citizens/residents of the complex.

The outcome from today's use of force review panel was that all of the officer's/deputy's actions were within department policy and procedures. Therefore, all officers/deputy are cleared from paid administrative leave/duty and they will return to full duty. The names of the officers/deputies are not being released for their protection because of a substantiated threat to their lives.

Chris Fitzgerald
Barron County Sheriff

Steven Roux
Rice Lake Police Chief

Barron County Justice Center Room 1200 • www.barroncountywi.gov

1420 State Highway 25 North • Barron, Wisconsin 54812-3007

ADMINISTRATION
(715) 537-5814

DISPATCH
(715) 537-3106

JAIL
(715) 537-5559

ADMINISTRATION FAX
(715) 537-6615