



DANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ISMAEL R. OZANNE



PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Date: July 31, 2026

DA OZANNE'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE OFFICER- INVOLVED SHOOTING INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON JULY 22, 2026

As your District Attorney, I am issuing this statement so that the community has a clear understanding of my role in the investigation into the officer-involved shooting that occurred on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

Wisconsin's Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys and due process considerations will largely prevent me from making any further public statements on this matter until the conclusion of this investigation. I am making this statement now because of the significant interest this community has in the matter and to correct some inaccurate information.

Let me first clearly and unequivocally state that this death is a tragedy. We should grieve any life lost and Corey Ruiz's life is no different.

I also acknowledge and understand that Mr. Ruiz's death contributes to the pain many people in this community (and elsewhere) experience from the continuing legacy of racism in our country, our state, our county, and our city. I know incidents like this create fear in members of our community about how they and their loved ones will be treated by the police and that incidents like this impact the willingness of crime victims and witnesses to report incidents to the police.

In my oath of office, I swore to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin. I swore to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office to the best of my ability, "So help me God." I aspire every day to be true to that oath. This means that any decision in this matter cannot be made based on emotion or concern about how people will react to it.

Under Wisconsin law, an outside agency—in this case, the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI)—will investigate police conduct related to Mr. Ruiz's death to assess whether there is any potential criminal liability on the part of any police officer involved in Mr. Ruiz's death. The Madison Police Department (MPD) took immediate steps after Mr. Ruiz's shooting to facilitate this outside agency investigation and from my experience I have no reason to think that MPD will not

continue to cooperate with DCI. The Wisconsin State Patrol also provided immediate assistance documenting the scene of Mr. Ruiz's death to assist in the investigation.

DCI has extensive experience in conducting these investigations. I have been in contact with the lead agents assigned to this case and will continue to have contact with them during their investigation as necessary.

When DCI completes its investigation, DCI will provide its investigative materials to me for review. Consistent with normal practice in officer-involved shootings, the outside investigating agency will likely not make a specific recommendation that any officer be charged or not charged. That decision is left to me.

As I do in every officer-involved death, I personally review all materials provided to me by an outside agency. If necessary, I personally request follow-up investigative efforts in an attempt to clarify facts. Once this work is done, I will decide whether to pursue criminal charges against any officer based on applying state law to the facts of this case. I will communicate my decision to Mr. Ruiz's family prior to making any public statements.

I know that this process will test many people's patience and that many people will not accept whatever decision I make. That is your right as citizens of a free country. In this time of great emotion and turmoil, I urge everyone to continue to exercise their First Amendment rights in a peaceful manner that does not result in further harm and destruction to our community.

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