

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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KANE SA MOSSER: AURORA OFFICERS ACTED PROPERLY IN MOMENTS BEFORE JUNE 2022 FATAL CRASH THAT FOLLOWED VEHICLE PURSUIT

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RE: June 10, 2022, officer-involved death investigation in Aurora

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser announces that four Aurora police officers acted properly and followed department policy in the moments leading to a June 2022 vehicle crash that killed two men.

On June 10, 2022, Aurora police officers learned that Arlington Heights police were searching for several individuals believed to be involved in a stabbing. The bulletin included suspects' names and a vehicle description. An Aurora officer on patrol that morning saw the vehicle, a gold Chevrolet Impala. The officer began to follow the vehicle and radioed for backup officers. The officer saw the car commit a traffic violation and stopped the car in the area of Fourth Street and Galena Boulevard. Craig Garner was the driver and his father, Gregory Garner, was in the front passenger seat.

After speaking with the passenger, the officer confirmed he was wanted on an arrest warrant. When the officer asked Craig Garner to turn off the ignition, he instead sped away southbound on Fourth Street. Multiple police vehicles pursued the Impala, eventually terminating the pursuit as the Impala committed multiple traffic violations while traveling well above posted speed limits.

Not long after officers ended their pursuit the Impala crashed in the 800 block of Fourth Street, killing Craig Garner, 24, of Aurora, and Gregory Garner, 52, of Chicago.

Since police officers were engaged with Craig Garner and Greg Garner a short time before the fatal crash, the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force investigated the incident. By Illinois statute, State's Attorney Mosser reviewed the findings of the investigation, as well as all evidence obtained, including multiple witness accounts.

Based upon the facts, relevant law and the Aurora Police Department policies, SA Mosser determined that officers acted properly and lawfully leading to the fatal crash.

SA Mosser said: “There is no evidence that the officers acted in a willful or wanton way regarding their attempted stop of this vehicle. Officers identified both individuals as being sought on arrest warrants. It is an officer’s duty to protect the community and these officers were doing so when they chose to pursue the Garners’ vehicle. Evidence showed officers lost sight of the vehicle, which is estimated to have been traveling at 90 mph, well over the posted speed limit. The crash occurred 19 seconds after the pursuit ended. Further, the officers followed Aurora Police Department policy regarding the initiation and the termination of vehicle pursuits. My thanks to the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force for their thorough investigation on this matter and to the witnesses who provided statements that assisted in this finding.”