

**MONONA POLICE DEPARTMENT – LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY**  
**JANUARY 1, 2024, FATAL CRASH**

Date: January 3, 2024

This has been a challenging time for our community. We understand that there are families who are grieving over the loss of their loved ones. Our officers understand and respect above all else, the value of human life.

The fatal crash on January 1, 2024, was tragic. The Monona Police Department (MOPD) has worked tirelessly to discourage dangerous driving behavior by creating public service announcements, providing media interviews, and other means, while also producing strong messages of encouragement for individuals to stop if pulled over by police.

We want to clear up any misinformation circulating about this incident. It is important to know that this was a Monona Police pursuit and not that of an outside agency. Additionally, the ages of the adults who are deceased are two 30-year-olds and a 19-year-old. Additional information about the deceased is withheld at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (WI-DOJ DCI).

We are cooperating fully with the WI-DOJ DCI to ensure they have all the necessary information and access they need to conduct a full and thorough investigation of the crash. We understand that it can be frustrating not to receive more information about this incident, and we know the public has questions, however, in law enforcement we know that sometimes information cannot be released as it may hinder the ongoing investigation. Everyone has a role – to include the Medical Examiner and proper notification of next of kin before releasing information to the public. We have every confidence in the Wisconsin DOJ and it is our fervent hope that they will share additional information on their investigation as quickly as feasible.

I am privileged to lead a group of public servants who work hard every day to help make this a safer community. MOPD is comprised of people who care about their community and their families. We do a dangerous and unpredictable job. We rely on good people, doing good work, backed by exceptional training and policies in order to accomplish our mission. And as police, we cannot do our job without you, the members of our shared community who entrust us to enforce the law and to keep the community safe.

We will continue to do our job while respecting the significance of the current crash investigation and review. As such, the City of Monona PD, supported by Mayor O'Connor, has decided to temporarily focus our priorities on suspects who we believe to be involved in dangerous and violent felony offenses. This revision is put in place while members of the Monona community and its elected officials have the opportunity to weigh in on what is best for Monona.

Again, we appreciate the significance of this incident, and we are heartbroken at the loss of life. Our thoughts are with the families of those impacted and we offer them our sincere condolences. Our thoughts also go to the members of the MOPD staff and their families who are also working to navigate this tragedy.

More information regarding this incident will be shared by MOPD as we are able. Details related to the investigation are managed by the Wisconsin DOJ.

Thank you for your understanding, your patience, and your support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaKHk4fGJ1s>

- Chief Brian Chaney