

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS MEDIA RELEASE		NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 2016-104
INFORMATION: HOMICIDE		
DATE: 12/28/2016	TIME: 1:15 P.M.	PAGE 1 OF 1

ON DECEMBER 28, 2016 AT 12:08 A.M., WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WERE CALLED TO 1028 MINNS DRIVE IN MACHESNEY PARK FOR AN UNKNOWN DISTURBANCE. TWO DEPUTIES ARRIVED AND CONFRONTED AN ARMED MALE. AS A RESULT OF THAT CONFRONTATION, THE DEPUTIES WERE FORCED TO UTILIZE DEADLY FORCE. THE WINNEBAGO-BOONE COUNTY INTEGRITY TASK FORCE WAS CALLED IN TO INVESTIGATE THE USE OF FORCE.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEADLY FORCE CONFRONTATION, DEPUTIES DISCOVERED A DECEASED JUVENILE FEMALE. MED ONE DOCTOR ARRIVED ON SCENE AND PRONOUNCED THE JUVENILE DECEASED. DEPUTIES ALSO DISCOVERED A 63 YEAR OLD FEMALE IN THE APARTMENT SUFFERING FROM A GUNSHOT WOUND TO HER FACE.

NORTH PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE TO THE MALE SUSPECT AND FEMALE VICTIM PRIOR TO BOTH BEING TRANSPORTED TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL. THE MALE SUSPECT WAS TAKEN TO EMERGENCY SURGERY AND REMAINS IN ICU WITH LIFE THREATENING INJURIES. THE FEMALE VICTIM WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON HOSPITAL WHERE SHE IS BEING TREATED FOR LIFE THREATENING INJURIES. THE CAUSE OF DEATH AND IDENTITY OF THE JUVENILE ARE PENDING THE AUTOPSY OF THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY DETECTIVES WERE CALLED IN TO INVESTIGATE THE JUVENILE'S HOMICIDAL DEATH. DEPUTIES ARE GUARDING THE FOLLOWING SUSPECT:

~MICHAEL E. MERNACK (9/5/80) WARRANT FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (BOND \$200,000.00)

ANY FURTHER CHARGES ARE PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION AND REVIEW BY THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

THE CHARGES AGAINST MERNACK ARE MERELY ACCUSATIONS AND HE IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW.