

# DOJ IDs police officers in May 9 shooting <sup>2020</sup>

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USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY - The state Department of Justice on Wednesday identified the police officers involved in an officer-involved shooting early Saturday on the city's east side.

Green Bay police responded to the 2800 block of University Avenue for a report of a shooting and saw Elder Melgar, 42, fire a weapon toward someone, according to the DOJ.

Green Bay police officers Roman J. Trimberger and Nicholas J. Walvort shot Melgar, who died from his injuries, the complaint states.

The two officers were placed on administrative leave as the investigation continues. Trimberger has five years of experience in law enforcement, and Walvort has seven, according to the DOJ.

Another man, Manuel Hernandez-Martinez, 34, was arrested and is being held at the Brown County Jail. He was charged Monday in court with first-degree reckless injury, criminal trespass, and battery. His bail was set at \$50,000.

A witness told police her ex-boyfriend, Hernandez-Martinez, came over to her apartment with a knife be-



**Trimberger**



**Walvort**

cause he had "severe jealousy issues" and wanted her current boyfriend, Melgar, to leave, according to a criminal complaint filed in Brown County.

Hernandez-Martinez told agents that he started to argue with Melgar and stabbed Melgar in his side because Melgar was shooting at him with his gun, the complaint states. He admitted he had some beer and cocaine before going to the apartment.

The two men then moved to the parking lot, and Hernandez-Martinez said Melgar started shooting at him again.

The department's Division of Criminal Investigation is leading the investigation.

The DOJ will turn over any evidence to the district attorney's office when the investigation is complete.

Hernandez-Martinez is scheduled to appear in court May 19.

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# One person dead following armed confrontation with police

**Natalie Brophy**

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GREEN BAY - Green Bay police officers shot and killed an armed person during a disturbance early Saturday morning on the city's east side.

Officers were initially called to the 2800 block of University Avenue after a report that shots had been fired in the area, according to a statement from the Green Bay Police Department.

On arriving, police saw one person shoot at another person. During the incident, officers fired at the armed person, who died at the scene.

No police officers or other people were injured, police said, and the officers involved in the incident have been placed on administrative leave while the shooting is investigated.

No other information about the incident was made available by police Saturday.

The state Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation is leading an investigation of the shooting with assistance from the State Crime Lab, State Patrol and the DOJ's Office of Crime Victim Services.

It's state law that an outside agency must investigate officer-involved deaths and many times, the state DOJ will take the lead on those investigations.

But the Appleton and Green Bay police departments have had a long-standing policy to investigate each other's critical incidents. Most recently, Green Bay police took the lead in investigating the shooting death of Ruben Houston at the Appleton Valley Transit Center last year.

The agreement between the departments has been met with criticism in the past, as some people believe it's a conflict of interest, especially given Appleton Police Chief Todd Thomas' former position as a police captain in Green Bay. But officials say the policy provides a way for police to investigate and release infor-

information to the public more quickly — within a matter of days rather than the several months it usually takes for the DOJ to release information about officer-involved deaths.

It's unclear why Appleton police are not investigating this shooting.

## **Police shootings in Green Bay**

- Oct. 19, 2018: Officers shot and killed Jonathon Tubby, 26, who was handcuffed and unarmed in the sally port of the Brown County Jail.

Tubby was arrested following a traffic stop in Green Bay and shot by Green Bay officer Erik O'Brien, who believed Tubby had a weapon. Brown County District Attorney David Lasee did not press charges against O'Brien and said the officer acted lawfully when he shot Tubby.

- Feb. 24, 2015: Officers shot and killed Joseph Biegert, 30, after he stabbed Officer Matthew Dunn in the arm with a kitchen knife in an incident on the city's west side.

The shooting occurred in Biegert's apartment building at 1511 Plymouth Lane; police had gone to the scene because Biegert's mother had asked them to check on his welfare. Investigators said the shooting was justified, and county prosecutors declined to press charges.

- Sept. 9, 2014: Ashwaubenon Public Safety Officer Brian Murphy fatally shot 25-year-old robbery-suspect Justin Kuik of Two Rivers in a shootout outside a motel on Holmgren Way. Murphy had followed Kuik's car after noticing that it fit the description of the vehicle used in the Sept. 7 robbery of a Mishicot convenience store.

Authorities said the shooting was justified and no charges were filed.

- Dec. 16, 2013: Darold Vanden Heuvel was shot and killed at an apartment complex on Green Bay's west side. Vanden Heuvel's estranged wife reported that he was loitering near her apartment, and that she feared for her safety.

Vanden Heuvel was shot when he reached for a handgun as Officers Clint Beguhn and Mark Opicka confronted him in a parking garage beneath the woman's apartment building. Authorities said the shooting was justified and no charges were filed.

*Green Bay Press Gazette reporter Doug Schneider contributed to this article.*