



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Tony Mattivi
Director

Kris W. Kobach
Attorney General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2024

Contact: Melissa Underwood
(785) 296-8283
melissa.underwood@kbi.ks.gov

UPDATE: Findings of fatal officer-involved shooting in Salina

SALINA, Kan. – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) completed its investigation into the July 24 officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of Jesse Wray, of Salina.

KBI's investigation included shooting reconstruction, forensic testing of evidence, interviews of witnesses and first responders, autopsy, and a review of video footage including body-worn cameras, dashboard cameras, and surveillance videos. These investigative efforts resulted in a thorough understanding of the events of this critical incident.

Findings indicated that when officers from Salina Police Department (SPD) took Larry Wray Jr. into custody on a warrant, an officer saw Jesse Wray inside the detached garage, pointing a gun at him. Jesse Wray had a warrant for his arrest, so officers retreated and called for further assistance. Additional SPD officers and the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) arrived on scene, and were made aware that Wray was in possession of a firearm. Wray did not comply with multiple commands to “come out with your hands up” and similar directives.

After a period of time, officers observed smoke and flames coming from the garage, and the garage door began to open. A female subject exited the garage first, with her hands up, and Wray ran out behind her. Wray ducked behind a parked truck in the driveway where he crouched in what appeared to be a shooting stance, extending his hands in front of him and toward officers. Two officers from SPD fired nine rounds, but no rounds struck Wray.

Wray then ran to the west side of the garage where KHP troopers and a SPD officer were positioned. He emerged face-to-face with them. A trooper and an SPD officer fired four shots, fatally wounding Wray. Only 6.35 seconds passed from the initial gunfire at the front of the garage to the final shots on the west side.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal investigated the fire that occurred in the unattached garage. They determined the fire was intentionally set. A black BB gun, that was manufactured to look like a revolver, was recovered inside the fire-damaged garage.

- MORE -

On Nov. 4, the KBI received a letter from Saline County Attorney Jeffery Ebel summarizing his review of the officer-involved shooting case. He stated, “The video is clear that there is not a gun in his hand at this time [when Wray exits the garage and takes position], however, the gesture and body posture would lead any reasonable person to believe that a gun was being raised and pointed at officers.”

In reference to the subsequent shots fired by the trooper and SPD officer, County Attorney Ebel determined, “Both officers stated they heard shots from a handgun and both attributed those shots to Wray, as they knew he had a gun and heard yelling.”

“Under Kansas law, and the facts of the case, I conclude that the officers are immune from prosecution and no criminal charges can be filed against the officers because any reasonable officer would believe that the use of deadly force was justified,” said Ebel.



Firearm located in garage



Wray's position right before first shots fired

###

EARLIER RELEASE
July 25, 2024

Contact: Melissa Underwood
(785) 296-8283
melissa.underwood@kbi.ks.gov

Fatal officer-involved shooting in Salina

SALINA, Kan. – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) is investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred Wednesday night in Salina, Kansas.

The Salina Police Department requested the KBI conduct an investigation at around 8:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24. KBI agents and the Crime Scene Response Team responded to investigate.

On July 24, at approximately 7:30 p.m., officers with the Salina Police Department were dispatched to 544 N. 12th, in Salina, after learning a man with a felony warrant was at the location. When officers arrived, they made contact with the homeowner, who reported that the subject, Larry J. Wray Jr., 44, of Salina, was in the detached garage, east of the residence. Officers entered the garage and placed Wray under arrest for an outstanding warrant.

Preliminary information indicates that after Wray was taken into custody an officer heard another person inside the garage. Jesse D. Wray, 25, of Salina, was located in the garage. A K-9 officer gave commands to Jesse to exit the garage, but he refused. He was holding a gun and made threats to shoot if law enforcement entered the garage. Jesse barricaded himself inside the garage. Officers backed away, set a perimeter, and called for the Salina SWAT Team to respond. Troopers from the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) arrived to assist.

While awaiting for the SWAT team, officers observed a fire and smoke in the garage. The large garage door opened and a female subject exited, followed by Jesse.

Gunfire was exchanged. Officers from the Salina Police Department and troopers from the KHP fired rounds that struck Jesse. He was pronounced deceased at the scene at 8:45 p.m. The woman was accessed at Salina Regional Health Center and was later released. No law enforcement officers were injured in the shooting.

The KBI will conduct a thorough and independent investigation into this officer-involved shooting. Once completed, the findings will be presented to the Saline County Attorney for review. This investigation is ongoing.

###