

W21019935



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Milwaukee County*

JOHN T. CHISHOLM • District Attorney

Chief Deputy Kent L. Lovern, Deputies Lovell Johnson, Jr., Jeffrey J. Altenburg, Karen A. Loebel,  
Elisabeth Mueller, Matthew J. Torbenson, Bruce J. Landgraf

May 4, 2022

Sheriff Earnell Lucas  
Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office  
821 W. State Street, Room 107  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Re: In custody death of Nicholas L. Sonsthagen [REDACTED]

Dear Sheriff Lucas:

On March 14, 2021, Nicholas Sonsthagen died at the Milwaukee County Jail, where he was being housed after his arrest for felony level criminal charges. He was forty-one years old. The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be [REDACTED]

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Office conducted a comprehensive investigation into the death of Mr. Sonsthagen. The investigative file includes: video of the jail pod housing Mr. Sonsthagen, which shows correctional officers checking in on Mr. Sonsthagen's pod and cell in accordance with institutional standards, as well as the appropriate response by Milwaukee County Sheriff's personnel in their efforts to save Mr. Sonsthagen's life. I also reviewed evidence related to communications by Mr. Sonsthagen with jail personnel and others in the days leading up to his death, as well as interviews conducted after his death with witnesses and attending Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office personnel.

After reviewing the investigative file in this matter, I find no basis for criminal liability related to the death of Mr. Sonsthagen on the part of any other person, including any employee of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.

My office is now closing this matter.

Sincerely,

Kent Lovern  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

cc: Waukesha County Sheriff Eric Severson  
Attorney Jan Susler