



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Milwaukee County

KENT LOVERN · District Attorney

Chief Deputy Jeffrey J. Altenburg, Deputies Lovell Johnson, Jr., Elisabeth Mueller,
Matthew J. Torbenson, Megan Newport, Sara N.V. Sadowski, Ann López

July 10, 2026

Sheriff Denita R. Ball
Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office
821 W. State Street, Room 107
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Re: In custody death of Melvin R. Goodwin [REDACTED]

Dear Sheriff Ball:

On September 12, 2025, Melvin R. Goodwin died at the Milwaukee County Jail, where he was an inmate, and was pronounced deceased by Froedtert Dr. Timothy Lenz at 6:08 pm. He was thirty-four years old.

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be [REDACTED]. The final manner of death was determined to be accidental. The Medical Examiner's Office reported that the toxicology findings could not determine the time that Mr. Goodwin ingested the [REDACTED] or related substance, the dosage, the exact form of the substance, the method of ingestion, or the number of dosages consumed.

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Office conducted a comprehensive investigation into the death of Mr. Goodwin. Still, it could not proceed further with the investigation due to multiple unresolved factors related to the number of inmates with prescribed [REDACTED] or similar substances, how Mr. Goodwin obtained the substance, the lack of corroborating evidence from inmate communications or financial transactions, and the inability to establish a timeframe for when the substance in question entered Mr. Goodwin's system.

My office has reviewed this investigation and finds no basis for criminal liability on the part of any employee working in the Milwaukee County Jail, and is now closing this matter.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Altenburg".

Jeffrey J. Altenburg
Chief Deputy District Attorney

Cc: Waukesha Sheriff's Detective Kelsey Guthrie
Waukesha Sheriff's Detective Kendra Moonen