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Press Release

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MPD introduces new “Community Briefing” series to Promote Transparency

Over the past eight months, members of my command staff and I have met with several community members and community partners to strengthen police and community relationships. I am pleased to say that although we have a long way to go, we are making progress.

During some of those meetings, we have discussed how to improve transparency during critical incidents, such as officer involved shootings. To promote transparency with the public and within the Milwaukee Police Department, we have taken the initiative to release officer body-worn camera videos that capture critical incidents before the investigations are complete and before a charging decision has been made by the District Attorney’s Office.

We are titling these videos “Community Briefings,” as staff will provide preliminary information regarding the critical incident. As we move forward and establish our policy, our goal is to release community briefings within 45 days of the incident unless releasing such video will jeopardize the integrity of the investigation.

This was not an easy decision. This video was not created to embarrass or upset the members of the deceased’s family or the officers involved, but because I am committed to improving community police relations. Out of respect for the individuals involved, including the deceased, we have blurred out their faces to conceal their identity.

It should be noted that this critical incident is still under investigation and we cannot provide you with any additional information on its legal status. Per state law, the investigation was conducted by an investigative team from an independent agency. For this incident, the Waukesha Police Department is the lead agency in the officer-involved shooting portion of this investigation.

We want to do this the right way and we encourage your feedback. Please contact our public information officer with suggestions and recommendations on how to improve the release of these videos in the future.

The video you are about to see is graphic. To review the video, please click on the link. <https://youtu.be/w71IOVLZqws>.

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