

Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place on May 21, 2019

On 5-21-2019, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was contacted by the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office and notified of an officer-involved shooting that occurred at 500 North Minnesota Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The shooting occurred in the parking lot of the Minnehaha County Jail. The shooting resulted in the suspect, George Rinzy Jr., being shot one (1) time. Rinzy Jr. survived his injuries. A Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy was the officer involved in the shooting. The following is a synopsis of the events that occurred, and the investigation conducted by the DCI.

Synopsis

On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a male individual identified as George Lee Rinzy Jr. arrived at the Minnehaha County Jail in Sioux Falls. Rinzy Jr. began causing a disturbance in the main lobby. During the disturbance, Rinzy Jr. was banging a glass liquor bottle against the front entrance of the jail. Witnesses indicated Rinzy Jr. made statements about getting the cops out there. Minnehaha County Deputies and Corrections Officers were dispatched to the south jail main entrance area to investigate the situation. A Minnehaha County Correction Officer was positioned near the front lobby door to prevent Rinzy Jr. from entering the jail facility.

Rinzy Jr. struck the glass front door of the jail lobby with a rock causing the glass door to shatter. A corrections officer sustained minor cuts from the broken glass. Rinzy Jr. walked away from the front lobby door and into the main jail parking lot. Several unarmed corrections officers and Minnehaha County Deputies assigned to courthouse security made contact with Rinzy Jr. in the parking lot.

Rinzy Jr. threw a glass liquor bottle in the direction of responding Minnehaha County Deputy Craig Olson. Rinzy Jr. then armed himself with two (2) knives that he had in his possession. Rinzy Jr. was armed with a knife in both hands. Rinzy Jr. began running toward corrections officers who retreated.

Responding officers began ordering Rinzy Jr. to drop the weapons. Rinzy Jr. refused to comply with the officers' orders and charged toward Minnehaha County Deputy Sheriff Craig Olson. While running toward Deputy Olson, Rinzy Jr. raised his arms in the air with the knives in his hands in a fighting manner. Rinzy Jr. ran within several feet of Deputy Olson who was armed with his duty handgun. Deputy Olson fired two (2) rounds from his duty handgun at Rinzy Jr. One (1) of the fired rounds struck Rinzy Jr. in the abdomen, causing him to fall to the ground. The second round missed Rinzy Jr.

Review of available video shows what is believed to be the second projectile making impact with the pavement behind Rinzy Jr. In the video, after the second shot is heard, a small mist can be seen directly behind Rinzy Jr. on the pavement. This mist is believed to be the second projectile contacting the pavement. The second projectile was unable to be recovered.

Deputy Olson radioed "shots fired" at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Responding officers and deputies immediately disarmed Rinzy Jr. and provided medical treatment until paramedics arrived. Rinzy Jr. was transported to Avera Hospital and treated for the single gunshot wound to his abdomen.

The scene was secured by the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office and Sioux Falls Police Department until the DCI was able to respond.

Deputy Olson was wearing his department issued uniform, which clearly marked him as a Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy. The deputy's uniform, weapon, and magazines were secured, documented, and inventoried. The inventory showed the following:

- Sig Sauer P226 .40 cal. S/W handgun S/N U786190 with attached light and 1 live round
- Magazine from Sig Sauer P226 and 10 live rounds of ammunition.
- Deputy's remaining two .40mm magazines each containing 12 live rounds of ammunition.
- Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy exterior vest, uniform top, uniform pants and duty boots.

Review of witness cell phone video, local building surveillance and dispatch logs

A review was done of cell phone videos and surveillance videos of the officer involved shooting that took place on 5-21-19 in the Minnehaha County Jail parking lot, located at 500 North Minnesota Avenue in Sioux Falls, SD.

A cell phone video taken by a witness in the parking lot of the Minnehaha County Jail was turned over to law enforcement for review.

This video was exactly forty-one (41) seconds in length.

This video shows Deputy Olson standing in the parking lot with this taser drawn. Immediately in the video, people can be heard yelling, "he's got a knife".

As the video pans to the right, Rinzy Jr. comes in view of the camera. Rinzy Jr. is seen walking toward two Minnehaha County Corrections Officers who are both in uniform. These officers can be seen retreating to cover as Rinzy Jr. walks toward them.

In the video, people can be heard giving commands to, "drop the knife" and "drop it" multiple times. At the twelve (12) second mark, Rinzy Jr. is clutching a black pointed object in his right hand. The pointed object is pointed in a downward angle toward the pavement. Rinzy Jr. also has his left hand clenched, as if he is holding something.

Rinzy Jr. turns his attention toward Deputy Olson. When Rinzy Jr. does so, Deputy Olson is out of camera view.

Rinzy Jr. can be seen raising his arms above his head and begins running directly at Deputy Olson. Deputy Olson can be seen with his duty weapon drawn and pointed at Rinzy Jr.

As Rinzy Jr. begins to run at Deputy Olson, Rinzy Jr. can be seen, at the sixteen (16) second mark, also clutching a black pointed object in his left hand. Rinzy Jr. was still gripping the object and the pointed object was in a downward angle.

A grunt or yell can be heard, which is believed to have come from Rinzy Jr. as he was running at Deputy Olson. The yell/grunt can be heard at approximately the seventeen (17) second mark on the video.

Rinzy Jr. can be seen coming within several feet of Deputy Olson. Deputy Olson then discharges his firearm two (2) times at Rinzy Jr. It was later known that Rinzy Jr. was struck by one (1) bullet from Deputy Olson's firearm.

Once the shots are heard in the video, Rinzy Jr. collapses forward onto the pavement.

After Rinzy Jr. collapses to the pavement, deputies can be heard ordering bystanders to back up. A deputy in a black coat and pants approaches Rinzy Jr. and can be seen kicking a black object away from Rinzy Jr.

A second deputy in a tan uniform and black pants approaches Rinzy Jr. and can be seen making a kicking motion, as if kicking a second object away from Rinzy Jr.

It should be noted, at the thirteen (13) second mark in the video, a female voice from within the vehicle can be heard stating, "He did this to himself bro." A male voice from within the vehicle can be heard saying, "Yup."

Dispatch logs show the initial call to request law enforcement to the Minnehaha County Jail parking lot came in at 3:00 p.m. Deputy Olson notified dispatch of shots fired at approximately 3:05 p.m. Dispatch logs are consistent with events documented from the cell phone video, building security cameras and the deputies' statements.

Shooting Scene Investigation and Interviews

Based on DCI interviews with Deputy Olson, responding officers, Rinzy Jr.'s friends and family, other witnesses/bystanders, and the scene investigation, the following information was gathered during this investigation.

When DCI arrived on scene, the scene was secured by responding Sioux Falls Police Department Officers. The two (2) spent shell casings were marked on the ground by two orange traffic cones and recovered.

The magazine from Deputy Olson's weapon, containing ten (10) live rounds was recovered, as well as the one (1) additional round still inside the chamber of Deputy Olson's weapon.

Also located at the scene were two (2) black folding knives. The knives were on the ground directly next to each other and were open in the fixed blade position. Located near the two knives was a dark colored jacket, which belonged to Rinzy Jr. Next to Rinzy Jr.'s jacket were medical bags left by medics who treated Rinzy Jr. on scene prior to transporting Rinzy Jr. to the hospital.

DCI did attempt to interview Rinzy Jr. regarding his actions on May 21, 2019. Rinzy Jr. chose not to interview and requested an attorney.

Interview with Deputy Olson

On 5-24-19, DCI interviewed Deputy Olson. Deputy Olson advised he is the supervisor for the courthouse security team. Deputy Olson said he was working in the lobby of the courthouse that day (5-21-19).

Deputy Olson stated he was performing his routine duties at the security checkpoint within the courthouse. Deputy Olson advised he heard a radio transmission requesting officer assistance to the lobby of the Minnehaha County Jail.

Deputy Olson advised he responded along with another court security officer. Deputy Olson stated he ran down the south corridor out of the atrium and then ran up the ramp toward the front doors of the jail. Deputy Olson advised once he reached the front doors of the jail, he noticed the top half of the left entry door glass was blown out or broken.

Deputy Olson saw a male subject (identified as Rinzy Jr.) in the parking lot near the handicapped parking spots. Deputy Olson advised Rinzy Jr. was wearing a heavy jacket, green in color, and a stocking cap. Deputy Olson stated he saw Rinzy Jr. had something in his hand.

Deputy Olson advised he went down the steps in front of the jail and approached Rinzy Jr.

Deputy Olson advised Rinzy Jr. was holding the bottle of alcohol in a manner in which he (Rinzy Jr.) was getting ready to throw it. Deputy Olson said he gave Rinzy Jr. commands of, "drop it, get on the ground, drop it, get on the ground". Deputy Olson advised Rinzy Jr. refused to drop the bottle.

Deputy Olson stated once Rinzy Jr. refused to drop the bottle, he (Deputy Olson) drew his taser and ordered Rinzy Jr. to drop the bottle again.

Deputy Olson advised Rinzy Jr. began walking toward him with the bottle still in his hand. Deputy Olson said Rinzy Jr. threw the bottle at him (Deputy Olson). Deputy Olson advised the bottle went way over him and he (Deputy Olson) heard the bottle shatter on the ground behind him.

Deputy Olson stated at this point, Rinzy Jr. reached into one of his pockets and brandished a black bladed knife.

Deputy Olson advised he yelled, "knife" and heard someone else yell, "knife". Deputy Olson again gave orders to Rinzy Jr. to get on the ground. Deputy Olson said Rinzy Jr. took a couple small steps toward him. Deputy Olson said Rinzy Jr. turned around and began walking toward other people. Deputy Olson advised he was unsure who Rinzy Jr. was walking toward but saw they were wearing tan uniforms.

Deputy Olson stated Rinzy Jr. then turned back around toward him (Deputy Olson). Deputy Olson advised Rinzy Jr. began walking to his right in a southern direction through the parking lot. Deputy Olson stated he secured his taser on his exterior vest. Deputy Olson said his training kicked in and he (Deputy Olson) drew his firearm due to Rinzy Jr. having a knife.

Deputy Olson advised once he drew his firearm, he ordered Rinzy Jr. again to get on the ground. Deputy Olson stated Rinzy Jr. then charged directly at him. Deputy Olson said when Rinzy Jr. charged him, he (Deputy Olson) could see that Rinzy Jr. had a knife in his right hand.

Deputy Olson said when Rinzy Jr. charged at him, he heard Rinzy Jr. saying something. Deputy Olson advised once Rinzy Jr. got too close, he (Deputy Olson) discharged his firearm at Rinzy Jr.

Deputy Olson stated he discharged his firearm twice (2) at Rinzy Jr. Deputy Olson advised once he discharged his firearm, Rinzy Jr. fell to the ground.

Deputy Olson stated he felt “threatened” when Rinzy Jr. charged him with the knives. Deputy Olson said when Rinzy Jr. charged at him, Rinzy Jr. was either yelling or growling at him.

Deputy Olson advised Rinzy Jr. had a look on his face of anger and aggression. Deputy Olson said Rinzy Jr. came at him very quickly and he (Deputy Olson) was in fear for his life and the safety of others, so he (Deputy Olson) fired.

South Dakota Forensic Laboratory Testing

After forensic testing on the shell casings located on scene, it was determined those casings were fired from the deputy’s duty weapon. Forensic examination showed the deputy’s duty weapon was found functional as intended by the manufacturer. Ballistic examination was consistent with the deputy’s statement.

Medical Reports and Criminal History

Two (2) rounds were fired and only one (1) round entered Rinzy Jr. One (1) round entered Rinzy Jr.’s mid abdomen area, did not exit and was lodged in Rinzy Jr.’s right pelvic wing. This round remains in Rinzy Jr.’s body.

A blood and urine sample were taken from Deputy Olson after the shooting. Tests of these samples were negative for both drugs and alcohol.

A blood and urine sample were taken from Rinzy Jr. after the shooting incident. The toxicology report from the SD Health Laboratory indicated the presence of methamphetamine, amphetamines and alcohol in Rinzy Jr.’s system.

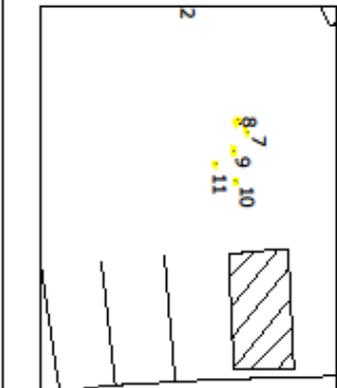
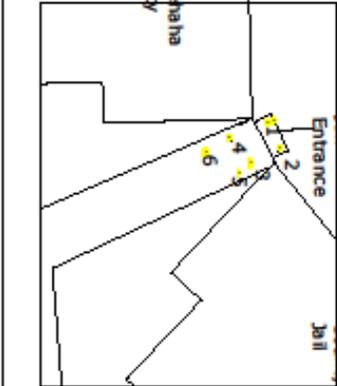
A criminal history check of Rinzy Jr. showed numerous misdemeanor and felony convictions within South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Those convictions included possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, assault with intent to commit sexual abuse cause bodily injury, assault 5th degree inflict or attempt bodily harm, fugitive from justice, escape and failure to register as a sex offender.

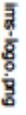
Investigation Results

Based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer present at the scene utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Rinzy Jr. had the means and opportunity to cause serious bodily injury and was a clear and present danger to Deputy Olson at the time.

Based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, the crime scene reconstruction, evidence collected at the scene, witness statements, and statements made by Deputy Olson, all were found to be consistent with the described events that occurred on 5-21-19 in Minnehaha County, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the Attorney General that the Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Deputy was justified in firing his weapon and using lethal force.



	
Date of Occurrence:	
May 21st, 2019	
Name:	
Minnesota County Shooting	
Location:	
Minnesota County Admin Building	
City or Area:	
Soule Falls	
Investigating Agency:	
South Dakota DCI	
Agency Director:	
Dave Natvig	
Lead Investigator:	
Agent Hise	
Date of Sketch:	
June 16th, 2019	
Drawn by:	
Trooper Matthew Wogge	
File Number:	
HP19004300R	

