

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY  
320 S. WALNUT ST.  
APPLETON, WI 54911  
(920) 832-5024 PHONE  
(920) 832-5031 FAX**

**TO:** Special Agent [REDACTED] Wisconsin Department of Justice  
**FROM:** ADA Randall Schneider  
**DATE:** June 11, 2021  
**RE:** Subject: Detective William B. Ledger  
Outagamie County Case No.:  
Incident Number:  
  
DA Case No. 2020OU004308

---

I have been appointed to review the investigation into Detective Ledger and to determine whether or not to issue criminal charges against him. As stated below, I do not find, based on the investigation, that there is sufficient evidence to file criminal charges against him. My authority is only to determine whether criminal charges should be brought. I have no authority over any employment decision relative to Detective Ledger.

There are three areas of investigation.

1. The first complaint was that Detective Ledger repeated gossip regarding the Sheriff's Department handling of evidence in a homicide case to a defense attorney who was a friend of Ledger. This friend repeated the gossip he heard from Ledger to the defendant's attorney. The defendant's attorney then brought a post-conviction motion which required the District Attorney's Office to respond to and thereby waste precious time and resources. This shows very poor judgment on the part of Detective Ledger, but is not criminal.
2. The second complaint is that Detective Ledger improperly disposed of evidence from an LWAM investigation. Apparently, Detective Ledger seized a computer in a search relating to a drug case. Detective Ledger did not properly inventory the computer. The computer sat somewhere in the police department until a supervisor formally ordered Detective Ledger to inventory it. Detective Ledger did not inventory the computer. He removed the hard drive and gave the computer to a computer repair shop. He told the owner of the shop that he could use the computer for spare

parts. This action could be considered a theft under Wis. Stat. Sec. 943.20(1)(a). The problem with the evidence is that Detective Ledger removed the hard drive thereby making it impossible to determine when the computer was seized, where it was seized from, why the computer was seized or who owns the computer. Without knowing the answers to these questions, I am unable to prove the theft beyond a reasonable doubt. This action reflects dishonesty on the part of Detective Ledger and this dishonesty in covering up his actions has resulted in my inability to prosecute the case.

3. The investigation has revealed the Detective Ledger has misused confidential police information. Detective Ledger was asked by his brother-in-law to run a license plate for a reason unrelated to law enforcement. Detective Ledger did so and disclosed the information to his brother-in-law. NCIC/CIB records are confidential. Every officer with access to NCIC/CIB is informed that they are prohibited from using this database for personal reasons. I had originally intended to issue a complaint against him under Wis. Stat. Sec. 943.70 for unlawfully accessing the information. Last week, a decision was handed down by the United States Supreme Court in Van Buren v. US on these exact same facts which indicates that a criminal prosecution for this act would likely be prohibited under this statute. This action shows insubordination on the part of Detective Ledger but I cannot prove a criminal case against him.

I would note that the download of Detective Ledger's work-issued phone contains very disturbing texts and social media posts which demonstrate racial bias and should be reviewed by the administration.

Finally, I believe that all of your reports should be disclosed to the administration as well as the district attorney's office. It is clear to me that Detective Ledger should be placed on a Brady/Giglio list and that this information should be disclosed in any court proceeding in which he testifies.