



Department of Police

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First, let me express my sympathies to the family of William Marshall. He unfortunately died while in the custody of the Westland Police and Fire Department. We wish that it never happened and we will continue to work to ensure that it never happens again.

It is not uncommon for defendants in narcotic cases to swallow drugs. What was uncommon in this case was the unknown large quantity of drugs that were swallowed. The toxicology report confirmed that Mr. Marshall swallowed an extremely large amount of cocaine which became fatal. I do not know if medical staff would have been able to save him, but I do know that we should have gotten him to a hospital sooner.

As a result I am making changes to our policies and procedures to ensure that something like this never happens again. We will continue to review our rules and regulations concerning prisoner detention and training of employees.

The employee review is more complicated at the Police Department because of the length of time involved in the stop, booking and detention of Mr. Marshall and the number of employees who had contact with him. So as a result, at this time no employees have yet been disciplined or suspended from the police department.

My personnel decisions are presently ongoing pending the Wayne County prosecutor's office completing its criminal investigation which may bring additional facts to light. Internally, this matter is not closed. As I mentioned, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office along with the Michigan State Police are still investigating. Therefore, at the conclusion of their investigations there may be terminations, suspensions or disciplinary action taken against members of the police department. You have my word that we are taking this matter seriously.

Respectfully,

Chief Jeff Jedrusik