



**Office of the New York State Attorney General Letitia James**

**Office of Special Investigation**

September 21, 2022

# Report on the Investigation into the Death of Janet Jordan

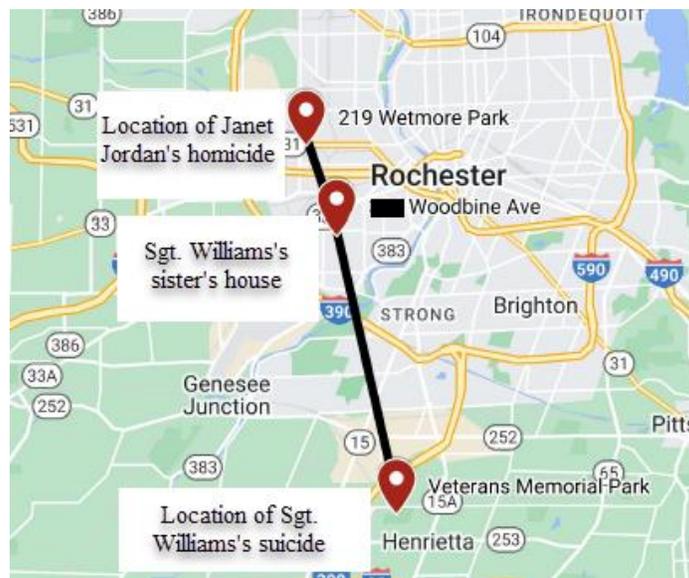
## SUMMARY

New York Executive Law Section 70-b directs the Attorney General's Office of Special Investigation ("OSI") to investigate and, if warranted, prosecute offenses arising from any incident in which the death of a person is caused by a police officer, whether on or off duty. When OSI does not seek charges against the officer, Section 70-b requires OSI to issue a public report describing its investigation.

On March 14, 2022, off duty Rochester Police Department ("RPD") Sergeant Melvin Williams shot Janet Jordan, causing her death. Within a few hours, Sgt. Williams took his own life. This is OSI's report concerning the death of Janet Jordan.

## FACTS

The death of Ms. Jordan took place in a home in the city of Rochester. The map below shows relevant locations:



Ms. Jordan had been employed for eleven years by the Rochester/Monroe County Emergency Communication Department ("ECD"). As captured by her home security video, on March 14, 2022, shortly after midnight, having completed her shift at ECD, Janet Jordan arrived at the home she shared with her husband, at 219 Wetmore Park, Rochester.

Around 2:05 a.m., security video from a pizzeria near the Jordans' house showed that Sgt. Williams drove to the area in his 2020 Infiniti QX6 and parked in a parking lot near 219 Wetmore Park.



*Security video captured Sgt. Williams parking his car at the back of the parking lot behind the pizzeria and then walking in the direction of the Jordans' house.*

The security video from the Jordans' house shows that at 2:08 a.m., someone turned the video camera toward the front door, then opened the front door and entered.



*A still capture from the security video from the Jordans' house at 2:08 a.m. A hand is seen unlocking the door after manipulating the camera to face inward toward the home instead of away from it.*

The security video shows Sgt. Williams coming out of the same door at 3:08 a.m., one hour later. No one else entered or left between 2:08 a.m. and 3:08 a.m. As described below, a key to the Jordans' front door was found in Sgt. Williams's pants pocket during the autopsy.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The investigation also obtained other evidence that Sgt. Williams and Ms. Jordan were in a relationship, including text messages, videos, and interviews with relatives of Sgt. Williams.



*A still capture from the security video at the Jordan home at 3:08 a.m. showing Sgt. Williams leaving.*

Based on security video and an interview of Sgt. Williams's sister by members of OSI and the New York State Police (NYSP), Sgt. Williams arrived at his sister's Woodbine Avenue address, about 2.2 miles away from the Jordans' house, at 3:18 a.m.; he left her house around 4:05 a.m.<sup>2</sup>

At 7:15 a.m., Janet Jordan's husband, a deputy sheriff, arrived home after working the overnight shift at the Monroe County Jail (MCJ).<sup>3</sup> The home security video captured him going inside. Based on ECD records and the 911 recording of his call, he immediately called 911 and said he had just come home from work and found his wife and did not think she was alive; when the call taker asked him if he had just said he didn't think his wife was alive, Ms. Jordan's husband said he did not believe she was breathing and he needed help.

Sgt. Williams's cell phone records show that between 4:08 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., he sent text messages to his wife, family members, and a RPD colleague, all of which implied that he intended to end his life. At 8:53 a.m., based on the evidence collected at the Jordans' home and Sgt. Williams's text messages, authorities pinged<sup>4</sup> Sgt. Williams's cellphone, and determined it was near Veterans Memorial Park, in Henrietta.<sup>5</sup> Acting on that information, at 9:18 a.m., members of NYSP found Sgt. Williams's body in his personal car at the park. Sgt. Williams died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head; ballistics analysis showed he used his RPD issued service weapon, a Glock 21, .45 caliber handgun, to take his life.

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<sup>2</sup> Security video from Sgt. Williams's sister's house, shows Sgt. Williams' arriving; there is no footage of him leaving. In an interview with OSI and NYSP, Sgt. Williams's sister said he was at her home until about 4:05 a.m.

<sup>3</sup> Video surveillance and event logs from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office confirmed that Janet Jordan's husband entered the MCJ on March 13, 2022, at 10:53 p.m. and remained inside until March 14, 2022, at 6:56 a.m., when his shift ended and he left.

<sup>4</sup> A "ping" is the determination of an estimated location of a cell phone, by GPS data or cell tower triangulation.

<sup>5</sup> Sgt. Williams was a veteran.

On March 14, 2022, NYSP conducted searches of the Jordans' house, and Sgt. Williams's home and personal vehicle; a detective from OSI was present. While searching the Jordans' house, NYSP forensic identification unit (FIU) members found two .22 caliber shell casings with crosshair logos imprinted on their base. On April 19, 2022, Janet Jordan's husband found an additional .22 caliber shell casing in a bedroom adjacent to where he had found his wife's body. That shell casing was consistent with the two .22 caliber shell casings previously found by FIU. The shell casings from the Jordans' house were swabbed for potential DNA evidence. A June 23, 2022, report from the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center (NYSP FIC) confirmed that Sgt. Williams's DNA was detected on the .22 shell casings found in Janet Jordan's home. Also, members of FIU found two .22 caliber live rounds in Sgt. Williams's personal car that had the same unique crosshair imprinted on the base as the casings found in the Jordans' house.

Sgt. Williams was a registered gun dealer and stored weapons and ammunition in his home. A search of his home resulted in the discovery of .22 caliber ammunition (though not with the distinctive crosshair markings), two silencers and an empty .22 caliber silencer box. However, the weapon used to kill Janet Jordan has never been found.

During FIU's search of Sgt. Williams's personal car, members found a black jacket that matched the jacket worn by Sgt. Williams on security footage from the Jordans' house; FIU swabbed the jacket for DNA analysis. A June 23, 2022, report from the NYSP FIC confirmed that Janet Jordan's DNA was found on the inside sleeves of Sgt. Williams's jacket.

On March 15, 2022, Dr. Christine Yoo, from the Office of the Monroe County Medical Examiner ("OMCME") conducted autopsies of the bodies of Janet Jordan and Sgt. Williams. According to the *Death Confirmation and Summary Reports*<sup>6</sup> issued by OMCME, the cause of death of Janet Jordan was "multiple gunshot wounds of the head" and the manner of death was "homicide"; the cause of death of Sgt. Williams was "contact gunshot wound of the head" and the manner of death was "suicide." During the autopsy of Sgt. Williams, a single key was located in a pocket of Sgt. Williams's pants. OSI and NYSP Investigators tested the key in the lock of the Jordans' door; it matched and opened the door.

A full review of the physical evidence, forensic evidence and video surveillance footage supports the conclusion that Sgt. Williams was responsible for Janet Jordan's death. OSI uncovered no evidence indicating that any other person was involved in the homicide. Therefore, there is no basis on which OSI could seek charges against any living person in this case.

Dated: September 21, 2022

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<sup>6</sup> The final autopsy reports for Janet Jordan and Sgt. Williams have yet to be issued.