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## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 17, 2026

### **UPDATE: Officer Involved Death Investigation in Chippewa Falls, Wis.**

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is investigating an officer involved death that occurred in the City of Chippewa Falls on the morning of Thursday, April 9, 2026.

At 10:58 a.m. Thursday morning, three officers with the Chippewa Falls Police Department were dispatched to a hotel near the 1000 block of West Park Avenue in Chippewa Falls to respond to a report of wanted subjects being there.

After arriving outside the hotel, one of the responding officers, **Chippewa Falls Police Department Sgt. James Luckey, with over 9.5 years of law enforcement experience**, made contact with three subjects in a vehicle. One of the subjects, **Bradley J. Barnum, 44**, fled the vehicle. Luckey pursued Barnum on foot, and, while fleeing, Barnum brandished what law enforcement reported they believed to be a handgun. This item was collected and determined to be a **Daisy Model 5501 CO2 Blowback BB Pistol**.

Barnum jumped a patio railing, and Luckey, on the opposite side of the railing, discharged his weapon, striking the subject.

EMS was contacted and life saving measures were rendered on the subject, but the subject was pronounced deceased on scene. No members of law enforcement or other members of the public were injured during this incident.

The involved law enforcement officer was wearing a body-worn camera during the incident, and remains on administrative leave, per the agency's policy.

DCI is leading this investigation and is assisted by a DCI Crime Response Specialist, the Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office.

Involved law enforcement are fully cooperating with DCI during this investigation. DCI is continuing to review evidence and determine the facts of this incident and will turn over the investigative reports to the Chippewa County District Attorney's Office when the investigation concludes.

Please direct all media inquiries to Wisconsin DOJ.