



CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

POLICE DEPARTMENT



William M. Breault
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
UPDATED MEDIA RELEASE REGARDING MARCH 18 FATAL CRASH
March 30, 2021

Dover, NH, March 30, 2021- After continued investigation into the March 18 fatal motor vehicle crash on Sixth Street near Longhill Road that claimed the lives of Joseph Bougie and Michael Murphy, the Dover Police Department has learned the following information:

On March 17, 2021 at approximately, 11:35 PM, two Dover police officers made contact with Michael Murphy after he walked out of a bar in downtown Dover. The officers were familiar with Mr. Murphy from prior police contacts. When Mr. Murphy exited the bar, he was accompanied by another male who, upon seeing the officers, abruptly turned around and walked away. The officers spoke with Mr. Murphy after he entered the passenger seat of a black 2010 BMW sedan.

The officers learned that the vehicle was registered to Joseph Bougie who had active warrants from other jurisdictions for Disobeying a Police Officer, Reckless Operation, Speed, and Violation of a Court Order. The officers suspected that Mr. Murphy had been accompanied by Mr. Bougie based on the fact that the BMW was registered to him, his physical description, and photo; however, Mr. Murphy refused to identify the male that walked away. The officers checked the area for Mr. Bougie for a period of time in an attempt to locate Mr. Bougie but were unable to do so. Shortly thereafter, the officers observed the BMW leaving the area but lost sight of it in the area of Sixth Street.

Several minutes later, an officer observed a similar vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on Glenwood Avenue near the intersection with Sixth Street. The officer turned on his blue lights and reversed direction to attempt to stop the vehicle as it proceeded northbound on Sixth Street through the intersection of Indian Brook Drive. Based on the speed of the vehicle, the officer followed department policy and discontinued the attempt to stop in the area of JD Howard Dental at 375 Sixth Street. The officer was never able to confirm if the vehicle was Bougie's BMW due to its high rate of speed. The fact that the officer discontinued this attempt to stop has been confirmed by nearby surveillance footage as well as police vehicle data.

After discontinuing the attempt to stop, the officer continued driving on Sixth Street and discovered the crash approximately two miles from the point at which he last observed it. The investigation has definitively concluded that no officers were attempting to stop or pursuing the vehicle at the time it crashed.

The Dover Police Department does not anticipate releasing any further information until the toxicology results are available.