



# PEORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Semone Roth  
Phone: (309) 620-2047  
Email: [sroth@peoriagov.org](mailto:sroth@peoriagov.org)

### *Statement From the Office of the Chief of Police*

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We appreciate the thorough independent investigation conducted by the Illinois State Police and the Peoria County State's Attorney into an officer-involved shooting on July 21, 2024. The investigation concluded "that the course of conduct engaged in by the officer that resulted in the death of Donald W. Wilson III was justified, reasonable and necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Illinois, himself and other officers from death or great bodily harm". Therefore, the officer will return to full duty. The next step will be an internal review of the event by our Office of Professional Standards.

We continue to share our condolences with the family of Mr. Wilson. I want to remind our community that Police officers, in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving, are often forced to make split second judgements regarding the amount of force necessary.

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As previously reported on Sunday, July 21, 2024, at approximately 12:33 p.m. Peoria Police were dispatched to the 1800 block of W. Sherman regarding trouble with a man with an order of protection and an active warrant.

When officers arrived, the adult male suspect later identified as 46-year-old Donald Wilson III fled into a garage and started a fire. Officers entered the garage where the suspect picked up a digging shovel and began to swing at officers.

At approximately 12:56 p.m. a single shot was fired, and Wilson was down. Officers and AMT personnel immediately began life-saving measures, but Mr. Wilson died from his injuries.