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February 10, 2026



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**Iowa Attorney General's Review  
of Officer-Involved Death**

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Incident of January 4, 2026  
Dubuque, Iowa

Officer Involved: Dubuque Police Officer Austin Manders

Subject Involved: Jai Ondrick Quin-Charles Lovely

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## **Executive Summary**

In the early morning hours of January 4, 2026, Officer Austin Manders of the Dubuque Police Department was on routine patrol on Locust Street in Dubuque, Iowa. As he approached the area of Odd Fellows Bar, he observed a group of men fighting in the street. Officer Manders stopped immediately and got out of his patrol car. As he exited, he saw one of the men shoot another man within feet of the officer. Officer Manders drew his firearm and fired at the shooter, who was later identified as Jai Ondrick Quin-Charles Lovely. Lovely then retreated into the bar.

Once additional officers arrived, they pulled the shooting victim, identified as Cory Michael Wilson, to safety and began lifesaving measures. Additional officers made their way into Odd Fellows Bar, where they found Lovely unconscious with a gunshot wound. Lovely was taken to medical personnel on scene who began lifesaving measures. Both Lovely and Wilson were transported to local hospitals and died from their injuries.

## **Detailed Factual Summary**

At 12:52 a.m. Officer Austin Manders of the Dubuque Police Department was on routine patrol in Dubuque, Iowa. Earlier on shift officers were notified of reports that there was going to be a fight at a Dubuque bar, though nothing else specific was relayed. While driving the 400 block of Locust Street, the officer approached

the area of Odd Fellows bar, located on the west side of the two-lane, one-way street. As he pulled parallel to the bar entrance Officer Manders observed numerous men fighting on the sidewalk and spilling into the street between two parked vehicles.

Officer Manders immediately stopped his vehicle in the roadway, called the stop into dispatch, activated his body camera and got out. As he exited the driver's side of his patrol vehicle, several people in the fight were fleeing, leaving two men in the street facing each other. Before Officer Manders could get the door of his vehicle shut, one of the men shot the other and the victim fell instantly fell to the ground. Officer Manders immediately drew his firearm and fired at the shooter, later identified as Jai Ondrick Quin-Charles Lovely. Lovely fell to the ground, but then got up and fled into the Odd Fellows bar.

Officer Manders retreated to the passenger side of his vehicle for cover, where he could maintain visual of both the shooting victim, who was lying in the street, and the door to the bar. He broadcast over his radio that shots had been fired. He knew that going into the street to aid the victim or following Lovely into the bar would put him at risk of being shot. Further, Odd Fellows was known to be crowded on a weekend at that time of night and the officer did not want to further endanger bar workers and patrons by following Lovely into the bar.

As he maintained his position, Officer Manders gave commands to the shooting victim, later identified as Corey Michael Wilson, to crawl toward the officer. Wilson attempted to comply but was unable to move any significant distance. Additional officers arrived who were able to provide the necessary cover so that Officer Manders could pull Wilson safely to the passenger side of the vehicle. He and others were able to provide medical aid to Wilson until paramedics arrived.

Patrons of the bar began to exit and followed command to raise their hands and make their way to waiting officers who could pat them down and interview them. Officer Manders watched as people were exiting the bar to determine if the shooter came out. He did not see any individuals he recognized as the shooter. As people exited the bar officers learned that a man who was bleeding had run into the bar from the front door and headed toward the back. Officers were then advised that people inside the bar had called 911 to report a man with a gunshot wound in the bar who needed medical attention.

Once the majority of people were evacuated from the bar officers made their way into the back door and located Lovely unconscious with a gunshot wound to the abdomen. They extracted him from the bar and took him to an area where they could provide medical attention.

Both Lovely and Wilson were taken by ambulance to local hospitals and died from their injuries. No bystanders were injured during the incident, nor was the officer.

### **Subsequent Investigation**

The recovered weapon used by Lovely was a .45 caliber handgun that was registered in his name. The shell casings from the shots fired by Lovely were recovered at the scene. Both the casings and the bullet recovered from Wilson at autopsy were .45 caliber.

Lovely was determined to have died from a single gunshot wound to the abdomen. The bullet recovered from Lovely's body at autopsy was 9mm. Officer Manders' weapon was a 9mm service weapon.

### **Process and Authority**

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigated the incident, and its investigation is complete. DCI interviewed the officer involved and reviewed the officer's body camera recording and car camera. DCI reviewed evidence and reports from additional law enforcement personnel from the Dubuque Police Department and the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office. DCI also reviewed evidence and consulted with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner.

The Attorney General's Office has authority under Iowa Code § 13.12 to assess any officer-involved death to determine whether criminal charges are warranted. The office has had a full opportunity to review the findings of the investigation and discuss the investigation with the assigned agent. All law enforcement reports, including audio or video recordings, will be returned to DCI when this report is issued.

### **Applicable Law**

To be justified, the force an officer uses must be reasonable. Force is reasonable if a reasonable person, in like circumstances, would judge the force to be necessary to prevent an injury or loss. It can include deadly force if (1) it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to avoid injury or risk to the person's or another person's life or safety, and (2) it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to resist a like force or threat. Iowa Code §§ 704.1, 704.2, and 704.3.

In *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), the United States Supreme Court held that the use of deadly force by a police officer must be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable police officer on the scene and in the same circumstances. Under *Graham*, reasonableness of police use of force cannot be evaluated from the perspective of a civilian or the perspective afforded by 20/20

hindsight. The Court further stated that the fact that law enforcement officers are often required to react quickly in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations are factors that must be considered in determining reasonableness.

### **Analysis**

Officer Austin Manders was justified in the fatal shooting of Jai Ondrick Quin-Charles Lovely. Officer Manders stopped to immediately intervene in a fight he observed in the street involving multiple people. As he exited his patrol vehicle, Lovely fired shots at Wilson in close proximity. The officer could see the shots, hear the shots and saw the victim instantly fall. Officer Manders, witnessing a homicide in progress in a public street, took immediate action to neutralize the deadly threat to Wilson, civilian bystanders, and to himself. Once Lovely went to the ground, the officer ceased fire and Lovely chose to flee. Once officers could safely reach Lovely they provided medical attention but were unable to revive him. Officer Manders used only the amount of force necessary to protect the shooting victim, the public, and himself from an armed person who had just shot another in front of police and in public. This level of force was not only justified, but necessary given the lethal threat Lovely posed to all involved.

## **Conclusion**

The Iowa Attorney General's Office concludes that the law enforcement officer's actions in this incident were legally justified and that criminal charges are unwarranted. It considers the criminal investigation into this incident to be closed.