

Saint Paul Pioneer Press

August 30, 2003

Edition: City

Section: Local

Page: B4

Topics:

Index Terms:

POLICE DEATH

MAN WHO DIED WHILE IN CUSTODY IDENTIFIED

CAUSE OF DEATH IS STILL UNKNOWN

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Article Text:

Authorities have identified the man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police this week as Anthony Maurice Williams, 28, home address unknown.

It remains unclear how Williams died early Thursday after police took him into custody.

The events unfolded -- in a matter of minutes -- just before 1:30 a.m. Thursday when police were called to the 300 block of Penn Avenue North on a report of gunshots. When officers arrived, they spotted a vehicle that matched the description of a van witnesses said they saw at the scene, authorities said.

When officers attempted to pull the van over, the driver did not stop. After a short chase, about two blocks, the van struck the curb and became disabled. The suspect took off running.

When police caught up to the man, he continued to be uncooperative.

Fourth Precinct Inspector Tim Dolan said this week that several officers were involved in the chase, including a state trooper who is on loan to the Minneapolis Police Department. The man was wrestled to the ground and sprayed with chemical irritant to subdue him, though Dolan said he was not sure of the exact sequence of events leading up to the arrest.

Minneapolis officers took the man to Hennepin County Medical Center in downtown Minneapolis. About 50 minutes after his arrival, the suspect died, sheriff's officials said. Officers on the scene said he appeared to be in his 20s, according to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, which is investigating the death.

The officers involved in the arrest were identified as Jonathan Kingsbury and Craig Taylor, who both began their careers with the Minneapolis police force in 1995. According to personnel records, Kingsbury had one complaint filed against him in 1999, but it was not sustained.

Taylor also had one complaint filed against him, which was sustained. Details about the complaint were not immediately available Friday.

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