



CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BRANDON THYEN, SHERIFF

15230 Per Road
Center City, MN 55012-9663
Non-Emergency 651-257-4100
Fax: 651-213-6330

Administration
651-213-6300

Investigation
651-213-6319

Patrol
651-257-4100

Civil Process
651-213-6307

Records
651-213-6305

Jail
651-257-2931

*****Press Release*****

Case #21032180

On Thursday, July 22, 2021, a deputy with the Chisago County Sheriff's Office arrested 51-year-old, Erik Nielsen from St. Paul, MN for a felony Anoka County warrant. The deputy encountered Mr. Nielsen during a traffic stop. The deputy arrested and transported Mr. Nielsen to the Chisago County Jail for this warrant without incident. Shortly after arriving at the jail, Mr. Nielsen experienced a medical emergency and became unresponsive. Personnel with Lakes Region EMS ambulance service were summoned to the jail.

Despite lifesaving efforts by jail personnel and EMS, Mr. Nielsen was pronounced dead within the intake area of the jail. Special agents with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) were requested to assist with the death investigation. An autopsy completed by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office determined Mr. Nielsen's cause of death to be methamphetamine toxicity, commonly referred to as a drug overdose.

Through investigative efforts by criminal investigators with the Chisago County Sheriff's Office, 37-year-old, John Hofer from Scandia, MN was identified as the person supplying the fatal methamphetamine to Mr. Nielsen. On Tuesday, September 21, 2021, the State charged Mr. Hofer with one felony count of murder in the third degree. Patrol deputies with the Chisago County Sheriff's Office subsequently located and arrested Mr. Hofer without incident during the early morning hours on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. This is an active and ongoing investigation.

Sergeant Ryan Edmonds
Chisago County Sheriff's Office