

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | December 7, 2023

## **Mercer County Sheriff's Deputy Dies During Pursuit - UPDATE**

**NARRATIVE:** On 12/6/23 the Bismarck Police Department received the report of a stolen vehicle from Bismarck. The stolen vehicle was a 2017 Black Chevy Tahoe and was being driven by 42-year-old Ian Cramer of Bismarck.

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office located Cramer and the 2017 Black Chevy Tahoe in Hazen. When law enforcement approached Cramer, he fled in the vehicle and a pursuit ensued. During the pursuit, the vehicle Cramer was driving veered and crashed head-on into an unoccupied Mercer County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle that was parked on a roadside approach. The Sheriff's Office vehicle was displaying its emergency lights at the time.

A Mercer County Deputy was standing outside and behind the patrol vehicle when it was struck. The impact of the crash pushed the patrol vehicle into the deputy, killing him. At the time the deputy was preparing to deploy a tire deflation device in attempt to end the pursuit. Cramer was taken into custody, transported to the Sakakawea Medical Center in Hazen, and then taken to the McLean County Detention Center in Washburn.

This crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol and charges are pending.

### **UPDATE 12/7/2023**

The Mercer County Deputy who was killed is 53-year-old, Paul Martin from Beulah. Deputy Martin was an 18-year veteran with the Mercer County Sheriff's Office and is survived by his wife and three children. This incident occurred five miles west of Hazen on Highway 200 at 5:35 pm central time on 12/6/2023.

Due to the on-going investigation no other information will be released at this time.

**For More Information Contact:**

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