



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES

**BRUCE BARTLETT**  
State Attorney

January 25, 2021

CHIEF ANTHONY HOLLOWAY  
ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT  
821 1ST AVENUE NORTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

RE: Shooting incident resulting in the death of Dominique Harris on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 1400 18th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida.

Dear Chief Holloway:

Pursuant to notification by the Pinellas County Use of Deadly Force Investigative Task Force at approximately 4:42 p.m. that an officer related shooting resulting in a death had occurred at the above location, we have conducted an investigation, the details of which are described below.

Representatives of this office responded to the scene at approximately 5:30 p.m. and, after talking to detectives from the St. Petersburg Police Department and the Pinellas County Use of Deadly Force Investigative Task Force and examining the scene, proceeded to the St. Petersburg Police Department, where sworn testimony was taken from the following witnesses:

1. Officer Bryan Santiago
2. Jasmine Bowman
3. Khaliq Blackman
4. Detective [REDACTED]
5. Detective [REDACTED]
6. Detective [REDACTED]
7. Detective [REDACTED]
8. Detective [REDACTED]
9. Officer Ernest Sbaschnik
10. Detective [REDACTED]
11. Officer Richard McKee
12. Sergeant [REDACTED]

On December 9, 2020, representatives of this office took sworn testimony at the St. Petersburg Police Department from:

13. Detective [REDACTED]
14. Detective [REDACTED]

In addition, we have reviewed reports, dispatched transmissions, photographs, videos (including security and social media) of the incident, autopsy photos, Florida Department of Law Enforcement Ballistics reports, Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory DNA reports, and other historical material regarding this incident. We have also conferred with the Associate Medical Examiner, Kailee Imperatore, M.D.

Based on our investigation, we have determined the facts to be as follows:

On December 2, 2020, Dominique Harris (B/M; DOB: 06/01/00) had outstanding probable cause with the St. Petersburg Police Department for felony child abuse, as a result of the battering of a 15-year-old child in St. Petersburg. Because of Harris's violent criminal record, the St. Petersburg "Special Investigations Unit" (SIU) was tasked to apprehend Harris. On December 2nd, the ten detectives in the unit were briefed on the underlying probable cause, Harris's criminal history (including Burglary, Fleeing and Eluding, Resisting an Officer without Violence, Assault, and Battery), and that he and his associates were known to carry firearms and run from the police. The SIU detectives went to locate Harris at his known address of 2216 27th Street South in St. Petersburg. The SIU detectives went in an undercover capacity using various unmarked police vehicles. At that location they observed the silver Chevy Cruze that Harris was known to drive. While watching his residence, two individuals were observed to get into the vehicle and leave. The driver was suspected to be Dominique Harris. SIU followed the Chevy Cruze to the parking lot of the "Food Max" Convenience Store at 1400 18th Avenue South. The occupants of the Chevy Cruze were observed to enter the store. A civilian witness testified that when he exited the vehicle, Dominique Harris was observed to be illegally carrying a firearm on his side. This was confirmed by interior security videos.

Dominique Harris returned to his car and got in the driver's side. Two uniformed St. Petersburg Police Officers in marked patrol vehicles made contact with him for purposes of making a positive identification. The officers approached with their side arms in the "low ready" position. He was told to "show" his hands and that he was the suspect in a crime, and he needed to provide identification. The driver provided a Florida Driver's License confirming that he was Dominique Harris. The officers then holstered their sidearms.

The uniformed officers then asked Harris to exit his vehicle several times. In response, Harris rolled up the window and made furtive movements toward the center console causing the uniformed officers to have concern for their safety. The officers broke the driver's window in an effort to take control of Harris. Harris then placed the vehicle in reverse, and as he moved backwards, he struck one of the marked police cruisers. Harris then drove forward, knocking over a cement pole in the front of the store. Harris then turned to drive out of the parking lot but was blocked by an undercover SIU vehicle. Harris then turned and drove head on into a SIU undercover pickup truck driven by Detective [REDACTED] causing the airbags to deploy in that truck and injuring Detective [REDACTED]. Harris continued to drive towards 18th Avenue South in an effort to escape, but in doing so drove into the rear of Detective [REDACTED] undercover blue Kia Sorento, as [REDACTED] tried to block his path of travel. Sergeant [REDACTED] then drove his undercover Ford F150 into the front of the Chevy Cruze to block it in, where it was stopped between [REDACTED] Sorento and an occupied civilian vehicle.

At approximately 4:17 p.m., after being struck by Harris's vehicle, Detective [REDACTED] exited his vehicle with his .45 caliber Glock drawn and prepared to confront Harris, who was still in the driver's seat. Before [REDACTED] was able to command Harris to show his hands, Harris raised a handgun and fired four times at [REDACTED] who was standing close to Harris's driver's door. [REDACTED] was hit in the leg and pelvic region. Fearing for his life, [REDACTED] returned fire (12 times) at Harris. [REDACTED] then retreated to the driver's seat of the Kia Sorento.

This was witnessed by Sergeant [REDACTED], who was still in the driver's seat of his F150. He observed Harris raise his firearm, point it at Detective [REDACTED] as he approached and fire repeatedly at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] then fearing for [REDACTED] life, shot through his windshield 4 times at Harris with his 9mm Glock.

Detective [REDACTED] got out of the passenger's side of [REDACTED] Kia Sorento, when he heard a gun shot and [REDACTED] calling out, "no". He was in front of the Kia within 10 feet of the Chevy Cruze, when he saw Harris shooting at [REDACTED] at "point blank range". [REDACTED] shot his Glock 9mm 8 times at Harris to protect [REDACTED]

Detective [REDACTED] disabled F150 pick-up truck was positioned to the rear of Harris's Chevy Cruze. As Detective [REDACTED] climbed out of the driver's window and onto the hood, he saw Harris's hand out the driver's window firing a handgun directly at Detective [REDACTED], who was firing back at Harris. Upon observing Detective [REDACTED] situation, Detective [REDACTED] shot 18 times as the incident progressed with his Glock 9mm pistol into the Chevy Cruze. He also repeatedly yelled, "Gun," "drop the gun" and other warnings to the other officers in the area.

As Detective [REDACTED] got out of the passenger's side of [REDACTED] F150, she heard gun shots. She took a position at the front of the F150 and heard more gun shots and Detective [REDACTED] shouting, "He has a gun" and "he is moving". She noticed Detective [REDACTED] walk away from the Kia Sorento. She saw movement within the Chevy Cruze by Harris from the driver's side to the passenger's side. She heard [REDACTED] say again, "He has a gun" and she fired 2 times at Harris with her Glock 9mm handgun.

Officer Richard McKee was in the vicinity in a marked police SUV when he observed the vehicle collisions in the Food Max parking lot. McKee turned on his overhead lights and siren and proceeded to the parking lot and heard gun shots while in route. He pulled between [REDACTED] F150 and [REDACTED] Kia Sorento. He saw [REDACTED] walk from the Kia, stating "I have been hit." McKee approached Harris's Chevy Cruze and from approximately 10 feet, saw Harris through the broken driver's window in the front seat leaning to the passenger's side. McKee heard Detective [REDACTED] shout, "He is rising up." McKee observed Harris's upper body come up and raise a black and silver handgun in his left hand. Fearing for his safety and those around him, Officer McKee fired 4 times with his Glock 45 caliber handgun.

When the shooting stopped, officers pulled Harris, who was slumped over towards the passenger's side of the front seat, from the vehicle. A SCCY 9mm CPX-2 semi-automatic pistol was found to be underneath his torso on the passenger's side floorboard.

The SCCY pistol contained six live 9mm rounds. Four empty 9mm casings later determined by FDLE to have been fired from the SCCY pistol were found in and around the Chevy Cruze. Harris's DNA was found in various locations on and within the SCCY firearm. FDLE also determined that a bullet removed from the driver's side of Detective [REDACTED] Kia Sorento had been fired from the SCCY pistol. A fifth 9mm casing was located in the front exterior windshield wiper well of the Chevy Cruze. That shell casing did not match the ones found in the vehicle but did match a shell casing from an unsolved 2019 Homicide in St. Petersburg, where Harris had been a person of interest.

Harris was pronounced dead at Bayfront Hospital at 4:47 p.m. An autopsy was conducted on Dominique Harris by Dr. Kailee Imperatore who determined that he died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds inflicted during the incident. Toxicology tests found THC in his system.

As a result of our investigation, I have determined that Detective [REDACTED], Sergeant [REDACTED], Detective [REDACTED], Detective [REDACTED] and Officer Richard McKee were in the performance of their legal duties when Dominique Harris had defied lawful commands of uniformed police officers, recklessly and intentionally collided with police and civilian vehicles in the parking lot and shot Detective [REDACTED] with a firearm, committing the forceful Felony of Attempted Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer. Each stated law enforcement officer was in fear for their life or the life of Officer [REDACTED] when they fired their weapons at Dominique Harris.

Therefore, it is the conclusion of the State Attorney's Office that the death of Dominique Harris was justifiable homicide, pursuant to Florida Statute 776.012.

This letter may be released to news media or utilized for any other official purpose you desire.

Sincerely,



BRUCE BARLETT

State Attorney