For Immediate Release  
Dec 26, 2012

Several Shots fired at St. Petersburg Police Officers Earlier this morning - No one was injured

On Wednesday December 26, 2012 at about 3:47 a.m., St. Petersburg Police Officers in the area of the Obama Express convenience store, 1400 18th Avenue South, when a silver Toyota Camry was seen driving recklessly, heading westbound from the store.

The Toyota Camry committed two hit and run crashes (property damage only) in the area before leaving the scenes of the crashes. No one was injured in those hit and run crashes.

A short time later, at about 4:31 a.m., St. Petersburg Police Officers responded to several calls of “shots heard in the area” of 4th Avenue South and 42nd Street South.

Several St. Petersburg Police Officers arrived in the area and observed a man breaking windows at the rear of a house located at 4248 4th Avenue South.

The officers also found a silver-colored Toyota Camry parked at the rear of the house and determined that it was the suspect vehicle that had been involved in the two hit and run crashes reported earlier near the Obama Express.

The Toyota Camry had heavy damage on it and what appears-to-be blood-splatter on the exterior of the vehicle.

The police officers arrested the man found breaking out the windows and identified him as Travis Bruce, DOB: 3-22-90, 3500 19th Avenue South.

Bruce admitted to being the driver of the Toyota Camry and to being responsible for the earlier hit and run crashes. The Toyota Camry has been impounded and will be processed for DNA and other forensic evidence.

Bruce has been transported to the Pinellas County Jail where he has been charged with Driving while License Suspended/Revoked, two counts of Leaving the Scene of a Crash involving Property Damage, Resisting an Officer without Violence and Criminal Mischief.

Bruce’s girlfriend, Pamela Holmes, lives at 4248 4th Avenue South.

The investigation is still on-going, but there appears to be an underlying domestic dispute between Travis Bruce and another man concerning Pamela Holmes.
During the time of the arrest of Travis Bruce, several St. Petersburg Police Officers and a Police Sergeant were positioned around or near the house at 4248 4th Avenue South when a black male in a sedan circled the block, passing by the house several times. The driver of the sedan was described as a black male, with close cut hair and a light complexion.

At one point, the driver of the sedan verbally threatened to shoot one of the police officers, then drove around the corner toward the alley behind the home. Moments later, several rounds were fired from the location where the sedan was last seen, and the shots were fired in the direction of the officers at the rear of the house.

Several officers at the scene heard the gunshots. One of the officers standing in the alley behind the home heard several bullets whizzing overhead. No one was injured.

Several minutes later, at about 4:51 a.m., a police supervisor spotted the suspect’s vehicle heading northbound on I-275, but the vehicle exited on 22nd Avenue North and was not located.

St. Petersburg Police Detectives are actively working several leads on this case. Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to call the Communications Center at 727-893-7780. Anonymous tipsters can call our Tip Line at 727-892-5000 or Text a Tip at 727-420-8911.

The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office booking photo of Travis Bruce is attached.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Wednesday December 26, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

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