For Immediate Release  
Nov 06, 2012

St. Petersburg Police Officer Shoots an Armed-Robbery-in-Progress Suspect

Please note the information in this media alert should be considered preliminary until the conclusion of the criminal and administrative investigations that are now in progress.

The St. Petersburg Police Department is conducting a criminal investigation along with the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney’s Office.

The St. Petersburg Police Department’s Internal Affairs Unit is also conducting an Administrative Investigation. These investigations are “standard procedure” whenever an officer intentionally discharges a firearm in the performance of his/her duties and the shooting results in a death.

We will not release any additional details about the shooting until these investigations are complete.

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On Tuesday November 6, 2012 at about 1:00 a.m., the St. Petersburg Police Department’s Crime Analysis, Surveillance and Enforcement (CASE) Unit was working a commercial burglary pattern in the area of 62nd Avenue North and 4th Street North.

Per Florida State Statute 119, the identities of the detectives in the CASE Unit are not publicized due to the nature of their undercover assignment.

During the burglary-pattern surveillance, one of the CASE detectives observed an Armed Robbery in Progress at the 7-11 Store located at 6161 4th Street North.

The CASE detective observed two suspects - one of them armed with a long shotgun - robbing the two clerks inside of the store. The CASE detective notified other police units in the area of the robbery and several police units began responding to the 7-11 store.

The two suspects took an undisclosed amount of cash from the business and ran out the front door of the store. The two suspects - a man and a woman - then ran south, and then east along the south-side of the business to the alley behind the business.

Both suspects then ran north in the alley behind the 7-11 store.
A second CASE Detective pulled his/her vehicle into the alley behind the 7-11 store.

There was a confrontation between this CASE Detective and the male suspect who was armed with the shotgun.

The CASE Detective fired several rounds from his/her Department issued handgun at the male suspect who was armed with the shotgun.

The male suspect died at the scene. His shotgun dropped to the ground near his body. I will attach a scene photograph of the shotgun to this media alert.

The female suspect, who was armed with a knife, ran and hid under an old Jeep parked in a carport next to a business located directly behind the 7-11 store.

A St. Petersburg Police K-9 Officer located the woman hiding under the Jeep.

The K-9 Officer’s partner bit the woman on the left calf as she was taken into custody. The knife she used during the robbery was found on the ground near the Jeep.

The woman was treated and released at a local hospital for a minor dog bite wound and is now at the police department awaiting charges.

A vehicle in the area - possibly a get-away car - fled the scene after the shooting. Investigators have not provided us with any information about the possible get-away car at this time.

We do not have the names of the two suspects at this time.

We will release their names later today, after we have notified the dead suspect’s next of kin and identified the specific charges against the female suspect who was taken into custody.

The CASE Detective who fired his/her firearm will be placed on paid administrative leave until further notice, which is standard procedure in these situations.


The Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney’s Office will release a letter with their findings at the conclusion of the criminal investigation. Chief of Police Charles “Chuck” Harmon will convene a Shooting Review Board at the conclusion of the Department’s Internal Affairs Administrative Investigation at which time all of the details in their case will become public record.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Tuesday November 6, 2012 at 5:05 a.m.

