For Immediate Release
Apr 28, 2013

Updated Information: St. Petersburg Police Officer Involved in a Shooting Death

The woman has been identified as a 53 year old white female. She was pronounced dead a short time after her arrival at Bayfront Medical Center hospital. The woman’s next of kin have not been notified yet, so we are not releasing the woman’s name at this time.

In accordance with our Department’s policy regarding officer-involved shootings, we will wait until tomorrow to release the name of the officer involved in the shooting.

Here are a few more details of the shooting:

A Field Training Police Officer and his Trainee Officer were dispatched to handle the call of “Check on Welfare” at 2630 13th Avenue North and another uniformed police officer was assigned as the back-up for the call.

(Police Officers handled a call of a Baker Act at the same address in May of 2012, but I do not know at this time if that call involved the same person or not - we can research that police report tomorrow.)

The Field Training Officer and his Trainee Officer went to the front door of 2630 13th Avenue North where they knocked on the door and announced their presence. No one responded.

The back-up uniformed police officer went to the rear of the home and knocked on the rear door.

The 53 year old woman stood inside of the home, near the back door, when she pulled back the curtain on a large window adjacent to the rear door and pointed a silver Smith and Wesson .38 special revolver at the back-up uniformed police officer.

The back-up uniformed police officer fired his Department-issued handgun three times through the window, striking the woman possibly twice in the chest area.

She was transported to Bayfront Medical Center where she died a short time later.

Per standard policy anytime there is an officer-involved shooting that results in a death, both the St. Petersburg Police Department and the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney’s Office will conduct an investigation into the shooting death of the woman. Additionally, the Department’s Internal Affairs Unit will conduct an administrative investigation as well.

Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney Bernie McCabe will release a letter to the public with the findings at the conclusion of their investigation and Chief of Police Charles “Chuck” Harmon will convene a Shooting Review Board at the conclusion of the Internal Affairs investigation.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Sunday April 28, 2013 at 11:00 p.m.
Here is the original release from earlier this evening:

St. Petersburg Officer Involved Shooting

Please consider this information preliminary. We do not have very many details at this time.

On Sunday April 28, 2013 at about 8:01 p.m., St. Petersburg Police Officers responded to a home in the 2600 block of 13th Avenue North on a “Check on Welfare” type of call.

An individual called to report that she was concerned about a neighbor woman in her early 50’s who had been acting strangely all day. The neighbor said the woman appeared to have mental problems.

Officers arrived at the location at about 8:14 p.m.

Officers knocked on the door of the residence and the woman in her early 50’s answered the door with a revolver in her hand.

One of the officers fired his handgun and struck the woman in the chest. The woman has been transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The best place for the news media to stage near the scene is on 26th Street North at about 12th Avenue North. Take 9th Avenue North to 26th Street North and then turn northbound.

I will be at the scene by 9:45 p.m.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Sunday April 28, 2013 at 9:15 p.m.