For Immediate Release
Jan 02, 2013

Update re. SWAT Call-up at 526 Villagrande Avenue South

Arrested Suspect: Jeffrey Douglas Simpson, W/M, 4/11/54 of 6850 5th Avenue North

At about 6:30 this morning we received a call from David Simpson, 60, of 526 Villagrande Avenue South who reported that his brother, Jeffery Simpson, was standing outside his front door demanding entry to the home. David noted that his brother did suffer from mental health issues and at some point while speaking to the 911 operator a single gunshot was heard outside the front door. That round was apparently fired into the ground by Jeffrey Simpson.

Officers arrived on the scene and found Jeffery Simpson standing on the front porch of the home armed with what was later determined to be a 22 cal. semiautomatic handgun.

During his contact with officers Simpson pointed the gun to his head and threatened suicide numerous times and refused to put the gun down.

Officers managed to evacuate David Simpson and his family from inside the home while negotiators continued their dialog with Jeffrey.

Eventually SWAT team members were deployed and at about 8:45 a.m. Jeffrey agreed to put the gun down and was taken into custody without incident.

Simpson, who is on felony probation, was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and was transported to the Pinellas County Jail. Investigators are still attempting to determine where Simpson obtained the gun found in his possession.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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Previous release of Wed Jan 02, 2013 08:34

We are currently working a report of a suicidal subject at 526 Villagrande Ave South. The 58 year old man is armed with a handgun and standing outside the residence threatening to kill himself.
SWAT Team members have been deployed around the residence and negotiators are currently speaking with the subject at this time. At least one shot was fired by the subject, but no one was struck.

Mike Puetz will be responding to the scene. The scene Watch Commander asked that media responding to the area proceed to Mango Avenue and Villagrande Avenue South.

Due to the ongoing negotiations and the subject’s state of mind, we are asking that the media not deploy helicopters which might distract or agitated the subject.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-420-6448, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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