St. Petersburg Police Officers Discharge Firearms while serving a Search Warrant

St. Petersburg Police Officers Discharge Firearms while serving a Search Warrant. One person sustained a non-life threatening gunshot wound to his leg.

The information in this media alert is preliminary until the investigations conducted by the Department’s Investigative Services Bureau and Internal Affairs are complete.

On Friday March 8, 2013 at about 7:33 p.m., the St. Petersburg Police Department’s Vice and Narcotics Division, along with the Department’s Street Crimes Unit, conducted a search warrant for illegal narcotics at 3810 18th Avenue South, a single family residence with a carport.

Members of the Street Crimes Unit drove up and stopped near the front of the house as Vice and Narcotics Division detectives moved up on foot from around the corner on 38th Street South.

As police officers and detectives approached the front of the house, several people in the carport began running in different directions.

While uniformed officers and undercover detectives were still approaching the front of the house, a white Toyota Camry parked on the sidewalk in front of the house suddenly accelerated eastbound on the sidewalk located on the south side of 18th Avenue South.

The white Toyota Camry drove directly at the uniformed officers and undercover detectives, who were wearing Department-issued jackets identifying them as police officers as they moved along the sidewalk.

Sergeant Shannon Halstead, 36, and two of the undercover detectives intentionally discharged their Department-issued weapons in the direction of the white Toyota Camry.

None of the officers or detectives was injured.

The white Toyota Camry continued eastbound onto 18th Avenue South and fled from the scene.

Street Crimes Unit (SCU) officers pursued the white Toyota Camry to an alley near 13th Avenue South and 37th Street South where the vehicle stopped and several occupants ran away from the vehicle.
SCU officers arrested one of the passengers near the vehicle, identified as Danardrick Chance, DOB: 1-30-94, 4529 4th Avenue South. He had a non-life threatening gunshot wound to a leg. He was transported to Bayfront Medical Center where he will be admitted overnight for medical care. Charges are pending on Chance at this time.

A K-9 officer tracked another occupant of the vehicle and arrested him at a nearby location. He is identified as Marcus Rowe, DOB: 5-21-87, 38’0 18th Avenue South, and is charged with obstruction. He was a passenger in the vehicle and was not injured.

It appears there were possibly two other people in the white Toyota Camry, including the driver. Investigators are still working to identify those people.

Additionally, two people were arrested as a result of the search warrant at 3810 18th Avenue South, where investigators recovered a handgun, marijuana and crack cocaine. Those people have been identified as:

Reginald Thompson, DOB: 11-23-89, 1175 Pinellas Point Drive South. He is charged with Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell.

Ernest Jenkins, DOB: 5-4-91, 1175 Pinellas Point Drive South. He is charged with Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell.

Sergeant Halstead joined the Department as a sworn police officer on March 5, 2001 and was promoted to Police Sergeant on February 10, 2010. The names of the two undercover detectives who discharged firearms are exempt from disclosure per Florida State Statute 119 due to their undercover assignment.

Sergeant Halstead and the two undercover detectives will be placed on paid administrative leave until further notice, which is standard procedure in these cases.

We will not release any more details of this case until Chief of Police Charles “Chuck” Harmon convenes a Shooting Review Board at the conclusion of the Internal Affairs investigation.

Information provided by Bill Proffitt on Friday March 8, 2013 at 11:05 p.m.

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