For Immediate Release

Mar 21, 2013

Officers Respond to an Armed Robbery at the Family Dollar Store at 1720 16th Street North

Minutes after the armed robbery, officers pursued the suspect’s vehicle until it crashed into a tree. At least one of the occupants has died in the crash.

This information is very preliminary, so please consider it as such...

On Thursday March 21, 2013 at about 7:58 p.m., St. Petersburg Police Officers responded to a call of an armed robbery in progress at the Family Dollar store, 1720 16th Street North.

The caller was a customer in the store who advised two suspects were robbing the clerk in the store and one of the suspects had fired one shot during the armed robbery.

Officers responded to the store and arrived after the suspects had left in a vehicle that had been parked at the rear of the store.

A witness provided a description of the suspect’s vehicle and officers began searching the area for the suspect’s vehicle.

About ten minutes later, undercover detectives from the Department’s CASE unit (a surveillance team) spotted the suspect’s vehicle approximately in the area of 5th Avenue South and 28th Street South and followed it for several minutes.

The CASE unit requested a marked police cruiser to conduct a traffic stop on the suspect’s vehicle.

A marked police cruiser attempted to stop the suspect’s vehicle in the area of 6th Avenue South and 44th Street South, but the suspect’s vehicle sped away from the marked cruiser.

Police supervisor’s authorized the officer in the marked cruiser to pursue the suspect’s vehicle.

Moments later, the suspect’s vehicle crashed into a tree at 15th Avenue South and 40th Street South.

We are told one of the occupants of the vehicle died at the scene. The second occupant of the vehicle has been transported to a local hospital with serious injuries.

Officers recovered a firearm from inside of the suspect’s vehicle that matches the firearm used in the armed robbery at the Family Dollar store.
That’s all of the details we have at this time. I will respond to the scene and should arrive there around 10:20 p.m.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Thursday March 21, 2013 at 9:50 p.m.

####