For Immediate Release

May 08, 2013

Update #4 - St. Petersburg Police Officer Involved in a Shooting Resulting in a Death on April 28, 2013

Mr. Bernie McCabe, Pinellas Pasco State Attorney, released a letter this afternoon with his findings in the criminal investigation of the shooting death of Pamela Dale Kirk on April 28, 2013.

A copy of Mr. McCabe’s letter is attached to this media alert.

Mr. McCabe wrote, in part, “...it is the conclusion of the State Attorney’s Office that the death of Pamela Dale Kirk was the result of having been shot by Officer Christopher Dolch in the performance of his legal duty and the shooting was justifiable homicide, pursuant to Florida Statute 776.012.”

The St. Petersburg Police Department’s Internal Affairs’ administrative investigation is still on-going and will not be completed for several more weeks.

When the Department’s Internal Affairs’ investigation is complete, Chief of Police Charles “Chuck” Harmon will hold a Shooting Review Board and release his findings at that time.

Officer Christopher Dolch remains on paid administrative (inside) duty for now.

Information provided by Bill Proffitt on May 8, 2013 at 4:15 p.m.

Update #3 - St. Petersburg Police Officer Involved in a Shooting Resulting in a Death

The name of the 53 year old woman is Pamela Dale Kirk, DOB: 04/01/60, 2630 13th Avenue North. She was pronounced dead at Bayfront Medical Center on Sunday April 28, 2013 at 9:22 p.m.

St. Petersburg Police Officer Christopher Dolch, 38, is the officer who fired his weapon at Pamela Kirk. He was hired as a St. Petersburg Police Cadet on 10/23/06 and became a sworn Police Officer on 12/18/06. He is a uniformed Field Training Patrol officer assigned to District III (the western part of the city). He is on paid administrative leave until the outcome of the investigations.

One correction from the press release last night:

Officer Christopher Dolch was the Field Training Officer. His Trainee Officer was Nicholas Cardinal. They were assigned to
investigate the Check on Welfare call at 2630 13th Avenue North. Officer Matthew Enhoffer was the back-up officer on the call.

Initially, all three police officers went to the front door of the home together; then Officer Dolch went alone to the rear door of the home where the shooting took place.

Here is some background information:

Our police records indicate that Pamela Kirk had been taken into custody under the Baker Act four times since 2010. The actual dates were July 16, 2010, February 1, 2011, February 3, 2011 and May 2, 2012. On another occasion, February 1, 2011 at 12:21 p.m., Pamela Kirk’s daughter, Mikki Hartman from New York, called the St. Petersburg Police Department and asked officers to check on her mother as she was depressed over a recent relationship break-up.

The officers went to Pamela’s home and found her calm and slightly intoxicated, but she was not taken into custody under the Baker Act at that time since she did not admit a desire to hurt herself or exhibit any behaviors that would justify taking her into custody under the Baker Act. Nonetheless, officers did take possession of three firearms from her home as “safe keeping” (Pamela Kirk later provided ‘special power of attorney’ to one of her neighbors who reclaimed the three firearms on July 6, 2011).

Several hours later (February 1, 2011 at 6:54 p.m.) St. Petersburg Police Officers responded again to Pamela Kirk’s home after receiving a call from a woman who was crying and then hung up the telephone. When the officers arrived at the home, Kirk declined to answer the door, but the officers heard her say, “where is my gun? I’m grabbing my gun.” A few moments later, Kirk opened the front door but would not show her hands in response to the officers’ verbal commands, and then she closed the door.

Officers heard Kirk crying inside of the house. They called her home phone and she came to the front door and threw her telephone outside, then closed the door again. A few moments later, she opened the front door again and stepped outside where she was taken into custody under the Baker Act after she made suicidal comments and said she no longer wanted to live.

The criminal and administrative investigations are still ongoing and we will not release any more details about the case until the conclusion of those investigations.

Information by Bill Proffitt on April 29, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.

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.

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