For Immediate Release
Oct 17, 2013

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

The deceased person is a white male, early 30's. Florida Drivers License records indicate he has a Pinellas Park address. We are withholding his name at this time as we have not notified the individual's next of kin.

The deceased person has several prior arrests in Pinellas County, including charges of criminal mischief, VOP DUI, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Marijuana, Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer, VOP - Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer, Trafficking in Phenethylamines, Possession of Cocaine and Domestic Battery.

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On Thursday October 17, 2013 at 11:10 p.m., St. Petersburg Police Officers (uniformed patrol officers in marked police cruisers) were dispatched to a call of a “man with a gun” at the Hungry Baba restaurant, 1811 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South.

Employees of the Hungry Baba called the St. Petersburg Police Department after a white male described as “sweaty and nervous” had entered the business. The employees later told officers the white male was sweating so profusely that one of the employees gave him a towel to wipe himself dry.

The white male then left the Hungry Baba business. As he walked across the Hungry Baba parking lot, the employees saw him waving a handgun around as he talked to some other individuals standing in the parking lot and called the police.

Moments later, the employees watched as the white male got into the driver’s seat of a white Dodge Caravan and drove out of the parking lot.

St. Petersburg Police Officers arrived on the scene at 11:12 p.m. and observed the white Dodge Caravan pull out of the Hungry Baba parking lot and onto Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South.

The white Dodge Caravan then made a left turn to go westbound on 18th Avenue South.

St. Petersburg Police Officers in marked police cruisers turned on their emergency lights to conduct a traffic stop on the white Dodge Caravan.

The white Dodge Caravan immediately pulled into the Snax Food Store parking lot, 1755 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street
South.

The white male driver of the Dodge Caravan spun the vehicle around in the parking lot and then stopped in a southern-facing position, somewhat perpendicular to the marked police cruisers entering the Snax parking lot.

While seated in his vehicle, the white male driver then began firing multiple rounds from a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun at the marked police cruisers.

Four of the bullets struck two marked police cruisers.

Police Cruiser P3827 sustained a bullet hole in the right rear passenger door.

Police Cruiser P3134 sustained bullets holes in the left front passenger window/door frame area, the front hood and the driver’s side windshield, producing damage to the spotlight and the driver’s side mirror.

I will send photos of the damage to these police cruisers in subsequent media alerts.

Several officers returned fire and struck the white male driver. He died at the scene.

Officers found a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun inside of the vehicle. Officers also found cocaine, cocaine paraphernalia and pills inside of the vehicle, and cocaine on the white male driver.

I will include a scene photograph of the .45 caliber, semi-automatic handgun that was found inside of the white Dodge Caravan.

In accordance with Department policy, we will wait until sometime on Friday to release the names of the officers involved in the shooting.

These officers have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation, which is standard procedure in situations where a shooting involves a death.

St. Petersburg Police Department Detectives and the Pinellas Pasco State Attorney’s office are conducting the death investigation, and Pinellas Pasco State Attorney Bernie McCabe will release a letter with his findings at the conclusion of their investigation.

The St. Petersburg Police Department’s Internal Affairs Unit is also conducting an administrative investigation and Chief of Police Charles “Chuck” Harmon will convene a Shooting Review Board at the conclusion of their investigation.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Friday October 18, 2013 at 2:30 a.m.

Here is the previous media alert:

St. Petersburg Police Officers Involved in a Shooting Death
On Thursday October 17, 2013 at about 11:10 p.m., St. Petersburg Police Officers responded to a call of a man with a gun at Hungry Baba’s, 1811 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South.

When the officers arrived on the scene, they encountered the suspect in a vehicle who drove into the parking lot of the Snax Convenience Store, 1755 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Street South where the man exchanged gunfire with officers on the scene.

The suspect in the vehicle has died.

None of the officers were injured.

I am responded to the scene. The best place for the news media to gather will be directly across the street from the Snax Convenience store, on the east side of MLK.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Thursday October 17, 2013 at 11:58 p.m.