For Immediate Release
Oct 29, 2013

13 Year Old Girl Shot in Her Home

Location: 3917 Elkcam Blvd SE

At about 5:02 p.m. this afternoon, officers were called to All Children’s Hospital regarding a 13 year old girl that had been brought into the emergency room with a gunshot wound to the chest. She is currently in critical, but stable condition and it is anticipated that she will undergo surgery this evening.

The shooting victim had been brought into the hospital by her mother who reported that she had been home with her daughter and several other children to include the victim’s 14 year old male cousin.

According to the mother she was in the kitchen when she heard a gunshot emanating from another portion of the house and then discovered that her daughter had been wounded while standing in her bedroom. It appeared that the 14 year old cousin had obtained a handgun and accidentally discharged the gun inside the house.

The mother gathered the children, including the daughter and her cousin, and drove them to All Children’s Hospital.

During the drive to the hospital that mother became involved in a minor hit and run accident which is currently being investigated.

After arriving, the cousin separated from the rest of the family and the hospital was placed on lockdown while a search was conducted. It now appears that he left the hospital on own and his currently whereabouts are unknown.

Officers checking the shooting scene noted that it appears that a single bullet passed through a bedroom wall from an adjoining bathroom where the cousin had been seen just prior to the shooting. The gun used was not located and may still be in his possession. It is not clear at this time how he came in possession of the weapon.

Officers are actively seeking the cousin at this time and are working with family members in an attempt to locate him.

I anticipate receiving an update from investigators later this evening and will past on any additional information I can release at that time, including names if possible.

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