Chief Charles “Chuck” Harmon Convenes Two Shooting Review Boards

As a point of information, Shooting Review Boards are held whenever the Department’s Internal Affairs Division concludes the investigation of a shooting incident.

The first Shooting Review Board involved the following officers;

Lieutenant Gregory Totz, 61, sworn officer since February 1975
Officer Christopher Turbee, 37, sworn officer since April 1999
Officer Michael Carter, 40, sworn officer since December 2003
Officer Michael Karayianes, 30, sworn officer since March 2009
Officer David Kimes, 38, sworn officer since November 2006
Officer John Phifer, 34, sworn officer since March 2003

The shooting took place on September 7th 2013 during an incident where the officers confronted Lealann Cooley on the porch of his residence at 331 40th Street North.

As the officers approached Cooley’s residence after hearing the sound of gunfire, Cooley produced a 30/30 lever action rifle which he raised and pointed it at the officers who were standing around the front yard area of the home. In response the officers discharged their weapons mortally wounding Cooley who died on the scene.

Chief Harmon determined that Lieutenant Totz, Officer Carter, Officer Karayianes and Officer Kimes use of deadly force was justified, but that the use of deadly force by Officer Turbee and Officer Phifer was not justified.

A copy of Chief Harmon’s memorandum detailing the board’s findings is attached.

The second Shooting Review Board involved Officer Damien Schmidt, 55, sworn officer since May 1983.

The shooting took place on September 23rd, 2013 at Central Avenue and 4th Street North when Officer Schmidt confronted Kenneth Robert Sprankle who advanced towards him while holding a large ax which he had raised in a threatening manner. Officer Schmidt drew his firearm and gave multiple warnings, but Sprankle continued to advance towards him. In response Officer Schmidt fired multiple times resulting in Sprankle’s death.

Chief Harmon determined that Officer Schmidt use of deadly force was justified.

A copy of Chief Harmon’s memorandum detailing the board’s findings is attached to a follow up media release.

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