For Immediate Release
Sep 03, 2013

Update #2: St. Petersburg Police Officers Involved in a Shooting Death

Here are the names of the three St. Petersburg Police Officers who were involved in the shooting death of Ronald Wesley Sexton on September 2, 2013:

Officer Nicolo Mangiaracina, 34. He became a sworn police officer on June 29, 2009.

Officer Justin Morales, 25. He became a sworn police officer on June 24, 2013.

Officer Michael Romano, 32. He became a sworn police officer on September 10, 2007.

Information provided by Bill Proffitt on Tuesday September 3, 2013 at 8:45 a.m.

Update: St. Petersburg Police Officers Involved in a Shooting Death

Name of Deceased:
Ronald Wesley Sexton, DOB: 10-14-89, 4412 10th Avenue North. Sexton’s girlfriend and their 10 year old son were both home at the time of the shooting. They are both listed as witnesses, so we are not releasing their names at this time.

Summary:

On Monday September 2, 2013 at 1:28 a.m., the St. Petersburg Police Department received a 911 call of a “man with a gun” at 4412 10th Avenue North (the original media alert incorrectly listed 12th Avenue North instead of 10th Avenue North).

The complainant in the 911 call was a neighbor of Ronald Wesley Sexton. We are not releasing the name of the complainant as he is listed as a witness at this time.

The complainant told investigators he was home asleep when he was awakened by the sound of Ronald Wesley Sexton yelling while standing outside of complainant’s fenced-in rear yard. The complainant (and other witnesses) said that Sexton had been drinking at home during the day.

According to the complainant, Sexton was verbally taunting the complainant’s pit bull dog that was located inside of the complainant’s fenced-in rear yard.
According to the complainant, Sexton had his own pit bull dog with him when he was taunting the complainant’s dog. The complainant yelled out to Sexton and told him to stop taunting his dog.

According to the complainant, Sexton yelled back to the complainant and told him to “meet me out front.” The complainant went outside and walked to the front door of Sexton’s home.

According to the complainant, Sexton came to the front door of his home and pulled a black handgun from his pants. He brandished the weapon in front of the complainant (but he did not point it at the complainant).

The complainant went back home and called 911.

While the complainant was on the phone with a 911 operator, Sexton could be heard in the background, pounding on the complainant’s front door during the call and yelling at the complainant (and because I know you will ask, please remember that 911 tapes are exempt from disclosure in cases involving a death, according to FSS 119).

Several St. Petersburg Police Officers arrived in the area at about 1:31 a.m.

As three patrol officers approached the front yard of 4412 10th Avenue North, Sexton walked out of the front door and onto the front porch of the home. The patrol officers identified themselves and challenged Sexton and told him to get down on the ground.

According to investigators, Sexton began to comply with their instructions, but then suddenly pulled a black semi-automatic handgun from his pants pocket and pointed it at one of the patrol officers.

Three officers fired their weapons at Sexton while he was on the front porch. He died at the scene.

Sexton’s black semi-automatic handgun fell in the grass next to the front porch of the home. A photograph of the weapon is attached to this media alert.

Please remember that the information in this media alert is preliminary until all of the investigations are complete.

According to standard procedure, the Department’s Homicide Investigators and the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney's Office are conducting a death investigation, and the Department’s Internal Affairs Unit is also conducting an administrative investigation.

Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney Bernie McCabe will release a letter 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.

We will not release any more details until the investigations are complete.

According to Department policy, we will not release the names of the three officers involved in the shooting until Tuesday September 3, 2013. All three officers are on paid administrative leave until further notice, which is standard procedure in cases involving a shooting death.

Information provided by Bill Proffitt on Monday September 2, 2013 at 5:45 a.m.
Here is the original media alert:

St. Petersburg Police Officers involved in a Shooting Death

This information is very preliminary.

On Monday September 2, 2013 at about 1:28 a.m., several St. Petersburg Police Officers responded to a citizen's call of a “man with a gun” in the 4400 block of 12th Avenue North.

St. Petersburg Police Officers arrived in the area and confronted a man, who appeared to have been drinking, standing outside of a residence in the 4400 block of 12th Avenue North.

The man produced a handgun.

More than one of the police officers fired at the man, who has died at the scene.

I am responding and should arrive around 3:15 a.m.

Information by Bill Proffitt on Monday September 2, 2013 at 2:45 a.m.