St. Petersburg Police Department
News Release

Media Relations Office
Mike Puetz

For Immediate Release
Apr 27, 2014

Update re. SWAT Call-up/Officer Involved Shooting

Wounded Subject; Paul Allen Sibley, W/M, DOB 05/08/1944, of 494 44th Avenue North

The man wounded by members of the SWAT team has been admitted to the hospital and is in fair condition. His wounds are not considered life threatening and criminal charges against him for attempted homicide and arson are pending.

It appears that Sibley had recently been notified that he was being evicted from his home and in response he set the home on fire. He then evacuated the premises where he took a position in a neighbor’s yard behind his home while armed with a semiautomatic handgun and several containers of ammunition. Sibley also left a note on a car parked in front the burning home that indicated that there were explosive inside, although none were found after the fire was extinguished.

When hostage negotiators initially attempt to approach Sibley and establish contact with him, he fired at least one round at them before they retreated to cover and awaited the deployment of SWAT members. One they were in place a second attempt by hostage negotiators to speak with Sibley was made. Upon being contacted again, Sibley raised his gun at the officers who fired in response.

Three officers discharged their weapons and will be identified in a later media release. They will be placed on administrative leave pending a preliminary review of the shooting.

Interim Chief David DeKay was briefed on the operation by situation commanders. He noted that “The SWAT team members and hostage negotiators performed with great bravery and professionalism in a very difficult and dangerous situation.”

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

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Previous release of Sun Apr 27, 2014 03:46:11

Officers and firefighter are current deployed in the 400 block of 44th Avenue North in response to an armed
individual, possible suicidal, who had apparently set his home on fire and threatening officers.

The incident began at about 12:33 a.m. when the Fire Department responded to a house fire at 494 44th Avenue North. The house was fully engulfed and firefighters began efforts to try to extinguish the blaze when a neighbor notices the male resident of that home was standing in her backyard holding a handgun.

Police officers responded and cordoned off the area and attempted to establish contact with the man. During initial attempts to speak with him he fired at officers who disengaged and maintained a perimeter around the area.

SWAT members deployed around the area and attempted to reestablish contact with man in the alley behind the neighbor's home. At approximately 3:15 a.m., as attempts to speak with the man were made, he threatened the officers with the handgun. Officers responded and fired at the man who was wounded. He was treated at the scene by paramedics and transported to a local hospital.

Mike Puetz will be responding to the scene and will speak to the media at 44th Avenue North and 4th Street.

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