For Immediate Release
Jan 08, 2014

UPDATE: Officer Involved Shooting at 1440 49th Street South

Some updated and additional information regarding tonight’s officer involved shooting.

The officer who discharged his weapon has been identified as Neil Rambaran, 32, sworn officer since August 2007.

The injured officer has been identified as Officer Michael DeMark, 29, sworn officer since February 2007.

The stolen vehicle involved is a black 2006 Mazda 6 (NOT 626 as originally reported). The car was stolen in the Palm Harbor area on January 2nd, 2014 and was reported to the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office. The tag on the car actually belongs on a blue Chrysler and the tag was reported stolen from that car in St. Petersburg on January 3rd.

It appears that after initially backing up on top of the hood of the undercover police car which was occupied by a lone officer, the suspect then pulled forward driving towards Officer DeMark who was out on foot. The vehicle struck DeMark around the leg or foot area as Officer Rambaran standing near-by discharged his weapon at the driver.

The suspect vehicle then veered towards the parking lot exit, striking two other undercover police vehicles in the process, one of which was occupied by an officer. It then proceeded out of the parking lot to 15th Avenue South where it went east bound.

The suspect vehicle has still not been located and it’s unknown if the driver was wounded during the shooting.

Officer DeMark was taken to the hospital for an examination and the extent of his injury is not clear yet, but it does not appear to be serious at this time.

St. Petersburg Police are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying the suspect in this case or locating the vehicle involved. Anyone with information should call the non-emergency number at 727-893-7780, Text-A-Tip to 727-420-8911 or may leave a confidential tip at 727-892-5000.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-420-6448