For Immediate Release
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St. Petersburg Internal Affairs Investigates Dog Shooting

Internal Affairs investigators are currently investigating an officer’s discharge of his firearm result in the death of a German Sheppard.

Information is preliminary, but according to supervisors on the scene, two officer assigned to the Department’s Downtown Deployment Team spotted an individual in Williams Park whom they were familiar with and who was known to be been trespassed from the park. The man, identified as Kenneth X. McNeal, DOB 12/22/92, was walking a German Sheppard on a leash at the time he was seen by the officers.

The officers attempted to stop McNeal to further investigate his presents in the park, but as they attempted to detain him, he ignored their verbal directions to stop and continued to walk away.

The officers attempted to physically detain McNeil as he started to cross over north bound in the 300 block of 2nd Avenue North, but he struggled with the officers and then let go of the leash.

Once released, the dog turned and attempted to bite one of the officers who drew his firearm and discharged it several times at the animals, resulting in its death.

After the shooting, McNeil was subdued and is currently charged with Trespassing and Resisting Arrest with Violence.

Internal Affairs Investigators are on the scene conducting an investigation of the shooting.

Neither McNeil nor the two officers involved were injured. McNeil is not the owner of the dog, but was apparently walking it for a friend. I do not have name of the owner at this time.

I will release the names of the officers in a follow-up press release.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-420-6448