For Immediate Release
Jan 09, 2014

2nd UPDATE re Officer Involved Shooting at 1440 49th Street South

The stolen 2006 Mazda 6 that was involved in last night’s officer involved shooting has been recovered in the area of 8414 5th Street North at about 8:50 a.m. this morning. A citizen called the police to report seeing the vehicle abandon at that location and recognized its description from news accounts.

Detectives report that there was no blood or other evidence found inside the car that suggest that the occupant had been injured. The stolen tag that had been on the car had been removed. Bullet damage was found on the vehicle which is being towed to a secure location for further forensic testing. No suspect has yet been identified.

Officer Michael DeMark who was, slightly injured last night, was treated and released from a local hospital and has returned to full duty.

Officer Neil Rambaran, the officer who discharged his weapon, has been currently placed on administrative leave pending further Internal Affairs review.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

Previous release of Thu Jan 09, 2014 00:16

UPDATE re 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

Previous release of Wed Jan 08, 2014 21:47

Officer Involved Shooting at 1440 49th Street South

We are currently on the scene of an officer involved shooting at the Quick Stop convenience store at 1440 49th Street South.

Officers on the scene advise that at about 8:30 p.m., officers from our Street Crimes Unit spotted a reported stolen vehicle in the parking of the convenience store. At least three unmarked police units pulled into the lot with the intention of stopping the car and apprehending the driver who was seen exited the store.

As they approached, the driver ran to the car, got inside, and backed out at a high rate of speed with sufficient force to drive up and over the top of one of the unmarked cruisers. Another officer, seeing the drivers actions, fired multiple rounds at the suspect vehicle which then manage to drive forward off the cruiser and proceed out of the area in a east bound direction on 15 Avenue South.

Attempts to relocate the suspect vehicle have been unsuccessful and it currently remains at large.

One officer suffered minor injuries, but did not require medical treatment.

It is not know if the suspect suffered any wounds from the shooting and his identity remains unknown at this time.

He is described at this time as a B/M in his 20’s 6’1”, last seen a black hoody and black jeans.

The suspect vehicle is black 2006 Mazda 626 with a FL tag number of G142LV. The tag is stolen and is not registered to the car. It should have rear end damage.

Mike Puetz will be responding to the scene and should arrive at around 10:30 pm

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-420-6448