Dog Shooting Investigation

Yesterday (11/24/14) at about 6:45 p.m. officers responded to a reported dog shooting at 1151 55th Avenue South. Arriving on the scene, officers encountered the owner of two wounded pit bull dogs at 1195 55th Avenue South. Both dogs were alive and subsequently transported to a local veterinarian hospital for treatment by the owner, Mariamma Braxton.

Officers interviewed two women, mother and daughter, who reside at the 1151 55th Avenue North address. The mother, Ellen Staples, 69, stated that she noticed the neighbor’s pit bull dogs were running loose in her yard and since she had had previous negative encounters with them before, she went to close the window on the east side of her residence to make sure they didn’t get into the house.

As Staples began to close the window, the dogs began to leap at her from outside, biting her hands and wrist. She called out for help and her daughter, Robin Alotaibi, 51, retrieved a handgun and came into the room. Seeing the dogs attacking her mother at the window, Alotaibi fired three rounds at them, apparently hitting both. The dogs then fled back into their yard.

At last report the two dogs were left in the care of a veterinarian by the owner and their current condition is unknown. It does not appear that Staples sought treatment for her bite wounds at the time of the officer’s report.

As Alotaibi discharged her firearm in defense of her mother, no charges are pending against her. The investigating officer has forwarded his report to the State Attorney’s Office for a possible ordinance violation by the dog owner.

Yolanda Fernandez