



# St. Petersburg Police News Release



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## Media Relations Office

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Update: Man Dies During Arrest

On January 4, 2017, at 7:10 a.m., St. Petersburg Police officers were dispatched to 1401 5th Avenue North in response to a tip that drugs were being used by men outside the location.

At 7:13 a.m., Officer Patrick McGovern, a 21 year veteran of the department arrived and found five people on the property, including Joshua G. Dove, w/m, DOB 10/8/1981. Officer McGovern asked the group to leave and everyone in the group complied with the exception of Dove. Dove became confrontational with McGovern and at one point ran onto 5th Avenue North and then back toward Officer McGovern. One of the other men present tried to restrain Dove, but Dove threw a punch at the officer. Dove and the other man fell to the ground as Officer Bradley Lightfield, an 8 year veteran, arrived to assist Officer McGovern.

A violent struggle ensued as the two officers attempted to arrest Dove.

Officer McGovern deployed his Taser with no apparent effect and Dove continued to fight with the officers and resist arrest. Two additional officers, Mark Carr and Russell Zitzelberg, both 27 year veterans, arrived and attempted to assist in controlling Dove. A second Taser deployment was more effective and allowed the officers to control Dove and handcuff him. They lifted Dove from the ground to walk him to a patrol car, but he began kicking and again resisted. Officers moved to secure Dove's legs, but during the process of applying leg restraints, Dove stopped resisting and fell limp.

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue personnel had been called because of the Taser deployment and arrived as Dove went into medical distress. They administered aid and transported Dove two blocks to St. Anthony's Hospital. Dove was pronounced deceased at the hospital at 8:00 a.m.

Dove's death is being investigated by the St. Petersburg Police Department's Major Crimes Unit, the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney's Office, and the District Six Medical Examiner's Office. The cause of death will be determined by an autopsy.

None of the officers was injured during the arrest and all of the officers will remain on full-duty status. No drugs were found on Dove, but witnesses told detectives that Dove had smoked synthetic cannabinoids, commonly known as "Spice" just prior to Officer McGovern's arrival.

Report number 2017-000565.

-----previously released-----

At 7:15 a.m., police attempted to arrest a man outside 1401 5th Avenue North. He struggled violently with two officers and a citizen also tried to assist the officers.

The man collapsed and officers immediately began aid and called for rescue. He was pronounced dead at St. Anthony's hospital.

We will release more details as they become available.