

## **Sioux Falls Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Summary Detailing the Events That Took Place on April 1, 2025**

On April 1st, 2025, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was requested by the Sioux Falls Police Department (SFPD) to investigate a shooting that occurred in Sioux Falls, at the intersection of W. 12th Street and S. Elmwood Ave. The suspect, Samir Yasser Albaidhani, fired rounds from a handgun at two Sioux Falls Police Officers during a foot pursuit. A Sioux Falls Police Officer was struck by gunfire and received non-life-threatening injuries. The injured SFPD Officer (Officer #1) and another SFPD Officer (Officer #2) returned fire at Albaidhani.

Following the shooting in Sioux Falls, Albaidhani fled the area on foot and stole a vehicle from a nearby residence. Albaidhani was later located by Law Enforcement driving the stolen vehicle on I-29 near Beresford, SD. Following a vehicle pursuit with Beresford Police and the South Dakota Highway Patrol, Albaidhani was involved in another officer-involved shooting incident in Union County. This incident resulted in the apprehension of Albaidhani.

The following is a summary of the events that occurred in Sioux Falls, SD, and the result of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

### **SYNOPSIS**

On April 1st, 2025, the Minnehaha County Warrant / Fugitive Task Force was attempting to locate Samir Yasser Albaidhani. Albaidhani was a wanted parole absconder and had several active warrants for his arrest. The Minnehaha County Warrant / Fugitive Task Force learned from an associate of Albaidhani that he was using methamphetamine, carried a handgun in his waistband, and was making statements about not going back to prison alive. The Minnehaha County Warrant / Fugitive Task Force and the SFPD Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) worked in conjunction to locate Albaidhani.

On April 1st, at approximately 11:20 AM, Officers observed a male they believed to be Albaidhani seated in the driver's seat of a silver 2012 Hyundai SUV near a residence in Sioux Falls. At approximately 3:58 PM, a Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Detective witnessed the 2012 silver Hyundai driving past another residence in Sioux Falls. Albaidhani was believed to be driving the silver Hyundai, a vehicle later confirmed as stolen out of Sioux Falls.

SFPD Officer #1 and SFPD Officer #2 were together in an unmarked Police patrol truck when they located the 2012 Hyundai. The driver, and sole occupant, later identified as Samir Albaidhani, parked the stolen Hyundai on the east side of JJ's Billiards and Darts, located at 309 S. Elmwood Ave. in Sioux Falls. The Officers approached the vehicle at approximately 4:01 PM and used their patrol vehicle to box the Hyundai into a parking spot. Officer #1 activated the emergency lights on the patrol vehicle before exiting. Albaidhani fled on foot southbound across W. 12th Street along S. Elmwood Ave.

Officer #1 and Officer #2 pursued Albaidhani on foot. During the foot chase, Albaidhani turned while running and fired two (2) shots from a handgun in the direction of Officer #1 and Officer #2. Officer #1 was struck by a fired bullet and immediately fell to the ground. After being shot, Officer #1 fired three (3) rounds from his duty handgun at Albaidhani. Officer #2 pursued Albaidhani and fired one (1) round from his duty handgun. Albaidhani was not struck by gunfire and continued fleeing on foot.

After the shooting, the Officers lost sight of Albaidhani as he fled behind a house on S. Elmwood Ave. Officer #1 applied a tourniquet to his injured arm, and Officer #2 assisted with rendering aid. Officer #1 was transported to a Sioux Falls Hospital for emergency treatment.

At approximately 4:14 PM, Metro Communications received a 911 call of a running vehicle being stolen from a nearby residence in Sioux Falls. The vehicle, a maroon 2005 Chevy Trailblazer, was stolen near the last known location of Albaidhani, shortly after the shooting.

Albaidhani's name and physical descriptors were broadcast to Law Enforcement, as well as the description of the stolen Chevy Trailblazer. Shortly after the report of the stolen Trailblazer was broadcast, a South Dakota Highway Patrol (SDHP) Trooper reported spotting a vehicle matching that description traveling southbound on I-29. The Trooper announced this information via radio communication and requested that Law Enforcement to the south be on the lookout. At approximately 4:43 PM, two Beresford Police Officers observed the stolen Trailblazer traveling southbound on Interstate 29 near Beresford, SD. Beresford Police and SDHP Troopers pursued the Trailblazer to exit #42 southbound on I-29. Samir Albaidhani was operating the stolen Trailblazer and was taken into custody following a second officer-involved shooting. During the incident near exit #42, Albaidhani fired shots at Law Enforcement, and an SDHP Trooper returned fire. Albaidhani was struck by a vehicle driven by an SDHP Trooper and taken into custody. A Glock 43X 9 mm handgun was recovered from Albaidhani. The details of the SDHP Officer involved shooting will be included in a separate DCI shooting summary.

#### **INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS POLICE OFFICER #1**

SFPD Officer #1 was interviewed by a DCI Special Agent in Sioux Falls on April 11th, 2025. Officer #1 was on duty on April 1st, and received information that Samir Albaidhani had outstanding felony warrants, was a parole absconder, and was suspected of additional recent crimes. Officer #1 noted VCU received information from a known acquaintance that Albaidhani was in possession of a firearm and made comments that he was not going back to prison. On April 1st, Officer #1 and Officer #2 were together in an unmarked SFPD patrol truck, which was equipped with emergency lights and a siren. Officer #1 was wearing a duty vest with "POLICE" displayed on the front and back. Officer #1 and Officer #2 patrolled different locations linked to Albaidhani.

Officer #1 recalled that at around 3:30 PM on April 1st, Law Enforcement observed Albaidhani driving in a vehicle, which Officer #1 described as a Toyota. This investigation has confirmed that Albaidhani was operating a stolen Hyundai SUV. Shortly after 3:30 PM, Officer #1 reported another Officer had observed Albaidhani on Lake Ave. Officer #1 advised that he and Officer #2 spotted the vehicle and attempted to follow it, but lost sight of it. The Officers located the vehicle again near W. 12th and Western in Sioux Falls. When Officers spotted the vehicle, Officer #1 reported he identified the driver as Samir Albaidhani. Officer #1 noted Albaidhani parked the vehicle against JJ's Billiards near W. 12th St. and S. Elmwood Ave. Officer #1 drove the SFPD unmarked patrol truck behind the Hyundai to prevent Albaidhani from driving away.

Officer #1 reported that as he parked the patrol vehicle behind the Hyundai, Albaidhani was already outside of the car, standing near the driver's door. Officer #1 activated the emergency lights on the unmarked patrol truck and reported that Albaidhani turned to see the Officers. As Officer #1 and Officer #2 exited the unmarked patrol truck, Albaidhani began to run towards the passenger side of the Hyundai. Officer #1 stated, Albaidhani then turned back and ran to the south. Officer #1 gave chase on

foot but had to stop briefly to avoid being struck by a vehicle traveling along the street. Officer #1 reported being approximately twenty feet behind Albaidhani as they entered S. Elmwood Ave. Officer #1 reported witnessing an object sticking out of Albaidhani's right hand. As they continued running, Officer #1 stated Albaidhani turned his body at the waist and turned his head back towards Officer #1. Officer #1 heard gunfire and reported that he immediately felt pain in his left forearm. Officer #1 noted that while he did not see a gun, he heard the shot and felt the immediate pain of being shot in his arm. Officer #1 reported that he fell to the ground and drew his duty handgun. Officer #1 stated he fired three (3) rounds at Albaidhani.

As Albaidhani ran away, Officer #1 knew he was still armed and felt he was still a threat. At this moment, Officer #1 was on the ground in a vulnerable position. Officer #1 knew Officer #2 was behind him at that time. Officer #1 did not know if Officer #2 was also hit by gunfire. Officer #1 lost sight of Albaidhani behind a house and did not fire any additional rounds. Officer #1 observed Officer #2 continue chasing Albaidhani on foot and reported hearing one (1) additional gunshot. Officer #1 applied a tourniquet to his left arm and yelled for Officer #2 to help. Officer #1 wanted to get off the street to a safer area. Officer #2 assisted Officer #1 away from that immediate area, and another SFPD Officer quickly transported Officer #1 to a Sioux Falls hospital.

#### **INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS POLICE OFFICER #2**

SFPD Officer #2 was interviewed by a DCI Special Agent in Sioux Falls on April 8th, 2025. On April 1st, 2025, Officer #2 was on duty, working with VCU and the Minnehaha County Warrant / Fugitive Task Force. Officer #2 knew that Samir Albaidhani had active warrants for his arrest and was in violation of his parole. Through various investigative techniques, different locations were identified as places where Albaidhani might be. Officer #1 and Officer #2 were partnered together and utilized an unmarked patrol vehicle with operational emergency lights and sirens. Officer #1 and Officer #2 wore plain clothes with their duty-issued protective vest, which displayed POLICE on them.

Officer #2 had information that an associate of Albaidhani reported him to be armed and to have made statements of not wanting to go back to prison. Officer #1 and Officer #2 responded to the area, Albaidhani, and spotted and located the stolen Hyundai near 11th and Grange. Officers #1 and #2 followed the stolen Hyundai, but lost sight of it at one point on 11th St. near Western Ave. At Western Ave., Officer #2 reported they located the suspect vehicle southbound on Western Ave., near 12th St. The driver's window on the Hyundai was down, and Officer #2 saw a male whom he recognized as Albaidhani. Officer #2 observed Albaidhani to be wearing a black ball cap and a black hoodie. Albaidhani continued westbound on W 12th St. while Officer #2 informed other Law Enforcement that they planned to stop Albaidhani.

After Albaidhani parked the Hyundai, Officer #1 pulled up behind the vehicle and activated the emergency lights. Albaidhani exited the vehicle and looked directly at their patrol vehicle and the Officers. Officer #2 stated Albaidhani quickly fled on foot. Officer #1 chased after Albaidhani from the driver's side, and Officer #2 ran up the passenger side to give chase. The foot chase led across W. 12th St. Officer #2 reported he could hear Officer #1 yelling at Albaidhani to "stop and get on the ground". As they continued the foot pursuit, Officer #2 noted that Albaidhani looked back at them and then reached his right arm back toward them. Officer #2 heard two (2) shots and saw muzzle flash. Officer #2 called out "shots fired" and noted that Officer #1 had gone down. Officer #2 reported being scared that his partner was shot and down.

Officer #2 noted that Officer #1 fired at least twice in the direction of Albaidhani. Albaidhani ran between two houses and down a driveway. Officer #2 ran past Officer #1 and approached a nearby house. As he approached the corner of the house, Officer #2 saw Albaidhani running to the back corner of the next house over. Officer #2 fired one (1) shot, and reported Albaidhani went out of sight. After Officer #2 fired, Albaidhani quickly went behind the house, so Officer #2 did not shoot again. Officer #2 held at the corner of the first house as he was unsure if Albaidhani could be in a position to ambush the Officers. Officer #2 heard Officer #1 yelling for him.

Officer #2 looked back and saw that Officer #1 was bleeding. He was scared that Officer #1 was dying. Officer #2 ran to Officer #1 and helped apply a tourniquet. Officer #2 also provided updates to dispatch. While providing aid, Officer #2 reported he was in fear that Albaidhani might try to ambush or engage the Officers again. Officer #2 was able to assist Officer #1 to a nearby business where they found cover and checked for other wounds. They stayed in their position of cover until a responding SFPD unit arrived on the scene to transport SFPD Officer #1 to the hospital.

### **WITNESS INTERVIEWS**

A Minnehaha County Sheriff's Detective interviewed witnesses at a business located near the shooting in Sioux Falls. One witness reported hearing someone yelling to the west of the building, and then they heard what they thought at the time were four (4) fireworks in a row. The witness observed a male in khaki jeans run southbound on S. Elmwood Ave. and two Officers pursuing. The witness stated they saw the Officer drop to the ground with his partner close behind. Another witness at the same business stated they heard someone yell "you like playing games" before they heard the shots. This witness saw the Officer go down to the ground and observed Officer #2 dragging Officer #1 toward an open doorway of their building.

DCI Agents also interviewed witnesses in the area along S. Elmwood Ave. One witness reported seeing red and blue flashing lights on a truck and seeing Officers chasing a man across the street. The witness heard two (2) gunshots and observed an Officer fall to the ground. The witness accurately described Albaidhani's clothing and stated the Officers were wearing vests marked with "POLICE".

### **SCENE INVESTIGATION**

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI with assistance from the Sioux Falls Police Department and the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office. The scene processing produced items of evidentiary value that corroborate statements from Law Enforcement and witnesses. Video was obtained from Law Enforcement, as well as nearby video surveillance cameras.

The two Sioux Falls Police Officers were processed by DCI Agents. Officer #1 wore plain clothes with a duty-issued Police vest. The vest displayed a badge across the front, and "POLICE" in white lettering across the front and back. Officer #1's equipment included a duty-issued Glock 9 mm handgun and magazines with ammunition for the handgun. Officer #2 wore plain clothes with a Police duty-issued vest, which displayed "POLICE" in white lettering across the front and back. Officer #2's equipment included a duty-issued Glock 9 mm handgun and magazines with ammunition for the handgun.

The handguns utilized by the Officers were examined following the shooting. Officer #1's Glock 9mm handgun contained fourteen (14) rounds in the magazine and one (1) round in the chamber. Officer #2's Glock 9mm handgun contained sixteen (16) rounds in the magazine and one (1) round in the chamber.

When fully loaded for duty, both Officer #1 and Officer #2's handguns would contain seventeen (17) rounds in the magazine and one (1) round in the chamber.

Two (2) 9 mm fired shell casings were located in the area where Officer #1 fired his weapon. It should be noted that Officer #1 fired his weapon three (3) times. The weather conditions at that time included rain and wind. There was also uncontrolled vehicle traffic along S. Elmwood Ave. before the roadway was closed. This traffic included emergency vehicles. The third casing fired by Officer #1 was not located. Two (2) 9 mm fired shell casings were located in the area Albaidhani had fired. One (1) 9 mm fired shell casing was located in the area Officer #2 had fired.

The stolen 2012 Hyundai Santa Fe that Albaidhani was operating was parked on the northeast side of JJ's Billiards, with the front end facing the building. The unmarked Sioux Falls Police Chevy Silverado patrol vehicle, operated by Officers #1 and #2, was parked directly to the rear of the Hyundai. A residence in the area was struck by two (2) fired bullets. Another residence in the area of the shooting was struck by one (1) fired bullet, as well as a vehicle parked at the same residence.

Albaidhani was apprehended near exit #42 on Interstate 29 at approximately 4:46 PM on April 1st. At that scene, Agents recovered a Glock 43X 9 mm pistol. The pistol contained one unfired round in the chamber, and an empty magazine was located nearby. That Glock 43X handgun was used by Albaidhani to fire at Law Enforcement in Union County after a vehicle pursuit. The Glock 43X was reported as stolen from a vehicle in Sioux Falls between March 26th and March 27th, 2025.

## **VIDEO EVIDENCE**

Body worn camera (BWC) recordings captured the Police initial contact, foot pursuit, and shooting incident. Video surveillance from different locations in the area was also collected.

Officer #1's BWC video showed that at 4:01:53 PM on April 1st, Officer #1 and Officer #2 were operating the unmarked SFPD patrol truck when the emergency lights were activated. Officer #1 was driving the vehicle, and Officer #2 was seated in the front passenger seat. Officer #1 exited the unmarked patrol truck and began running to the south. Officer #1 yelled, "Police, get on the ground!". Albaidhani came into view and ran to the south and was observed looking at Officer #1. Albaidhani ran to the south, across W. 12th Street. Officer #1 chased Albaidhani on foot, and they crossed S. Elmwood Ave. to the east. Officer #1 continued to yell commands at Albaidhani to get on the ground. Officer #2's BWC showed he is behind Officer #1, giving chase. At 4:02:10 PM, Albaidhani was observed on Officer #1 BWC as he rotated his upper body back toward Officer #1 and extended his right arm. Albaidhani fired two (2) rounds from a handgun in the direction of Officer #1. At that same time, Officer #2 was behind Officer #1, nearby. Officer #1 was struck in the left forearm by a round fired by Albaidhani. Officer #1 fell to the ground and fired three (3) rounds from his duty handgun at Albaidhani. Officer #1 announced, "I'm hit". Officer #2 ran past Officer #1 as he fired, and approached the front yard of a nearby residence on S. Elmwood Ave. Officer #2 then fired one (1) round to the southeast as Albaidhani ran behind the neighboring residence on S. Elmwood Ave., and out of view.

The video showed Officer #1 applying a tourniquet to his own left arm while Officer #2 relayed information about the incident to dispatch. Officer #2 returned to assist in rendering aid to Officer #1. Officer #2 helped Officer #1 move to a nearby doorway of a business. At 4:04 PM, Officer #1 is transported by another SFPD Officer to a nearby hospital.

Video surveillance was obtained from the area. One video showed Albaidhani running through the yard of a residence on S. Elmwood Ave. He was observed holding a black handgun in his right hand.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING**

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on the two duty-issued Glock 9mm handguns fired by SFPD Officer #1 and SFPD Officer #2, as well as the stolen Glock 43X 9 mm handgun recovered during the arrest of Samir Albaidhani. The SDFL also conducted testing on the fired shell casings recovered from the scene.

The testing concluded that Officer #1's Glock 9 mm duty handgun was functioning properly. The lab concluded that the two (2) fired 9mm casings found in the area where Officer #1 shot were fired from his duty handgun. Officer #2's Glock 9mm duty handgun was found to be functioning properly, and the one (1) fired 9 mm shell casing was located in the area where Officer #1's shot was fired from his handgun.

The testing included the stolen Glock 43X 9 mm handgun used by Albaidhani when he was apprehended in Union County. The Glock 43X 9 mm was functioning properly. The two (2) fired shell casings found at the scene along S. Elmwood Ave. in Sioux Falls were fired from the same Glock 43X 9mm.

### **MEDICAL REPORTS**

SFPD Officer #1 sustained a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to his left forearm and received emergency medical treatment at a Sioux Falls hospital. SFPD Officer #2 was not injured.

Blood testing was conducted on Officer #1. Blood and urine testing were conducted on Officer #2. The testing results showed neither had any amount of alcohol or illegal drugs in their samples.

Samir Albaidhani was not apprehended or injured during the Sioux Falls shooting. Albaidhani sustained a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to his right arm during an officer-involved shooting in Union County with the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Blood and urine testing was conducted on Samir Albaidhani. Albaidhani tested positive for cannabis and methamphetamine.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

A review of Samir Albaidhani's criminal history showed previous felony arrests and convictions. At the time of the shooting, Albaidhani was a wanted parole absconder in South Dakota. He was also wanted out of Pennington County, SD, on a failure to appear warrant for eluding and traffic charges. He had an active warrant in Codington County, SD, for aggravated eluding, and a warrant in Lyon County, IA, for theft of a motor vehicle and burglary. Prior arrests included aggravated assault, simple assault, resisting arrest, obstructing Law Enforcement, eluding Law Enforcement, first-degree burglary, grand theft, possessing a firearm with an altered serial number, and drug offenses.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the totality of the circumstances, two Sioux Falls Police Officers present at the scene utilized lethal force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Officers attempted to apprehend Samir Albaidhani for outstanding warrants and were wearing clearly marked Police vests while utilizing emergency lights on an unmarked patrol vehicle. Albaidhani was immediately non-

compliant, fleeing the stolen vehicle he was in, and disregarding the Officer's verbal commands to get on the ground. Albaidhani engaged Officer #1 and Officer #2 during a foot pursuit, and fired at the Officers with a handgun, striking and injuring Officer #1. Albaidhani demonstrated a clear and present danger to Law Enforcement Officers by firing a deadly weapon at them. After firing at Officers, Albaidhani continued to flee on foot from a congested commercial area and into a compact residential neighborhood, all while armed with a deadly weapon.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, Law Enforcement Officers' statements, video review, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the described events that occurred on April 1st, 2025, in Sioux Falls, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that SFPD Officer #1 and SFPD Officer #2 were justified in firing their duty weapons and using lethal force.

#### **Photo 1**



Albaidhani looking at SFPD Officer #1 and running S/B through the parking lot of JJ's Billiards and Darts

**Photo 2**



Albaidhani, while running south, rotating his upper body to the right/ rear, extending his right arm, and firing two shots at SFPD Officer #1 while SFPD Officer #2 is close behind.

**Photo 3**





Zoomed-in version of Photo #2