

Sioux Falls Police Department Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place July 7th, 2025

On July 7th, 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 the 100 Block of S Garfield Ave, Sioux Falls SD. The suspect, Deondre Gene Black Hawk, was shot by three (3) SFPD Detectives after brandishing a handgun during a foot pursuit and firing multiple rounds at Detectives. The following is a summary of the events that occurred, and the results of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

SYNOPSIS

On July 7th, 2025, Detectives with the Sioux Falls Police Department Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) were attempting to locate Deondre Gene Black Hawk. Black Hawk was the suspect in a shooting incident that occurred in Sioux Falls on or about July 6th, 2025. Black Hawk was observed by a SFPD VCU Detective at 220 N. Prairie Ave. in Sioux Falls. Black Hawk entered the back seat of a silver Chevy Impala, occupied by two females. The Chevy Impala drove to 108 S. Garfield Ave. in Sioux Falls and Black Hawk exited the vehicle with the two females and entered the apartment building.

At approximately 5:42 pm, SFPD Officer #1 and SFPD Officer #2 observed Black Hawk behind the apartment complex of 112 S. Garfield Ave. Black Hawk had been positively identified and Officers were aware he had three outstanding felony warrants for probation violations on the original charges of possession of a controlled drug, ingestion of a controlled drug, and second-degree burglary. As Officer #1 and Officer #2 approached Black Hawk in an unmarked Police vehicle, emergency red and blue lights were activated. Officer #1 and Officer #2 exited their vehicle to contact Black Hawk. During this time, SFPD Officer #3 drove his unmarked vehicle into the northside parking lot entrance of 108 S. Garfield Ave. and parked.

Officer #1 identified himself to Black Hawk by stating "Police". Officer #1 gave him multiple commands to stop. Black Hawk did not comply with the verbal commands and continued walking away. Officer #2 also gave Black Hawk commands, but he did not comply. Black Hawk fled on foot from Officer #1 and Officer #2, toward the front of the apartment complex. Officer #1 and Officer #2 began chasing after Black Hawk on foot. Officer #2 observed Black Hawk in possession of a handgun and yelled loud verbal commands for him to stop and drop the gun. Black Hawk did not comply with these commands and continued running while armed with a firearm.

Black Hawk was observed on residential video footage turning around with a handgun in his left hand. Black Hawk raised the handgun and pointed it in the direction of Officer #1 and Officer #2. Gunfire was exchanged between Black Hawk, Officer #1, and Officer #2. Black Hawk was estimated to be within approximately fifteen feet of Officers when he pointed the handgun and fired. The gunfire between Black Hawk and Officers occurs nearly simultaneously.

Officer #3 became involved in the exchange of gunfire as the foot pursuit continued northbound on Garfield Avenue.

Black Hawk sustained multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken into custody, and aid was rendered by officers. EMS arrived on scene shortly after and transported Black Hawk to a Sioux Falls hospital for additional medical treatment.

INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS POLICE OFFICER #1

SFPD Officer #1 was interviewed on July 14th, 2025, by DCI Special Agents in Sioux Falls. Officer #1 reported he was informed of a prior shooting incident that occurred in an apartment on N. Harrington Ave. in Sioux Falls on July 6th. A red car appeared to be involved in the shooting and VCU was asked to search for the car. They were unable to locate the red car that night.

On Monday, July 7th, Officer #1 and other VCU Detectives learned that a suspect in the shooting had been identified as Deondre Black Hawk, and that the firearm used in the shooting was not recovered. Officer #1 learned Black Hawk also had warrants for his arrest out of Minnehaha County. Officer #1 stated he also observed photographs depicting Black Hawk holding a handgun. These photographs were obtained through the Sioux Falls Police July 6th shooting investigation. Officer #1 reported that he received information from another Detective that Black Hawk was a suspect in the robbery or theft of a Ruger handgun.

VCU began physical surveillance of the addresses believed to be frequented by Black Hawk. A VCU detective observed Black Hawk at 220 North Prairie Avenue in Sioux Falls. Black Hawk got into a silver Chevy Impala with two females before leaving the area. Soon after, another VCU Detective located the silver Chevy Impala parked in front of 108 S. Garfield Ave. VCU Detectives conducted surveillance in the area. Sometime after, Black Hawk was observed by Officer #3 walking southbound on Garfield Ave. around the apartment buildings. He then began walking northbound behind the apartment buildings on Garfield Ave. It was determined that VCU Detectives would attempt to contact Black Hawk while he was outside the apartment complex.

Officer #1 and Officer #2 approached from the east on 10th Street in their unmarked vehicle, which was equipped with emergency lights, a siren, and a dash camera. They turned into the parking lot behind the apartments and observed Black Hawk walking northbound with two unknown individuals. Once Officer #1 and Officer #2 were close to Black Hawk, Officer #1 activated the emergency red and blue lights before they exited the unmarked vehicle. Officer #1 pointed at Black Hawk and told him to stop. Black Hawk continued walking forward but looked back towards Officer #1 and Officer #2. Black Hawk began walking faster before running. Officer #1 and Officer #2 gave chase on foot.

As Black Hawk and Officer #2 rounded the corner, now running northbound in front of the apartment building, Officer #1 heard Officer #2 yelling something to the effect of "Drop the gun!" or "He has a gun!". As Officer #1 began to round the same corner, he saw Black Hawk turn towards him and Officer #2. Officer #1 saw a muzzle flash coming from the center area of Black Hawk's body. He did not hear the shot as it was fired but saw the muzzle flash coming toward him and Officer #2. Officer #1 stated he was less than ten yards from Black Hawk when Black Hawk first shot at him and Officer #2. Officer #1 believed Black Hawk fired at him, based on the oval shape of the muzzle flash he saw coming from Black Hawk's gun. Officer #1 stated he was in fear for his life. Officer #1 reported firing his duty-issued handgun at Black Hawk.

Officer #1 saw Black Hawk fall to the ground but reported Black Hawk sat up and faced them. Officer #1 could not see Black Hawk's hands and fired one or two more times. Officer #1 then observed both of Black Hawk's hands were empty and he was complying. Officer #1 observed Black Hawk's gun across the street to the west.

A VCU Detective arrived in an unmarked vehicle and parked along the street. Officer #1, Officer #2, and Officer #3 all took cover behind the unmarked vehicle. Once it was safe, the Detectives approached Black Hawk, secured him, and began to render medical aid.

INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS POLICE OFFICER #2

SFPD Officer #2 was interviewed on July 14th, 2025, by DCI Special Agents in Sioux Falls. On Sunday, July 6th, Officer #2 was made aware that a female had been shot at an apartment complex in northeast Sioux Falls on July 6th. Photos of the suspect showed a shorter Native American male, dressed in a black hoodie, black pants, and carrying a gray bag. Officer #2 and other VCU Detectives were requested to assist in searching for a Chevy Impala that was involved.

On July 7th, 2025, Officer #2 was made aware that a suspect had been identified as Deondre Black Hawk. Photos of Black Hawk wearing the same clothes that the shooting suspect was wearing were also recovered. Black Hawk was also observed in photographs displaying handguns. Black Hawk was on probation and had outstanding felony warrants.

At 220 N. Prairie Ave. in Sioux Falls, a VCU Detective observed a male later identified as Black Hawk. Shortly after, Black Hawk was observed getting into the back seat of a silver Chevy Impala which was occupied by two females. The Chevy Impala then drove to 108 S. Garfield Ave. in Sioux Falls. Black Hawk was observed exiting the vehicle and entering the apartment building with the two females.

Officer #2 was with Officer #1 in an unmarked truck, which was equipped with emergency lights, sirens, and a PA system. Officer #2 and Officer #1 were positioned at 108 S. Garfield waiting for Black Hawk to exit the apartment complex. Eventually, Black Hawk exited through what Officer #2 believed to be the east side door of 108 S. Garfield Ave. Black Hawk was still wearing the same clothing he was observed wearing approximately fifteen minutes prior while at 220 N. Prairie. While Black Hawk was in the parking lot to the east of 108 S. Garfield Ave., Officer #1 and Officer #2 drove up behind him and Officer #1 activated the unmarked vehicle's red and blue emergency lights.

Officer #2 could hear Officer #1 exit the vehicle and state "Police, stop". Black Hawk clearly turned around and not only saw the Officers but could also see the unmarked vehicle's red and blue emergency lights. Officer #2 then told Black Hawk to "stop" and "come here". After looking at Officer #2 and Officer #1, Black Hawk continued to walk forward. Black Hawk slipped off his backpack and a foot pursuit ensued.

As Black Hawk rounded the corner of 112 S. Garfield, Officer #2 observed Black Hawk's right arm and hand reach for his waistband. Based on Officer #2's training and experience, he knew this is a very good indicator that an individual is armed, and they are trying to establish a grip on a weapon. At this point, Officer #2 became in fear for his life. Officer #2 believed Black Hawk was reaching for a weapon at this point, especially with the knowledge that he was more than likely armed.

As Black Hawk and Officer #2 continued running in a northwest direction, Officer #2 began to draw his handgun from his holster. Officer #2 yelled for Black Hawk to stop, or he would shoot him. Officer #2 was hoping Black Hawk would stop and comply, to avoid a shooting in a residential area. Black Hawk's hand came out and Officer #2 partially observed the grip of a handgun. As Black Hawk completed his stride while running northbound, Officer #2 observed

the muzzle of Black Hawk's handgun. Officer #2 was convinced that Black Hawk was going to shoot him, and his first thought was that Black Hawk was going to try and kill him. Officer #2 was terrified because he and Black Hawk were within ten to twelve feet of each other, and he knew his partner (Officer #1) was behind him running. He felt there was a high chance that Officer #1 was going to get shot as well.

Upon seeing the handgun in Black Hawk's right hand, Officer #2 issued a clear command for him to drop the weapon. As he began to repeat the command—giving the second or third directive—Officer #2 saw Black Hawk transfer the handgun from his right hand to his left. At that moment, Officer #2 observed the muzzle of the gun pointed directly at him while Black Hawk held it in his left hand. Officer #2 later stated that he believed he was about to be shot and prepared himself either to die or to be wounded and fight through it.

As Officer #2 observed the handgun in Black Hawk's right hand, he gave a full command to drop the gun. As Officer #2 began to give the second or third command at Black Hawk to drop the gun, he observed Black Hawk move his handgun from his right hand into his left hand. Officer #2 observed the muzzle of Black Hawk's handgun pointed right at him while Black Hawk held the handgun in his left hand. Officer #2 reported he was preparing to die or get struck by gunfire and hopefully fight through it.

While Black Hawk was pointing his handgun at Officer #2, he observed a muzzle flash and could hear the report of Black Hawk's handgun go off. After Black Hawk shot his handgun at the Officers, Officer #2 began firing his duty handgun at Black Hawk. Officer #2 reported that it was clear Black Hawk was not going to stop unless Detectives were dead, so that he could get away.

When Black Hawk began to fall, Officer #2 said he rolled back towards the Officers, appearing as if he was sitting up. Officer #2 felt Black Hawk was trying to kill them and was afraid he was going to keep shooting at them, so Officer #2 fired his duty handgun again. Black Hawk stopped moving and appeared to be listening. Officer #1, Officer #2, and Officer #3 took cover behind another VCU Detective's vehicle, which had just arrived on scene. Someone observed Black Hawk's handgun to be lying to the west of where he was laying so the decision was made to approach him. Once Black Hawk was in custody, aid was rendered.

INTERVIEW: SIOUX FALLS POLICE OFFICER #3

SFPD Officer #3 was interviewed on July 15th, 2025, by DCI Special Agents in Sioux Falls. On the night of Sunday, July 6th, VCU Detectives were requested to assist with locating a shooting suspect and vehicle associated with the incident. Neither the suspect nor the vehicle were located.

On the morning of July 7th, the suspect was identified as Deondre Black Hawk. Black Hawk had active arrest warrants. Later in the day, a VCU Detective observed an individual he believed to be Black Hawk exit a residence at a location associated to Black Hawk. The individual was observed entering a silver or brownish colored Chevy Impala.

Officer #3 remembered that a person associated to the Chevy Impala was also associated to Black Hawk. Officer #3 observed the Chevy Impala parked and unoccupied in front of 108 S. Garfield Ave. Officer #3 was by himself and driving an unmarked truck, which is equipped with emergency red and blue lights.

Black Hawk exited the apartment building behind two unknown subjects and followed them. Black Hawk was wearing a black sweater, shorts, and carrying a backpack. As Officer #2 and Officer #1 approached 108 S. Garfield through the alley, Officer #3 drove to the north side of 108 S. Garfield to be a "cutoff" in case Black Hawk were to flee.

Officer #3 heard someone state over the radio that Black Hawk was running northbound, then westbound. Officer #3 knew at this point Detectives were engaged in a foot pursuit, and he stepped out of his vehicle. Officer #3 heard one of his partners yell "drop the gun, drop the gun". Officer #3 then heard gunfire and turned to face Garfield Ave. Officer #3 observed Black Hawk's hand extended back behind him while holding a handgun. Black Hawk was pointing his handgun toward Officer #2 and Officer #1, putting their lives at risk. Officer #3 lifted his duty handgun and fired multiple shots at Black Hawk. Officer #3 reported he was thinking about the safety of Officer #1 and Officer #2, so he acted to address the threat Black Hawk posed to them.

Another VCU Detective then arrived in his unmarked vehicle and VCU Detectives positioned themselves behind it. One of the Detectives observed Black Hawk's handgun near the curb on the west side of Garfield Ave. Black Hawk was laying with his hands fully extended out on the east side of Garfield Ave. Detectives began to approach Black Hawk so they could take him into custody and render aid. Officer #3 placed handcuffs onto Black Hawk, who was then assessed for gunshot wounds by VCU Detectives.

INTERVIEW: DEONDRE BLACK HAWK

During post-Miranda interviews with DCI Agents, Deondre Black Hawk stated he observed the red and blue flashing lights on the police vehicle as two Officers approached him. Black Hawk told Agents that the Officers gave him commands to stop, but he ran anyway. Black Hawk admitted that he pulled out his handgun and pointed it at the Officers. He admitted to firing the handgun, saying he only wanted to shoot the ground. He initially stated that he fired at least two (2) rounds at Officers, but he wasn't sure how many rounds he actually fired. Black Hawk told Agents he pointed his gun at the Officers because he did not want to live.

SCENE INVESTIGATION

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI, which produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from SFPD officers, as well as from video surveillance retrieved from an apartment located at 108 S. Garfield Ave., body worn cameras, and a vehicle dash camera.

Several spent casings were located on the ground in the 100 block of S. Garfield Ave. and near the apartment building of 108 S. Garfield Ave. Multiple spent 9mm Hornady casings were in the grass near the sidewalk in front of the residence as well as on the north side of the driveway. Of the ammunition casings collected, twenty-four (24) were Hornady 9mm casings. The twenty-four 9mm Hornady casings were identified as casings fired by Law Enforcement. Six (6) of the collected casings were Sig 9mm casings, identified as being fired by Black Hawk.

Black Hawk's handgun, which was recovered at the scene, was identified as a Ruger Security-9 semi-automatic handgun, chambered in 9mm. The Ruger was recovered with an empty chamber. The firearm was equipped with a manual safety which was in the "fire" position. The handgun had the slide locked to the rear with the chamber visible. There was no magazine in the handgun, however, there was an empty Ruger handgun magazine near the handgun.

The three (3) SFPD Officers were processed at the Sioux Falls Law Enforcement Center by DCI Agents. Officer #1 was dressed in plain clothing and was wearing a marked tactical vest with large "POLICE" patches in white lettering located on the front and back. Officer #1 was also wearing a silver police badge with "OFFICER SIOUX FALLS POLICE" written in blue lettering around his neck. Officer #1's gear included a duty issued Glock 45 9mm handgun and magazines. One (1) round was in the chamber of Officer #1's Glock 45, and seven (7) rounds were in the magazine for that firearm. The two magazines located on Officer #1's duty vest were each loaded to capacity with seventeen (17) rounds.

Officer #2 was dressed in plain clothing and was wearing a marked black tactical vest with large "POLICE" patches in white lettering located on the front and back. Officer #2 also had a silver badge located on the front of his vest with "POLICE" and "SFPD" written in black lettering. Officer #2's gear included a duty issued Glock 45 9mm handgun and magazines. One (1) round was in the chamber of Officer #2's Glock 45. The magazine inside the firearm was loaded to capacity with seventeen (17) rounds. Officer #2 advised he changed out magazines during the incident. The magazine removed from the Glock 45 during the magazine change contained six (6) rounds. The third magazine was filled to capacity with seventeen (17) rounds.

Officer #3 was dressed in plain clothing and was wearing a marked black tactical vest with large "POLICE" patch in gray lettering located on the front and a large "POLICE" patch in white lettering located on the back. Officer #3 was also wearing a gold badge with "DETECTIVE SIOUX FALLS POLICE" written in black lettering. Officer #3's gear included a duty issued Glock 17 9mm handgun and magazines. One (1) round was in the chamber of Officer #3's Glock 17 and twelve (12) rounds were in the magazine inside the Glock 17. The two magazines located on Officer #3's duty vest were each loaded to capacity with seventeen (17) rounds.

DCI Agents observed a small hole on the siding of 108 S Garfield Ave. The hole was approximately ten (10) feet off the ground and on the wall that faced west, toward S. Garfield Ave. A portion of siding was removed, revealing what appeared to be a fired and deformed bullet lodged in a layer of foam insulation. Bullet fragments found in the lawn of 108 S. Garfield Ave were also collected.

Following the initial scene investigation, DCI Agents processed the residence at 101 S Garfield Ave. Three (3) suspected bullet defects were observed on the front of the house.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

Security camera footage was collected from an apartment located at 108 S. Garfield Ave., which faced the roadway of Garfield Ave. At approximately 5:42:36 PM the footage shows Officer #3 driving his unmarked SFPD vehicle into the parking lot entrance north of 108 S. Garfield Ave. At approximately 5:42:49 PM, Black Hawk is observed running northbound through the front lawn of 108 S. Garfield Ave. As Officer #2 is running after Black Hawk, Black Hawk is observed holding a handgun in his left hand down by his side. Black Hawk raises his left arm up, fully extends it, and points the handgun at Officer #2. Gunfire is exchanged between Black Hawk and Officer #2. A cloud of dust can be seen in the grass in front of the apartment building, which appears to be a round fired by Black Hawk.

Officer #1 is observed running a short distance behind Officer #2. Black Hawk's handgun is pointed in the direction of Officer #1. Black Hawk continues running northbound on Garfield Ave. and out of view of the security camera. Another VCU Detective is observed driving his

unmarked SFPD vehicle northbound on Garfield Ave. Once the VCU Detective parks the vehicle in the roadway, it is used as cover by Detectives.

Review of body worn camera and dash camera footage which contained audio and video, confirmed the information received from the security camera footage as to the location of Officers and Black Hawk. Officer #1 and Officer #2's body worn cameras are activated as they are driving toward the area of 112 S. Garfield Ave. As Officer #1 and Officer #2 drive toward Black Hawk and exit their unmarked vehicle, the red and blue emergency lights are activated and can be seen in the front dash. Officer #1 can be heard identifying himself as "Police" while giving loud verbal commands for Black Hawk to stop. Black Hawk does not comply with these commands and continues walking. Officer #2 is heard telling Black Hawk to "come here" as he walks toward Black Hawk. Black Hawk is observed removing his backpack before he begins to run away from Officers.

As the foot pursuit ensues around the apartment buildings of 108 and 112 S. Garfield Ave., Officer #2 is a short distance behind Black Hawk and Officer #1 is a short distance behind Officer #2. Black Hawk appears to be reaching for and fidgeting with his front waistband. Black Hawk runs westbound toward Garfield Ave. and then turns and runs northbound along Garfield Ave.

Officer #2 yells commands at Black Hawk to stop and drop the gun as the foot pursuit reaches the front lawn of 108 S. Garfield Ave. Black Hawk keeps his left arm in front of his body and then appears to pull something out of his clothing. Officer #2 removes his duty issued handgun from the holster and points it in the direction of Black Hawk.

Black Hawk turns his upper body around to face Officer #1 and Officer #2. Black Hawk raises his left arm up while holding a handgun. Black Hawk points his handgun toward Officer #2 and in the direction of Officer #1. Gunfire is exchanged between Black Hawk, Officer #1, and Officer #2. Black Hawk continues to run northbound on Garfield Ave. and additional gunshots are fired between Black Hawk, Officer #1, Officer #2, and Officer #3.

Black Hawk appears to be struck and falls to the ground. A Detective can be heard giving Black Hawk commands to put his hands up. Once it was safe to do so, Detectives move up toward Black Hawk, take him into custody, and render aid. Once EMS arrived, they continued to render aid to Black Hawk.

South Dakota Forensic Lab Testing

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on the 9mm handgun fired by Black Hawk, as well as the 9mm duty handguns fired by the Officers. The 9mm duty handguns fired by Officer #1, Officer #2, and Officer #3 were all found to be functioning properly.

Black Hawk's 9mm Ruger handgun was test fired and found capable of discharging ammunition. The slide lock lever was found to be bent, causing it to bind in the engaged position. The six (6) 9mm fired cartridge casings marked SIG Sauer, which were located at the scene, were shown to have been cycled through Black Hawk's Ruger handgun. Additional testing determined the six (6) fired SIG Sauer cartridge casings were not fired in any of the SFPD Officers' Glock handguns. Black Hawk's DNA was found on swabs of the Ruger handgun's trigger, inner trigger guard, and the textured areas.

The testing concluded that nine (9) 9mm fired Hornady cartridge casings recovered on scene were fired by Officer #1's duty-issued Glock handgun, eleven (11) 9mm fired Hornady cartridge casings recovered on scene were fired by Officer #2 duty-issued Glock handgun, and four (4) fired Hornady cartridge casings were fired by Officer #3's duty-issued Glock handgun. It should be noted that two (2) 9mm fired Hornady cartridge casings could not be located at the shooting scene.

Medical Reports

A review of Black Hawk's medical records showed he sustained gunshot wounds to multiple areas. Black Hawk's urinalysis showed positive results for Methamphetamine, Amphetamine, Marijuana, and Benzodiazepines. Black Hawk was observed to have alcohol intoxication with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .120 at admission.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on Deondre Black Hawk. The testing confirmed the presence of Delta 9 THC, methamphetamine, and amphetamine.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on Officer #1, Officer #2, and Officer #3. The testing results showed none of the officers had any amount of alcohol in their blood. The testing results also showed none of the officers had any illegal drugs in their urine samples.

Criminal History/Previous Incidents

A review of Deondre Gene Black Hawk's criminal history shows prior arrests related to assault, drug possession, family violence, impersonation to deceive Law Enforcement, escape, resisting arrest, probation violation, and obstruction. During this incident, Black Hawk was on probation for possession of a controlled substance and had three active felony warrants for probation violations related to convictions for possession of a controlled drug, ingestion of a controlled drug, and second-degree burglary.

Conclusion

Based on the totality of the circumstances, three (3) reasonable Officers present at the scene utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Deondre Gene Black Hawk was non-compliant with Officers' directions and was in possession of a firearm. SFPD Officers observed Black Hawk holding what they recognized as a deadly weapon, which he used to fire at the Officers. Black Hawk was a clear and present danger to Law Enforcement Officers on scene.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, Law Enforcement Officers' statements, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the described events that occurred on July 7th, 2025, in Sioux Falls, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that SFPD Officer #1, SFPD Officer #2, and SFPD Officer #3 were justified in firing their weapons and using lethal force.



Black Hawk pointing his handgun toward SFPD Officer #2 as exchange of gunfire begins.



Weapon recovered at crime scene belonging to Black Hawk.

