

Sioux Falls Police Department Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place July 7th, 2026

On July 7th, 2026, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was requested by the Sioux Falls Police Department (SFPD) to investigate a shooting that occurred at 3213 E 20th St., Sioux Falls, SD. The suspect, James Raymond Meyer, was fatally shot by a Sioux Falls Police Department officer after he brandished a firearm, shot several rounds at law enforcement and struck one Sioux Falls Police Officer. The following is a summary of the events that occurred, and the results of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

SYNOPSIS

On July 7th, 2026, at 9:51 pm, a 911 call came into Metro Dispatch with the reporting party stating they believed that James Meyer had shot himself inside his garage. Sioux Falls PD officers arrived on scene and met with a witness who believed Meyer shot himself and was dead in the garage.

SFPD Officers made entry into the garage and found Meyer laying back in the front passenger seat of his vehicle with the vehicle running. Meyer was holding a pistol to his head at that time. Meyer was breathing and did not appear to be injured. Officers exited the garage by opening the overhead door and set up a perimeter in the driveway. A patrol vehicle was positioned in the driveway to provide light and cover for officers. The patrol vehicle had emergency red and blue lights engaged as well as spotlights illuminating the garage. A Sioux Falls PD officer gave commands over a public address system announcing they were the Sioux Falls Police Department. Another SFPD Officer called Meyer's cell phone and attempted to speak with Meyer. Meyer was advised why the officers were there and Meyer stated he would not comply with requests to put the gun down and exit his vehicle with his hands up.

At approximately 10:09 pm, Meyer began firing a pistol from his vehicle in the direction of law enforcement officers on scene. Meyer eventually broke out the back window of his own vehicle and was aiming his firearm at a patrol vehicle. At that same time, officers were standing behind the same patrol vehicle. At approximately 10:52 pm, Meyer fired several shots in rapid succession. Several of these shots struck the marked Sioux Falls Police vehicle parked in the driveway. One of these shots struck and injured a Sioux Falls Police Officer. Meyer fired a total of twelve (12) shots in rapid succession at this time. A short time after the police officer was struck, another Sioux Falls Police officer shot one round from a rifle, which struck and killed Meyer.

INTERVIEW: SFPD OFC #1

SFPD Ofc. #1 was interviewed on July 15th, 2026, by DCI Special Agents. SFPD Ofc. #1 advised that he was on shift the night of July 7th, 2026, and overheard the radio traffic for the call. SFPD Ofc. #1 advised that he is a trained sniper and current member of the SFPD SWAT team. As SFPD Ofc #1 was listening to the radio traffic of the call, he believed that this was going to turn into a SWAT callout, so he responded to the scene to assist.

Upon arrival, SFPD Ofc. #1 spoke with officers who were already on scene and got an overview of the incident. SFPD Ofc. #1 advised that he was informed that James Meyer's wife called 911 stating Meyer was in the garage, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Upon their arrival, the officers stated that they found Meyer in the garage with a gun to his head, but no apparent

injuries. A perimeter was set up, and Meyer had fired off several shots in their direction, after their arrival.

SFPD Ofc. #1 then deployed his rifle and set up across the street from the Meyer residence. SFPD Ofc. #1 advised that while looking through the scope of the rifle, he could see Meyer reaching the handgun out of the passenger side of the window and was pointing the gun in the direction of officers and patrol vehicles.

Eventually SFPD Ofc. #1 saw Meyer break out the back window of his vehicle. He could see Meyer was seated on the passenger side of the vehicle, holding a handgun and a cell phone. Meyer then started firing several shots in the direction of patrol cars and other officers. SFPD Ofc. #1 stated that he fired one shot at Meyer. As he did so, he was struck in the shoulder by one of Meyer's shots. SFPD Ofc. #1 believed that he shot his rifle at about the same time that Meyer fired the second of several shots. SFPD Ofc. #1 stated that he could not feel his arm at this time and rolled away to cover. SFPD Ofc. #1 was treated on scene and eventually taken to the hospital for further treatment.

SFPD Ofc. #1 advised that he shot at Meyer due to the concerns that he had for his fellow officers. Meyer had already shot in the officer's direction prior to his arrival and was now firing more shots in their direction.

INTERVIEW: SFPD OFC #2

SFPD Ofc. #2 was interviewed on July 15th, 2026, by DCI Special Agents. SFPD Ofc. #2 advised that he was on duty the night of July 7th, 2026, and overheard the radio traffic for the call. The initial call information was for a welfare check and weapons violation at 3213 E. 20th St. Sioux Falls, SD. As the call progressed, SFPD Ofc. #2 heard the officers state that they backed out and set up a perimeter due to Meyer being armed and barricaded inside a vehicle in the garage. SFPD Ofc. #2 then went to the scene.

Upon his arrival, he spoke with several officers to get information on the call. He was informed of the concerns that initial officers encountered and was informed that Meyer had been firing shots out of his vehicle. While on scene, SFPD Ofc. #2 advised that he heard Meyer fire a few shots, which he believed to be possibly directed at a drone that was being utilized.

SFPD Ofc. #2 advised that he was made aware of SFPD Ofc. #1's location as well and was being informed of what SFPD Ofc. #1 was seeing from his view. SFPD Ofc. #2 advised that Meyer then fired off a volley of shots that he heard going past the area where he and other officers were located. SFPD Ofc. #2 advised that he could hear the cracking of rounds coming by them and could also hear the bullets impacting objects behind them.

A short time later, SFPD Ofc. #1 announced on the radio that he fired a shot and that he had been shot. SFPD Ofc. #2 ran to the location of SFPD Ofc. #1 and found another officer already tending to him. SFPD Ofc. #2 then took control of SFPD Ofc. #1's rifle. He noted while looking through the scope that Meyer was still in the front passenger seat of his vehicle in the garage. He saw Meyer open the front passenger door. SFPD Ofc. #2 then took one shot from the rifle that appeared to hit Meyer. He continued to look through the scope and believed that Meyer was deceased.

SFPD Ofc. #2 advised that he shot Meyer due to concerns that Meyer had been making threats to shoot officers, he had already fired several shots in the direction of law enforcement officers,

and he shot SFPD Ofc. #1. SFPD Ofc. #2 had concerns that Meyer was still an active threat and had the ability and means to shoot other officers.

WITNESS OFFICER INTERVIEWS

Several other SFPD officers were also present and witnessed this incident. Five (5) witness officers were interviewed by DCI Special Agents on July 15th and 20th. Statements from those witness officers were consistent with statements made by SFPD Ofc. #1 and SFPD Ofc. #2 as well as information obtained through video surveillance review. These five (5) witness officers advised that there were several shots fired by Meyer in their direction while they were on scene. A SFPD witness officer reported he parked a marked SFPD patrol vehicle in the driveway, facing the open garage door. Shortly after this, the officer exited the patrol car to take a position of cover.

All witness officers were wearing their duty issued police uniforms, including their duty issued vests that contained police badges and patches.

SHOOTING SCENE INVESTIGATION

The shooting scene was processed by the SD DCI, which produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from the SFPD officers, as well as from video surveillance footage from patrol vehicle in car cameras and officer body worn cameras.

Meyer's vehicle was parked in his garage facing forward. The rear passenger window was broken out, and the rear window was partially broken out. There were several bullet defects in the vehicle, to include three (3) in the roof of the vehicle and two (2) in the back window portion that was still intact. Of the seventeen (17) total rounds fired by Meyer, fifteen (15) spent 9MM casings were located. A Glock 9MM pistol was located in the back window area of his vehicle.

A marked Sioux Falls PD patrol vehicle parked in the driveway had four (4) bullet defects, one (1) to the light bar, one (1) to the rear passenger side mirror, one (1) to the windshield and one (1) to the push bumper.

SFPD Officer #1's gear, along with a .308 rifle was located in the back yard of a neighboring residence approximately 227 feet from Meyer's location in the garage. There were two (2) spent .308 casings located beside the rifle on the ground.

There were several bullet defects in this area as well. There were a garden bed and a shed that were directly behind SFPD Ofc. #1's location, both had bullet defects in them. There were two other bullet defects located in neighboring yards directly to the north (behind) of SFPD Ofc. #1's location.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

Video surveillance was collected from Body Worn Cameras (BWC's), and in-car dash cameras from several officers and patrol vehicles on scene.

The review of SFPD officers BWC's, show that upon officers arriving on scene, they were notified by a witness that Meyer was believed to be dead in the garage. Officers make entry into the residence and then into the backyard to a walk-in garage door. Officers look through a window and do not see Meyer. Officers then enter the garage to find a vehicle running. They

approach the vehicle and find Meyer in the front passenger seat with the seat reclined back. Meyer is holding a handgun in his right hand and has it pointed against the right side of his head. Officers noted that Meyer did not appear to be injured and they exited the garage and a perimeter was set up. When entering the garage and making contact with Meyer at his vehicle, several officers were announcing themselves as the Sioux Falls Police Department. All officers on scene were in full duty uniform. A marked SFPD patrol vehicle was parked in the driveway, facing the open garage, with the in-car dash camera running.

Video from the SFPD patrol vehicle parked in the driveway of Meyer's residence, showed Meyer's vehicle parked in his garage, facing into the garage. The SFPD patrol car was unoccupied during the time that Meyer was firing back at the vehicle, as SFPD Officers were taking positions of cover and concealment outside and away from the vehicle. The video shows three (3) shots fired through the roof of the vehicle within thirty minutes of the officer's initial arrival. In the next fifteen minutes after that, two (2) more shots are fired, this time through the back window of the vehicle in the direction where the patrol vehicle and officers were located.

Meyer eventually breaks out the top portion of the back window of the vehicle and positions himself in the front passenger seat facing backward. Meyer props his hands and the handgun against the back rest of the front passenger seat. Meyer then grips the handgun with both hands and begins to fire several shots at the patrol vehicle. This occurs at approximately fifty-two minutes after the officers initially arrived on scene. Meyer fires one (1) round toward the center of the vehicle, which strikes the light bar, then seven (7) rounds to the passenger side of the vehicle. He also fires four (4) rounds toward the driver's side of the vehicle.

At this time, Meyer appears to make a quick motion with the hand holding the handgun, appearing to possibly drop or throw the handgun. It's not clear from the video where the handgun comes to a rest, but it remains inside the vehicle. Meyer then ducks down behind the backrest of the front passenger seat. Due to the camera view, it is unknown what Meyer was doing at this time. Upon review of BWC's from SFPD Ofc. #1 and SFPD Ofc. #2, when Meyer begins to fire the twelve (12) shots in succession, there is a distinct different sounding shot fired as Meyer fired his second shot. This is believed to be the shot fired by SFPD Ofc. #1. It should be noted that after the twelve (12) shots in succession, SFPD Ofc. #1 was being treated and moved away from the rifle, as SFPD Ofc. #2 began to take control of the same rifle. Meyer then opens the front passenger door and leans back into the vehicle. Meyer is then struck by the bullet fired from the rifle by SFPD Ofc. #2.

SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on the .308 rifle belonging to SFPD Ofc. #1 and the Glock 9MM handgun located in Meyer's vehicle.

Results show the .308 rifle was operable and functional as intended. The two .308 casings located near the .308 rifle were fired from SFPD Ofc. #1's .308 rifle.

The Glock 9MM handgun located in Meyer's vehicle was found operable and functional as intended. The fifteen (15) fired casings located within Meyer's vehicle were fired through the Glock 9MM handgun located in Meyer's vehicle.

MEDICAL / LAB REPORTS

An autopsy was performed on Meyer on July 7th, 2026. The results of that autopsy showed that Meyer died of a gunshot wound to the head. Blood and urine testing for Meyer showed that he had a Blood Alcohol Content of .124%. The results also showed he was positive for Cannabinoids (Delta-9 THC).

Blood and urine sample testing conducted on SFPD Ofc. #1 and SFPD Ofc. #2 showed they did not have any alcohol or illegal drugs in their system.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

There was no criminal history found for James Raymond Meyer.

CONCLUSION

Based on the totality of the circumstances, both SFPD Officer's, reasonably present at the scene, utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. James Raymond Meyer was non-compliant with officers' directions and was in possession of a firearm. Meyer fired several rounds in the direction of law enforcement officers, striking one SFPD officer. Meyer had the means and opportunity to cause serious bodily injury and was a clear and present danger to officers on scene.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the SD DCI, crime scene processing, law enforcement statements, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the events described that occurred on July 7th, 2026, in Sioux Falls, SD.

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



Photo of firearm found in vehicle