

Sioux Falls Police Department Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place March 31, 2026

On March 31st, 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 Casey's General Store, 1400 N. Minnesota Ave, Sioux Falls. The suspect, Richard Paul Olson Jr., was shot at by two Sioux Falls Police detectives from the Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) after brandishing a firearm. The following is a summary of the events that occurred, and the results of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

SYNOPSIS

On March 31st, at approximately 4:18 pm, members of the VCU located Richard Olson Jr. in the parking lot of Casey's General Store on the northeast intersection of Minnesota Avenue and Russell Street. The VCU had previously received information that Olson Jr. was in possession of a firearm while on federal probation for crimes which included felon in possession of a firearm. It was also indicated that Olson Jr. had violent tendencies. Olson Jr. had an active federal warrant for his arrest for a federal probation violation.

Detectives activated their emergency red and blue lights on their undercover vehicles and performed a pin maneuver on Olson Jr.'s car next to the fuel pump. Olson Jr. was seated in the driver's seat, and a female was in the front passenger's seat. Olson Jr. attempted to flee by using his car to push the unmarked patrol vehicles out of the way but was unsuccessful.

During the interaction, detectives observed Olson Jr. pointing a pistol at his head while still inside his car, with the female in the front passenger's seat. The female exited the vehicle and was removed from the area by law enforcement officers.

A short time later, Olson Jr. exited his car with nothing in his hands and said, "Shoot me," several times. He walked away from detectives, who were giving him verbal commands to keep his hands up and get onto the ground. Olson Jr. turned around toward detectives and removed a pistol from the front pocket of his hooded sweatshirt. Olson Jr. raised the pistol toward detectives while bringing his support hand to the pistol. Two VCU detectives fired at Olson Jr. Olson Jr. was not struck by gunfire but fell backward to the ground. He then dropped his pistol and rolled away.

Olson Jr. stood up and began running away from detectives. A police K-9 was deployed, and apprehended Olson Jr. as he attempted to flee across Minnesota Avenue. Olson Jr. attempted to subdue the K-9 by putting it in a headlock before being taken into custody by detectives. Olson Jr. sustained a dog bite wound to his left arm and was transported to the hospital for medical attention.

INTERVIEW: SFPD VCU DETECTIVE #1

VCU Detective #1 was interviewed on April 8th, 2026, by a DCI Special Agent. VCU Detective #1 has been employed with the SFPD for 11 years.

VCU Detective #1 advised prior to March 31st, 2026, the VCU received information that Richard Olson Jr. was possibly in possession of a firearm, which he is prohibited from possessing. Approximately a week prior, the VCU attempted to stop the car operated by Olson Jr., but he

fled and was able to get away. The vehicle was later located, and a magazine with ammo and narcotics were located inside.

On March 31st, 2026, the VCU again located the same car from the pursuit and followed it to Casey's on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Russell Street in Sioux Falls. The operator appeared to be Olson Jr. and the VCU pinned in Olson Jr.'s car using their unmarked patrol vehicles with their emergency lights activated.

A detective observed Olson Jr. holding a firearm to his head while inside his car. They attempted to call him out of the vehicle. A female exited the car and was detained. Olson Jr. ended up exiting the car and walked away from detectives making unknown comments. Olson Jr. pulled out a firearm and pointed it in the direction of VCU Detective #1. VCU Detective #1 fired toward Olson Jr. Olson Jr. dropped the gun and fell to the ground. He was stopped by the police K-9 while he was attempting to flee. Olson Jr. was taken into custody.

VCU Detective #1 stated he shot at Olson Jr. because he was in fear for his life, the K-9 officer, and other VCU Detective's lives, along with any civilians that would have been inside Casey's as it was in the direction Olson Jr. was pointing his pistol.

INTERVIEW: SFPD VCU DETECTIVE #2

VCU Detective #2 was interviewed on April 8th, 2026, by a DCI Special Agent. VCU Detective #2 has been employed with the SFPD for over ten years.

VCU Detective #2 stated a week prior, the VCU attempted to stop the same Chevy Cruze that Olson was driving, but Olson Jr. eluded the traffic stop and the car was later located unoccupied. A loaded magazine was located in the car but not a firearm. Olson Jr. had previously been identified as the suspect in a drive-by shooting. He is prohibited from possessing a firearm and a federal arrest warrant was issued for a probation violation.

On March 31st, 2026, VCU Detective #2 observed a male get into the Chevy Cruze along with a female, and they left a residence. The male was believed to be Olson Jr. based on physical descriptions. The car went to Casey's and pulled up next to a fuel pump. VCU members pinned in the Chevy Cruze. Officers were giving Olson Jr. loud, verbal commands. A detective observed Olson Jr. pointing a firearm at his own head while inside the car.

The female exited the car, and Olson Jr. exited a short time later. Detective #2 observed that Olson Jr. had the pistol inside his hoodie pocket and announced it to detectives. Officers were giving Olson Jr. commands to "get on the ground." Olson Jr. began walking away from detectives, stopped, turned back toward detectives, and removed the pistol from his hoodie pocket. Olson Jr. began to raise the firearm toward detectives. Detective #2 fired rounds toward Olson Jr. Olson Jr. dropped the pistol and was apprehended by the K-9 while attempting to flee. Olson Jr. was taken into custody and received medical treatment for the dog bite.

Detective # 2 stated he had concerns that Olson Jr. was going to shoot him or his law enforcement partners. He knew someone else had shot but didn't know if it was Olson Jr. or another law enforcement officer who shot. He said Olson Jr. was a threat to him and his partners.

WITNESS INTERVIEWS

Seven SFPD VCU detectives were present and witnessed this incident. Those witness detectives were interviewed by DCI agents on April 7th and 8th. Statements from these witness detectives were consistent with statements made by VCU Detectives #1 and #2.

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

INTERVIEW: RICHARD OLSON JR

A post Miranda interview was conducted with Olson Jr. at the SFPD by DCI agents. Olson Jr. admitted that he was on the run from law enforcement for a probation violation and had been recently using methamphetamine. Olson Jr. stated during the incident he contemplated suicide and yelled for the Detectives to shoot him.

SCENE INVESTIGATION

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI, which produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from the SFPD detectives, as well as from traffic video surveillance, in car cameras, and body worn cameras.

Olson Jr.'s Chevy Cruze was parked at a fuel pump at Casey's with a truck in front of and behind it pinning it in. Five unmarked vehicles were present with emergency red and blue lights activated.

A Smith and Wesson .40 caliber pistol, which was dropped by Olson Jr., was on the ground next to fuel pump #7/#8. The pistol contained thirteen (13) rounds in the magazine and one (1) round in the chamber. There were five (5) 9mm silver casings on the ground behind the truck pinning in the rear of Olson Jr.'s car. Fuel pump #7/#8 had three (3) rounds penetrating the outside display shell of the fuel pump.

VCU Detective #1 was processed at the Sioux Falls Law Enforcement Center (LEC) by DCI agents. He was wearing a duty vest that displayed "POLICE" across the front and back of it. VCU Detective #1's duty issued pistol is a Glock model 17 Gen. 5 with a 17-round magazine. One (1) round was removed from the chamber of his duty weapon, and fourteen (14) rounds were removed from the magazine that were in the pistol. He had two (2) 17-round magazines on his belt, both containing 17 rounds. A blood and urine sample was collected from VCU Detective #1.

VCU Detective #2 was processed at the Sioux Falls LEC by DCI agents. VCU Detective #2 was wearing a duty vest that displayed "POLICE" across the front and back. VCU Detective #2's duty-issued pistol is a Glock model 17 Gen. 5 with a 17-round magazine. One (1) round was removed from the chamber of his duty weapon, and fifteen (15) rounds were removed from the magazine that was in the pistol. He had two (2) 17-round magazines on his gear, both containing 17 rounds. A blood and urine sample was collected from VCU Detective #2.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

Video surveillance was collected from traffic cameras, body worn cameras (BWC's), and in-car dash cameras.

Video from a SFPD vehicle shows Olson Jr.'s car being pinned at Casey's. After about three minutes, the female passenger exits Olson Jr.'s car. When Olson Jr. exits the car, he walks away from detectives toward the west by fuel pump #7/#8. Olson Jr. turns back toward detectives as he is saying something and pointing at detectives with his left hand. Olson Jr. removes a pistol from inside his hoodie pocket with his right hand and raises the pistol in the direction of detectives.

Video from another SFPD vehicle shows Olson Jr. and the female in the car through the front windshield. At one point Olson Jr. can be seen raising a pistol to his head while the female is still in the front passenger seat.

Emergency lights are activated on several of the unmarked patrol vehicles and there was a marked police truck belonging to the K-9 officer, which also had the emergency lights activated. The K-9 officer was in full duty uniform to include his duty vest which displayed "POLICE" on the front and back.

The VCU detectives were all wearing plain clothes and a duty vest which displayed "POLICE" on the front and back of their vests.

Once Olson Jr. exits his car, officers can be heard giving Olson Jr. multiple commands to include "Hands up, Richard," and "Get on the ground." Olson Jr. can be heard saying "Just shoot me," as officers are giving him commands. A VCU detective says, "He's got it in his pocket," before officers shoot at Olson Jr.

After officers' shoot at Olson Jr., they continue to give him commands to put his hands up. Olson stands up and begins running away from officers. As officers pursue Olson Jr. behind the police K-9, several stated that Olson Jr.'s gun is on the ground. Olson Jr. is taken down by the police K-9 and puts the K-9 in a headlock before being taken into custody.

SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on the 9MM handguns belonging to VCU Detective #1 and #2. Results show both firearms are operable and functional. VCU Detective #1 fired three (3) of the recovered rounds and VCU Detective #2 fired the other two (2) recovered rounds. Olson Jr.'s pistol was also found to be operable and functional.

MEDICAL / LAB REPORTS

Once Olson Jr. was taken into custody, he was transported to a local hospital to be treated for minor injuries from the dog bite. He was released later in the day and taken into custody.

Olson Jr.'s blood and urine samples tested positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine. Blood and urine samples of the detectives tested negative for alcohol or illegal drugs.

When Olson Jr. was arrested, he was in possession of a white powdery substance. The substance tested positive for methamphetamine at the SD Health Laboratory.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on VCU Detective #1 and VCU Detective #2. The testing results showed that the detectives did not have any amount of alcohol or drugs in their samples.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

A review of Richard Olson Jr.'s criminal history shows an extensive history starting in 2008. Olson Jr.'s charges include alcohol offenses, assault against law enforcement, resisting arrest, aggravated eluding, aggravated assault without a weapon, false impersonation, domestic assault, failure to appear/report a felony, possession of controlled substances and paraphernalia, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a firearm without a serial number, possession of a firearm with an altered serial number, possession of a firearm after a violent crime conviction, and possession of a stolen vehicle.

Additionally, Olson Jr. is currently on federal probation for being a felon in possession of a firearm and has violated his federal probation several times to include for carrying a prohibited weapon.

CONCLUSION

Based on the totality of the circumstances, two (2) reasonable detectives present at the scene utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Richard Olson Jr. was non-compliant with detectives' directions and was in possession of a firearm that he began raising in the direction of law enforcement. Olson Jr. had the means and opportunity to cause serious bodily injury and was a clear and present danger to detectives on scene.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, law enforcement statements, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the events described that occurred on March 31st, 2026, in Sioux Falls, SD.

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

Olson Jr. with Firearm



Olson Jr.'s Firearm

