

Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office Deputy Craig Butler and Deputy Joe Bosman Shooting Summary that occurred on August 13, 2010

On August 13th, 2010, approx. 12:57 pm, Deputies from the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office Warrant Division, went to 1301 East Bennett St. in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the purpose of attempting to arrest Thomas Clair Webster, 55. Webster had three outstanding misdemeanor warrants for Failure to Appear.

The Deputies involved were Deputy Craig Butler, Deputy Joe Bosman and Deputy Casie Mellema-Scott. Deputies Butler and Bosman were wearing plain clothes, ballistic vests under their clothing and had their badges displayed on chains around their necks. Deputy Mellema-Scott wore a ballistic vest displaying "Sheriff".

Deputies Butler and Bosman had both dealt with Webster on January 19th, 2010. During that previous contact Webster pulled a gun out and pointed it at his own head, threatened to kill himself and a 10 hour standoff ensued. On August 10th, 2010, Deputy Butler and Deputy Bosman were aware of information from a citizen that Webster was carrying a black gun with a "banana clip" that Webster kept concealed inside of his leather vest. Webster told this citizen that he was not going to be taken into custody without a fight. Further information gathered and passed along from Deputy Ryan Qualseth also indicated that Webster had a suicidal state of mind. Deputy Qualseth had an extensive phone conversation with Webster on August 10th, 2010 in which Webster refused to turn himself in and talked of his life being over.

The deputies were conducting surveillance of 1301 E. Bennett St., waiting for Webster to exit his residence and take him into custody for the outstanding warrants. Earlier attempts by the deputies to locate Webster had been unsuccessful, but additional information was obtained that indicated Webster was likely at his residence.

The deputies observed a friend of Webster's arrive to pick up Webster. Her vehicle was parked along the curb in front of Webster's residence. Webster exited the front door of his residence and was observed by the deputies wearing a leather vest. Deputy Butler suspected that Webster was armed based on previous information and contact; however, no weapon was initially visible.

As Webster was walking to this vehicle deputies pulled up in their unmarked vehicle, a mini-van. Deputies Butler and Bosman exited the van. Deputy Mellema-Scott stayed in the van and attended to Webster's friend who was still in her vehicle.

After exiting their van, Deputies Butler and Bosman identified themselves as law enforcement by announcing, "Sheriff's Office, stop right there Tom." Webster veered away from the deputies and walked to the west on the sidewalk. The two deputies pursued Webster in attempt to take him into custody.

Webster was walking away from the deputies. Both deputies saw Webster's right arm move upward indicating that he put his right hand in his leather vest. Webster then stopped and turned around. As he was turning around, Webster was then seen by both deputies with his hand on a gun that had a long magazine. The gun has been identified as a semi-automatic Cobray M-11 9MM (see attached picture). Webster then attempted to point the gun toward Deputy Butler. Both deputies believed Deputy Butler's life was in danger and fired their police service weapons.

Deputy Butler fired four rounds from his service rifle. Deputy Bosman fired two rounds from his service pistol. All of the empty casings were recovered, and all remaining rounds in each weapon were accounted for. All six rounds struck Thomas Webster.

Webster fell to the ground in front of his residence. Deputy Bosman called Metro Communications on his police radio and notified Metro of the shooting and requested an ambulance. Deputy Bosman then approached Webster and found the gun was clipped by lanyard to Webster. Deputy Bosman unclipped the gun and moved it away from Webster.

The deputies attended to Webster's injuries and rendered first aid until the ambulance arrived. Webster was pronounced deceased at the Avera-McKennon hospital at 1:33 pm by Dr. Person.

PBT, Blood and Urine samples were obtained from the three deputies and found to be negative for controlled substances and alcohol.

Portions of the contact between Webster and the deputies were witnessed by a mailman working his mail route. Statements given by both the deputies and Webster's friend were consistent with the details of the mailman.

Reconstruction of the shooting scene by the Sioux Falls Police Department ID Section and the DCI indicated the evidence collected is consistent with the deputy's statements. A crime scene drawing has been completed and is attached.

An autopsy was conducted on Thomas Webster on August 16, 2010. The autopsy report showed a .00 BAC and toxicology screen yielded positive results for the presence of oxycodone, marijuana, methamphetamine, morphine, and methadone.

Webster's 9MM semi-automatic has been confirmed to work as a semi-automatic and contained 23 rounds in a 30 round magazine. The chamber was empty.

End of Summary.