

Sioux Falls Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Summary Report that occurred on May 18, 2011

On May 18, 2011, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) conducted an investigation into an Officer Involved Shooting that resulted in the death of Aaron Sivert Thompson, a 30 year-old male. This shooting took place in the 3000 block of East 19th Street in Sioux Falls, SD. The following information is a synopsis of the events that occurred on May 18, 2011, and the subsequent investigation conducted by the Division of Criminal Investigation.

On May 18, 2011, at 11:17 pm, the Sioux Falls Police Department dispatch (Metro) received a 911 hang up call that was eventually determined to have come from the residence at 3108 East 19th Street in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Metro called the number back and spoke with a resident at 3108 East 19th Street. This female caller reported to Metro that her male roommate was upset and threatening to kill himself. She identified her male roommate as Aaron Thompson. Thompson told the roommate that if she called the cops, he would kill more people. She told Metro that Thompson had a gun in his possession.

Metro dispatched several officers to the area of 3108 East 19th Street. Officers arrived at the scene and set up a perimeter around 3108 E. 19th St. The Sioux Falls Police Department Officers that initially arrived were Sgt. Ron Schwint, Officer Steve Redmond, Officer Travis Olsen, Officer Paul Creviston and Officer Matt Cook. Additional officers also responded to the call.

Sgt. Schwint and Officer Redmond established communication with this individual who was identified as Aaron Thompson. Schwint and Redmond identified themselves as police numerous times. Schwint and Redmond used a tree in the boulevard for cover. Schwint and Redmond saw Thompson walking westbound down the sidewalk from 3108 E. 19th St. Schwint and Redmond saw Thompson with a handgun in Thompson's right hand. Schwint and Redmond ordered Thompson to "Drop the gun!". They gave this command to Thompson over 30 times. Schwint and Redmond also gave Thompson numerous commands to "Get on the ground", "Stop", or "Stop walking" and ordered Thompson to put his hands in the air several times. Schwint and Redmond also told Thompson that they were there to help. All these commands are documented on the officer's recording equipment, and were further corroborated by the original caller to Metro and neighbors who witnessed portions of this shooting.

Sgt. Schwint deployed the FN 303 less-lethal launcher toward Thompson. The FN 303 is a semi-automatic gun that uses compressed air to fire non-lethal projectiles. He fired this several times at Thompson with no effects. Thompson continued walking toward Sgt. Schwint and Officer Redmond. Thompson pointed his gun at a residence. Sgt. Schwint then fired several more rounds at Thompson with the less-lethal launcher. Thompson then fired his Kimber .45 caliber pistol towards Sgt. Schwint and Officer Redmond.

At this time, Officers Olsen, Creviston and Cook fired their duty weapons toward Thompson. Officer Olsen fired his duty Glock .40 caliber pistol. Officers Creviston and Cook fired their duty Colt M4, .223 rifles. After Thompson initially shot at Schwint and Redmond, they also returned fire toward Thompson with their Glock .40 caliber pistols.

Thompson continued to move forward and fire his .45 caliber pistol toward Schwint and Redmond. All five of the SFPD officers continued firing their weapons toward Thompson. Thompson finally fell in the driveway at 3000 E. 19th St. at 11:36 p.m.

The ambulance was on stand by and arrived at the scene at approximately 11:37 p.m. Thompson was transported to Avera-McKenna. Thompson was pronounced deceased at the Avera-McKenna hospital at 12:22 a.m., on 5-19-11.

The scene was secured by the Minnehaha County Sheriff's office until the Division of Criminal Investigation responded to the scene.

Based on the DCI's interviews with the officers involved with the shooting, and the shooting scene investigation, the following information was gathered during this investigation:

- A total of five (5) Sioux Falls Police Department officers fired their duty weapons.
- There were a total of 48 rounds fired by the Sioux Falls Police Officers—Twenty-five (25) rounds were .40 caliber and twenty-three (23) rounds were .223 rifle rounds.
- Thompson fired at least six (6) times toward the officers with his Kimber .45 caliber pistol. Six empty .45 caliber casings were recovered and were matched to the Kimber .45 pistol. Items recovered from Thompson include four .45 caliber magazines with eight rounds in each magazine, one empty magazine and one loose round in his coat pocket.

Total amount of known rounds fired by officers and Thompson were fifty-four (54).

The scene extended from 3108 E. 19th Street (Thompson's residence) to 3000 E. 19th Street, where the shooting took place.

The distance that Sgt. Schwint fired his FN 303 less-lethal launcher toward Thompson was from approximately 35 yards to approximately 20 yards.

The distances that the officers fired their duty weapons toward Thompson were from approximately 35 yards to approximately 15 yards.

Four houses and five vehicles were additionally struck with bullets during this shooting.

On 5-19-11, all officers submitted to a urine sample and blood draw. These results were negative for any drugs and/or alcohol.

FINAL AUTOPSY REPORT

According to the final autopsy report, Thompson died from “multiple gunshot wounds of torso”. Thompson was struck 14 times. The forensic pathologist stated that Thompson was struck at least five times with a .40 caliber and at least five times with a .223 caliber. Four of the entry or grazing wounds were of an unidentified caliber.

This autopsy report also indicated that Thompson’s BAC at the time of shooting was .223. Thompson also had dextromethorphan in his system. This is a cough suppressant.

INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Based on the investigation conducted by the Division of Criminal Investigation, and the reconstruction of the shooting scene conducted by the DCI and South Dakota Highway Patrol, the evidence collected at the shooting scene and the witness statements are consistent with the officer’s statements.

The Division of Criminal Investigation conducted a criminal history check on Aaron Thompson. Thompson has no prior criminal history.