

## **Rapid City Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place November 1, 2024**

On November 1, 2024, the Rapid City Police Department (RCPD) requested the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigate an officer involved shooting that occurred at 1314 Atlas Street in Rapid City, SD. A Rapid City Police Officer discharged his duty rifle during a confrontation with an armed subject identified as Jesse Warbonnett. Warbonnett was pronounced deceased as a result of a single gunshot wound. The following is a synopsis of the events that occurred on November 1, and the subsequent investigation that was conducted by the DCI.

### **SYNOPSIS**

On November 1, 2024, at around 12:18 PM, The Rapid City Police Department Dispatch Center began receiving multiple 911 calls regarding a male subject brandishing a firearm near the intersection of Haines Avenue and Anamosa Street in Rapid City. Six callers reported that the subject, later identified as Jesse Warbonnett, was pointing a pistol at passing cars, businesses, and people.

Law enforcement responded to the area and attempted to locate Warbonnett. Additional witness information directed RCPD Officers to Building 1314 in the Hainesway Apartment Complex.

Witnesses reported that Warbonnett brandished a pistol toward two tenants of the apartment complex before attempting to break into an apartment. RCPD Officers determined through witness information that Warbonnett had entered apartment #106.

Responding Officers established a perimeter around Building 1314 and began evacuating tenants of the apartment. Officer #1 arrived on scene and assisted Officers with the exterior perimeter of the building. Warbonnett was observed through the door banging the pistol against the glass. Warbonnett refused commands to surrender.

Officer #1 joined other officers in a position of cover in the parking lot facing the exterior door of apartment #106. Officer #1 was armed with their duty issued patrol rifle and eventually took a position of cover behind Officer #2 who was utilizing a ballistic shield.

Officers viewed Warbonnet through the sliding glass door of apartment #106 and Officer #1 observed he was armed with a pistol. Warbonnett pointed the pistol toward Officer #1 and Officer #2 through the glass. Officer #1 fired one round from his rifle, striking Warbonnett.

Officers moved into the apartment and found that Warbonnett was the only occupant. Officers attempted lifesaving measures prior to Warbonnett being transported to Monument Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office secured the scene pending the DCI Investigation. DCI Agents and a Hot Springs Police Detective conducted a scene examination, witness interviews, officer processing, video review, and collected evidence pursuant to a Search Warrant on the apartment.

### **INTERVIEW: OFFICER #1**

On November 4, 2024, DCI Special Agents conducted an interview with Officer #1. Officer #1 described his involvement and thought process during the shooting incident.

On November 1, 2024, Officer #1 was working his normal scheduled patrol shift when he heard officers get dispatched to a report of a man, later identified as Jesse Warbonnett, walking with a gun in the area of Haines Avenue and Anamosa Steet. It was further reported that Warbonnett was pointing the firearm at businesses. Officer #1 responded to the area with lights and sirens activated.

Upon arrival to the area, Officer #1 conducted an interview with a witness. Officer #1 was shown video and photos of the subject walking and pointing a firearm. Officer #1 heard over the radio that the subject may be Jesse Warbonnett and it was believed he had entered an apartment at the Hainesway Apartments. Officer #1 also heard there may be two additional subjects in the apartment. Upon arrival at the apartment, Officer #1 grabbed his department issued rifle and took cover behind a truck, near the apartment Warbonnett was believed to have entered. Officer #1 utilized his rifle due to Warbonnett reportedly having a firearm and the potential need for Officer #1 to create distance.

Officer #1 moved for cover behind multiple vehicles in the parking lot before taking a position behind an SUV outside of the apartment.

While waiting behind the SUV, Officer #1 asked multiple times for another officer to bring a beanbag shotgun. Officer #1 wanted to have a less lethal option available to take Warbonnett into custody.

Officer #1 then observed Warbonnett open the curtain to the sliding door. Warbonnett was holding a firearm in his hand. Officer #1 observed Warbonnett raise the firearm and point it at Officer #1 and Officer #2. Officer #1 could see the barrel of the firearm pointed in their direction.

Officer #1 believed Warbonnett was going to shoot either him or Officer #2. Officer #1 fired one round from his department issued rifle, striking Warbonnett in the torso. After firing the round, Officer #1 observed the glass sliding door break and heard something fall to the ground.

Officer #1 provided cover for other officers as they made their approach to the apartment. Once officers were inside, Officer #1 entered the apartment. When the apartment was deemed secure, Officer #1 asked for another officer to get a medical kit. Medical aid was then provided to Warbonnett.

## **INTERVEIW: OFFICER #2**

On November 1, 2024, DCI Agents interviewed Officer #2 regarding his involvement.

Officer #2 responded to a call for service regarding a male, later identified as Jesse Warbonnett, with a black pistol who was reportedly "pointing it at Pizza Hut." Officer #2 arrived in the area but was unable to locate Warbonnett.

Officer #2 spoke with a witness who identified the subject as Jesse Warbonnett. Officer #2 searched their database and viewed a photograph of Warbonnett. Officer #2 responded to the Hainesway Apartments where other officers were able to contain Warbonnett to a ground floor apartment.

Upon arrival, Officer #2 retrieved a ballistic shield and took position next to Officer #1. They were in a position of cover behind a vehicle in the parking lot.

While behind cover, Officer #2 observed a male subject in the large window. Officer #2 recognized this male, based on the photo they had reviewed, as Jesse Warbonnett. Officer #2 observed Warbonnett holding a black firearm in his right hand. Officer #2 observed Warbonnett point the gun in their direction. Officer #2 told Officer #1 that Warbonnet was pointing the gun at them. They repositioned behind the vehicle and again observed Warbonnett still pointing the firearm at them. Officer #2 then heard Officer #1 fire one round from his rifle. Officer #2 observed the sliding door shatter.

Officer #2 was able to hear Warbonnet moaning from inside the apartment. Officer #2 tried giving Warbonnett verbal commands but received no response. A short time later, they entered the apartment where Officer #2 retrieved a firearm from Warbonnett's immediate area.

### **WITNESS INTERVIEWS**

Over the course of this investigation, DCI agents spoke with approximately 12 independent witnesses, who had been identified through the investigative process.

Of the 12 witnesses interviewed, two individuals stated they observed Warbonnett point the gun at them. Ten of these witnesses recalled seeing Warbonnett carrying the firearm. Two witnesses who were residents of the apartment complex recounted the police department yelling at Warbonnett in attempts to get him to surrender.

One witness was able to provide both video and photographs of Warbonnett handling a firearm near Anamosa and Haines Avenue.

A tenant of Building 1322 reported that Warbonnett had entered his apartment and pointed the pistol at their head before leaving.

Reports prepared by Officers on scene document that Warbonnett was observed by multiple Officers brandishing the pistol through the sliding glass door in a threatening manner. Officers unsuccessfully attempted to negotiate with Warbonnett to surrender himself prior to the shooting.

### **SCENE INVESTIGATION**

The shooting scene investigation produced items of evidence consistent with the statements made by Officer #1 and Officer #2.

DCI collected items of evidence from the scene of the shooting as well as from Officer #1.

A 9mm Hi-Point pistol possessed by Warbonnett was recovered on scene. The pistol was unloaded with an empty chamber and no magazine inserted.

One cartridge casing ejected from a rifle was recovered. The investigation determined Officer #1 fired his patrol rifle one time.

Warbonnett was not the registered tenant of apartment #106 and had no known legal authority to be inside.

The crime scene was mapped and recorded by DCI.

Agents documented that Officer #1 and Officer #2 were wearing their RCPD issued uniforms. Officer #1's and Officer #2's duty issued firearms were documented and inventoried.

Agents documented that the magazine loaded into Officer #1's patrol rifle was three rounds short of 30 round capacity. The investigation determined that the Rapid City Police Department loads 28 rounds into 30 round magazines to avoid weapon malfunction. Accounting for this practice would indicate Officer #1's magazine was missing one round.

A search of Warbonnett's person revealed suspected methamphetamine in his pocket. A presumptive field test indicated the substance was methamphetamine.

### **VIDEO EVIDENCE**

Body worn camera (BWC) and in car camera recordings from multiple responding officers captured the police response, initial investigation, and shooting incident.

BWC video depicts Officer #1 responding to the scene, conducting witness interviews, and coordinating with other officers on scene. Date and time stamps on the BWC video show that Officer #1 responded to the call at 12:32 PM and fired his rifle at 1:08 PM.

Officer #1's BWC is partially obstructed during the shooting incident due to their position of cover. Officer #1 can be heard issuing commands to Warbonnett and indicating that a weapon is being pointed at them before firing a single round from his patrol rifle.

### **FORENSIC EXAMINATION**

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted firearm testing on Officer #1's patrol rifle and the .556 caliber cartridge casing recovered at the scene. The casing is consistent with being fired from Officer #1's .556 Colt Industries Model M16 A1 duty rifle.

### **MEDICAL REPORTS AND CRIMINAL HISTORY**

A drug screen and blood alcohol test were conducted on Officer #1 with negative results.

An autopsy performed on Warbonnett showed the cause of death being one gunshot wound. Warbonnett's blood alcohol content and drug screen showed a positive presence of methamphetamine in his system.

A criminal background check of Warbonnett showed a history of criminal offenses to include drug, weapon, and obstruction violations.

### **INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

Based on the totality of the circumstances, Officer #1 was reasonable at the scene utilizing deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and building. Jesse Warbonnett was a clear and present danger to the public and the officers present at the scene. Officer #1 believed they were in a situation in which Warbonnett attempted to inflict serious injury or death and responded with deadly force.

It is the conclusion of this report and the Attorney General that the Officer was justified in firing his duty weapon and using lethal force.



Photo of 9mm Hi-Point pistol possessed by Warbonnett and recovered on scene.



Photo from crime scene depicting Officer 1's approximate location.