

Sioux Falls Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place on December 20, 2022

On December 20, 2022, the Sioux Falls Police Department (SFPD) requested the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigate an officer involved shooting that occurred during a traffic stop at 1400 North Minnesota Avenue. A Sioux Falls Police Officer discharged their duty pistol, striking the adult driver, Renee Two Bulls, and the adult front seat passenger. The following is a synopsis of the events that occurred on December 20, 2022, and the subsequent investigation that was conducted by the DCI.

SYNOPSIS

On December 20, 2022, Officer #1 conducted a traffic stop of a red, two-door Kia Forte with substitute license plates. The traffic stop occurred at the Kum & Go gas station located at 1400 North Minnesota Avenue after the vehicle was observed leaving an apartment complex at 808 West Bailey Street. During the stop, the driver, Renee Two Bulls, provided a fictitious name and birthdate. Officer #1 asked Two Bulls to exit the vehicle. Two Bulls refused repeated commands to exit the vehicle. A struggle occurred while Officer #1 attempted to remove Two Bulls from the vehicle.

During the struggle, Two Bulls quickly accelerated the Kia in reverse while the driver's door was open, and Officer #1 and Officer #2 were between the Kia's open driver's door and a gas pump. The interior of the driver's door contacted Officer #1's back as the vehicle was accelerating backwards. Officer #1 was being pushed by the open driver's door, which then struck the gas pump barrier causing it to hyperextend. Officer #1 began to draw their duty pistol as this was occurring. The Kia collided into a trash can located at the gas pump island directly behind gas pump #12. Officer #1 fired five (5) shots in rapid succession into the Kia through the open driver's door, striking Two Bulls and the adult front seat passenger.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

The incident was captured on video from sources that included Officers' body worn cameras, patrol car dash cameras, and a Kum & Go surveillance camera.

At approximately 1:23 PM, Officer #1 observed the red, 2-door Kia Forte bearing substituted license plates begin to drive away from the apartment complex at 808 West Bailey Street. At approximately 1:26:30 PM, the Kia entered the Kum & Go parking lot. At approximately 1:26:34 PM, the Kia parked next to gas pump #12 with the driver's side next to the gas pump.

At approximately 1:26:48 PM, Officer #1 entered the Kum & Go parking lot. Officer #1 drove toward the store front passing by the Kia. As Officer #1 neared the store front, the front seat passenger and a rear seat passenger exited through the Kia's passenger door and walked toward the store front. Officer #1 circled around the gas pump bays, activated the patrol car emergency red and blue lights, and positioned the patrol car at an angle in front of the Kia. Officer #1 provided responding officers with a description of both passengers as they were walking away from the Kia.

At approximately 1:27:32 PM, Officer #1 approached the driver's door and called the front seat passenger back to the Kia. The front seat passenger complied and sat in the front passenger seat. Officer #1 asked Two Bulls if she had a driver's license. She said she did not and added that the Kia belonged to her mother. Officer #1 informed Two Bulls that the Kia had the wrong

license plates on it. Officer #1 asked Two Bulls for her name. Two Bulls proceeded to spell "K-r-i-s-t-i-n". She then struggled to spell a fictitious last name and attempted to provide a fictitious date of birth.

At approximately 1:28:19 PM, Officer #1 asked Two Bulls to exit the vehicle. She turned to the other occupants and asked, "What am I going to do?". Two Bulls refused to exit the vehicle. A struggle ensued as Officer #1 repeatedly attempted to open the driver's door while Two Bulls held the door closed. Two Bulls refused to comply with Officer #1's repeated verbal directions to exit the vehicle.

At approximately 1:28:23 PM, Officers #2 and #3 arrived together in a patrol car. They parked behind Kum & Go. They entered Kum & Go through the back door in search of the back seat passenger. Officer #3 contacted the back seat passenger and escorted her out of Kum & Go through the front door.

At approximately 1:28:37 PM, the driver's door of the Kia opened, and Two Bulls continued to refuse to exit the vehicle. Officer #1 attempted to pull Two Bulls out through the open driver's door, but Two Bulls actively resisted.

At approximately 1:28:40 PM, Officer #1 yells "One is resisting". This was not broadcast over the police radio but was captured on Officer #1's body camera.

At approximately 1:28:43 PM, the Kia's engine revved up and Two Bulls grabbed the gear shifter. Officer #1 radioed, "Step it up!" Officer #1 continued to order Two Bulls out of the vehicle while trying to physically pull her out. Two Bulls refused and continued to physically resist.

At approximately 1:28:59 PM, Officer #2 arrived at the driver's door to assist Officer #1 in physically pulling Two Bulls from the vehicle. Officer #1 and Officer #2 were standing in the very limited space between the Kia and gas pump #12. At times, their backs are against the gas pump. They continued to order Two Bulls out of the vehicle while simultaneously trying to physically remove her from the driver's seat. At this moment, Officer #1 yelled, "Hey, don't grab!".

At approximately 1:29:01 PM, Officer #2 ordered Two Bulls to shut her vehicle off. She refused and looked in the direction of the gear shifter.

At approximately 1:29:02 PM, the Kia began reversing while the driver's door was open. Officer #1 and Officer #2 were in danger of getting struck by the open car door and/or pinned between the Kia and the gas pump island. As Officer #2 took cover between gas pump #12 and a canopy pillar, Officer #1 ran next to the vehicle with the driver's door at their heels. The interior of the driver's door contacted Officer #1 as it was accelerating backwards. Officer #1 was being pushed by the open driver's door, which then struck the gas pump barrier causing the driver's door to hyperextend. Officer #1 began to draw their duty pistol as this was occurring.

The Kia collided into a trash can located at the gas pump island directly behind gas pump #12. The trash can was compressed between the Kia and the gas pump protective barrier, and the trash can lid was launched toward a customer's vehicle which was parked at the gas pump next to the garbage can. The customer fled on foot from the vicinity. Officer #1 drew their duty pistol and fired five (5) shots in rapid succession into the open driver's door of the Kia.

Officer #4 arrived in a marked patrol car with the emergency red and blue lights activated and blocked the Kia from driving forward. The front seat passenger and the two (2) remaining back seat passengers exited the Kia through the passenger door and were detained. The front seat passenger was found to have a gunshot wound to his left upper arm and right wrist.

Two Bulls remained in the driver's seat and was found to have four (4) gunshot wounds to the left side of her body.

Officers rendered aid until both Two Bulls and the front seat passenger were transported by ambulance to a hospital. The front seat passenger was treated and released from the hospital on that date.

Two Bulls was hospitalized with non-fatal injuries.

INTERVIEW: OFFICER #1

On January 6, 2023, DCI Agents interviewed Officer #1. Officer #1 described their involvement and thought process during the shooting incident.

Officer #1 was patrolling in a marked SFPD police car and observed a red Kia Forte with substituted license plates. The vehicle contained multiple occupants. Officer #1 notified dispatch and requested an officer to assist.

The red Kia pulled into the Kum & Go parking lot located at 1400 North Minnesota Avenue where Officer #1 initiated a traffic stop. Officer #1 approached the driver's door and spoke with the driver, later identified as Renee Two Bulls. Two Bulls said she did not have a driver's license. Officer #1 asked for her name and date of birth. Two Bulls provided a fake name and struggled while providing a fake date of birth.

Officer #1 ordered Two Bulls out of the vehicle. Two Bulls refused. Officer #1 attempted to open the driver's door, but Two Bulls resisted by holding the door closed. Eventually, Officer #1 was able to open the door. Two Bulls refused to exit the vehicle. The engine was running. Officer #1 attempted to shut the car off, but the front seat passenger swatted Officer #1's hand away from the ignition. Officer #1 made multiple attempts to pull Two Bulls out of the vehicle. Two Bulls continued to resist. Officer #1 reported during the struggle that they believed an occupant in the vehicle was grabbing at their duty pistol, holstered on Officer #1's right side. Officer #1 recalled yelling something to the effect of, "don't grab" when this occurred.

Officer #2 arrived. As both officers were trying to pull Two Bulls from the car, the car accelerated in reverse. As the Kia was in motion, Officer #1 lost sight of Officer #2 and thought Officer #2 was drug under the Kia. Officer #1 was being pushed by the open car door or the car itself. Officer #1 was in fear of their own life, Officer #2's life, the safety of a customer in the vicinity, and the passengers inside the Kia. Officer #1 fired their duty pistol to stop the threat. After the shots were fired, Officer #1 assessed Two Bulls was no longer a threat. Officer #1 requested an ambulance and holstered their duty pistol. Officer #1 rendered medical aid to Two Bulls before a supervisor transported Officer #1 to the police station.

INTERVIEW: OFFICER #2

On January 6, 2023, DCI Agents interviewed Officer #2.

Officer #2 responded to the Kum & Go near the intersection of Russell Street and Minnesota Avenue to assist Officer #1 with a traffic stop on a vehicle that had several occupants and was bearing substituted license plates.

Shortly after Officer #2 arrived at the Kum & Go, they heard Officer #1 over the police radio, and it sounded like something was wrong. Officer #2 saw Officer #1 standing next to a red Kia. The driver's door was open, and Officer #1 was ordering the female driver out of the car. Officer #2 tried to help Officer #1 pull the driver out of the car. Officer #2 heard the car's engine running. The car began driving backwards. Officer #2 avoided being struck by the vehicle by standing in the space between the gas pump and a pillar. From Officer #2's perspective, it appeared Officer #1 was knocked down and was being pushed by the open car door as the car continued in reverse. Officer #2 saw the car crash into a gas pump barrier and heard Officer #1 fire their duty pistol. Officer #2 saw passengers exit the Kia. Officer #2 detained a passenger. Soon after, Officer #2 was relieved from the scene.

INTERVIEW WITH OFFICER #3

Officer #3 responded to the Kum & Go to assist Officer #1 with a traffic stop of a vehicle with substitute license plates and several occupants. Upon arrival, Officer #3 contacted a passenger of the vehicle that had entered the Kum & Go. Officer #3 was escorting that passenger out of the business while Officer #1 was at the red Kia. Officer #3 observed the red Kia traveling in reverse towards Officer #3's direction. Officer #3 pushed the passenger to the right in an attempt to clear from the path of the moving red Kia. Officer #3 reported hearing gunshots at this time but did not know who was shooting.

INTERVIEW WITH TWO BULLS

Investigators attempted to interview Renee Two Bulls and she declined to make a statement.

PASSENGER INTERVIEWS

The 4 adult passengers were interviewed, and they made comments about Two Bulls' demeanor. It was said that because a police car was behind them Two Bulls was nervous and did not know what to do. A passenger said based on previous experiences with Two Bulls, the passenger figured Two Bulls was going to flee from the Police. A passenger hoped to get out of the car because the passenger didn't want to flee with Two Bulls. Another passenger said Two Bulls panicked and might have been scared because she had a warrant for her arrest.

WITNESS INTERVIEWS

DCI Agents interviewed additional Sioux Falls Police Officers and civilian bystanders at the Kum & Go at the time of the shooting incident. The statements provided by witnesses and Officer #4 were consistent with the video review and the statements made by Officer #1 and Officer #2.

SHOOTING SCENE INVESTIGATION

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI, which produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from Officers #1, #2, and #3.

Officer #1's gear included their duty issued Glock 9mm handgun, magazines, and remaining ammunition.

During the shooting scene investigation, both Officer #1's and Officer #4's patrol cars were still parked in the parking lot with the emergency red and blue lights still activated. The Kia was still parked and was pinned between a gas pump protective barrier and Officer 4's patrol car. Five (5) fired 9mm casings were located from the area where Officer #1 was shooting. One (1) bullet defect was observed on the inside panel of the Kia's passenger door. One (1) 9mm bullet was recovered from the door.

There were paint transfer markings on the Kia's driver's door and on gas pump #12's protective barrier which confirmed they collided while the driver's door was open.

The diesel and gas pump nozzles for gas pump #12 were lying on the ground next to gas pump #12.

MEDICAL RECORDS

Renee Two Bulls' medical records revealed she was struck by four (4) bullets to her left side. The front seat passenger's medical records revealed one (1) bullet struck their left arm.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Renee Two Bulls has a lengthy criminal past and prior charges including Aggravated Assault on Law Enforcement Officer, Theft of Motor Vehicle, Burglary, Simple Assault, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Driving While Intoxicated. According to a Sioux Falls PD report from December 1, 2022, Two Bulls was the driver of a vehicle that fled from a traffic stop at a different Kum & Go in Sioux Falls. As she sped away, Two Bulls dragged a SFPD Officer several feet before the officer fell to the ground. An Arrest Warrant for Two Bulls was later issued which included a charge of Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer.

On 12-27-22, after being discharged from the hospital, Two Bulls was arrested on 14 arrest warrants. There were 6 Felony Arrest Warrants that included charges of Grand Theft, Aggravated Assault on Law Enforcement, Burglary 3rd Degree, DWI 2nd, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Possession of a Stolen Vehicle. There were 8 Misdemeanor Arrest Warrants that included 7 warrants for Petty Theft and 1 warrant for 2nd degree Intentional Damage to Property.

SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory conducted firearm testing on evidence recovered at the scene. The fired casings recovered from the scene were found to have been fired from Officer #1's 9mm duty pistol. Both recovered bullets were found to have been fired from the barrel of Officer #1's 9mm duty pistol.

SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTH LAB RESULTS

Renee Two Bulls' blood tested positive for Ethyl Alcohol (0.40% by wt), Amphetamine (105 ng/ml), and Methamphetamine (630 ng/ml)

The front seat passenger's blood tested positive for Ethyl Alcohol, Cannabinoids Class, and Methamphetamine.

Officer #1's blood and urine tested negative for alcohol and drugs.