



Porter County Sheriff's Office

Jeffrey A. Balon
Sheriff

Timothy Manteuffel
Chief Deputy

Press Release of Officer Involved Shooting

April 30, 2024

On April 25, 2024, multiple Officers from the Porter County Sheriff's Office and Valparaiso Police Department were involved in a police action shooting of an armed suspect in Valparaiso. Two Porter County Sheriff's Officers were actively involved in the incident and are identified as Patrol Commander, Lieutenant Jason Praschak and Patrol Officer Aaron Estrada. Lt. Praschak is a (18) year veteran of our agency and Officer Estrada is a (3) year veteran of our agency. Both agency members were placed on paid administrative leave, as is typical with any officer involved deadly force incident.

The Indiana State Police have been requested to complete an independent investigation and will be responsible for releasing further information. In addition to the Indiana State Police, I would like to thank the Valparaiso Police Department, Porter County Coroner's Office, Porter County Prosecutor's Office and Valparaiso Fire Department for their assistance.

Officer involved shootings are very complex and need to be investigated thoroughly, I would like to thank the public for their patience and support while this incident is being investigated.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Balon
Porter County Sheriff