



Public information release

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A gunman is arrested after he attempts to flee a residence.

August 8, 2024 (MINNEAPOLIS) A quick response to a ShotSpotter activation and assistance from community members resulted in the arrest of a man who fired his weapon in a neighborhood announced Minneapolis Police Chief, Brian O'Hara.

Officers from the 4th Precinct responded to a ShotSpotter activation on the 2900 block of Russell Av N just before 6 p.m. on Wednesday night, August 7, 2024. When officers arrived, they were informed by community members that a man fired several shots and entered a detached garage. The gunman exited the garage, fired more shots, and entered an occupied residence.

Officers secured a perimeter around the residence and started to communicate with people inside. At one point, they observed a child peering out a window. Within half an hour, several adults and juveniles including a 5-year-old walked out of the house to safety. With the help of the homeowner, a dog was also brought out to safety.

The gunman jumped out a window and tried to run from the scene, but he was apprehended by HCSO Deputies. The gunman was identified as 21-year-old Amariaun Antonio-Thomas Thornton.

Once officers believed the house was unoccupied, a warrant was obtained allowing officers to secure the residence and search for evidence related to Thornton's actions. Minneapolis SWAT resources and a drone were used to ensure the house was secure.

This incident is a great example of officers using time, resources, and clear communication to bring a dangerous and tense situation to a peaceful resolution. Investigators are working to determine exactly what transpired and how Thornton is related to the occupants. It is believed that Thornton was known to the occupants.

"This is the second time this week that officers have secured a perimeter and used resources to peacefully resolve a tense situation," said Chief O'Hara. "I am proud of our officers who continue to use de-escalation to control dangerous situations." Officers from the 4th precinct responded to a similar situation involving a domestic on August 6th. (24-220402)

Thornton was booked into the Hennepin County Jail. An adult female was also booked for obstruction after she interfered with the actions of officers. The occupants of the residence were allowed to return home after officers called in a board-up-service to secure the window used by Thornton in his escape attempt. The GO# for this incident is 24-221610.

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