



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Ruffin Hall, City Manager

FROM: C.L. Deck-Brown, Police Chief

DEPARTMENT: Police

DATE: February 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Preliminary Report of January 30, 2020, Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred at approximately 3 p.m. on January 30, 2020 in the 3800 block of Pleasant Valley Road. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting an independent criminal investigation of the shooting and will present the completed investigation directly to Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman for review. The Detective Division of the Raleigh Police Department is investigating the actions of Mr. Collins. Additionally, the Raleigh Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is conducting an administrative investigation into the incident. When complete, the administrative investigation will be reviewed by members of the Command Staff.

All investigations are ongoing, will be thorough, and will follow the available facts and evidence. Based upon the information currently available to the Department, a preliminary review of the incident provides the following:

Shortly before 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 30, a 911 call was received in which the caller stated she had observed an individual standing in front of a store near Pleasant Valley Road. The caller provided a detailed description of a man, who was later identified as Mr. Keith Dutree Collins, and indicated she observed a large black handgun fall from Mr. Collins' shirt. She further stated that he picked up the gun and looked at it before again concealing it in the front of his pants.

Senior Officer W.B. Tapscott was nearby when the call came into Emergency Communications and responded. Officer Tapscott observed Mr. Collins, who matched the description given by the 911 caller, walking on Pleasant Valley Road. When Officer Tapscott exited his patrol vehicle and attempted to speak with Mr. Collins, he briefly placed his hands in the air before lowering them and running away from Officer Tapscott, who pursued him on foot.

As he was running, Mr. Collins reached for the front of his waistband with both hands. Officer Tapscott began to slow down to create distance between himself and Mr. Collins while repeatedly ordering Mr. Collins to show his hands. As he was slowing down and giving commands, Officer Tapscott drew his weapon. Mr. Collins turned and pointed a black handgun at Officer Tapscott, who fired four shots at Mr. Collins, who fell to the ground. As Officer Tapscott was giving commands and backing away, Mr. Collins again pointed the gun at Officer Tapscott, who fired another three rounds.

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Officer Tapscott moved back to a nearby utility pole as Mr. Collins attempted to get up and again pointed the firearm at Officer Tapscott, who ordered him to stay on the ground and drop the gun before he fired four more rounds. Mr. Collins then collapsed and dropped the firearm. Once additional officers were present, they approached Mr. Collins, and kicked away the handgun that was on the ground next to him before securing him and requesting EMS. He was transported to WakeMed by EMS where he later died from his injuries. The handgun located next to Mr. Collins was later discovered to be a BB gun.

Officer Tapscott was wearing a body camera which was turned on and recording during the incident. On January 31, 2020, the City filed a petition in Superior Court for release of the body camera video that captured the events leading up to and including the shooting. This PETITION was heard before the Honorable Judge Rebecca Holt on February 4, 2020. After hearing from the Police Attorney and the District Attorney, Judge Holt denied the PETITION. In doing so, she stated that the content of the video was of a highly sensitive nature and that it should not be publicized or reproduced. This ruling was based in part on the wishes of the family of Mr. Collins. However, Judge Holt did authorize the City to disclose the video with the restriction that no one be permitted to make any copies of the video, to redistribute, or in any way publish the recording.

Pursuant to Departmental policy, Officer Tapscott has been placed on administrative duty pending the completion of the criminal and administrative investigations.