

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
From	Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police
Department	Police
Date	January 23, 2023
Subject	Preliminary Report of January 17, 2023 In-Custody Death

On January 17, 2023 at approximately 3:01 a.m., an in-custody death of Darryl Tyree Williams occurred following a drug investigation and arrest that took place in a parking lot located at 808 Rock Quarry Road. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting an independent criminal investigation and will present its findings directly to the Wake County District Attorney for review. The Detective Division of the Raleigh Police Department is conducting a separate investigation into the actions of Mr. Williams. Additionally, the Internal Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department is conducting an administrative investigation into the actions of the officers who were involved in the arrest. When complete, the administrative investigation will be reviewed by RPD command staff.

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

On January 17, 2023, First Class Officer C.D. Robinson and Officer J.T. Thomas were working together and assigned to the Field Operations Division. All officers involved in this incident were in marked Raleigh Police vehicles and were wearing their issued duty uniform.

At approximately 1:55 a.m., Officers Thomas and Robinson were conducting proactive patrols of the businesses located in the 800 block of Rock Quarry Road. This location has a history of repeat calls for service for drugs, weapons, and other criminal violations. Upon arriving, Officer Robinson requested over police radio for additional officers to assist with the patrols of the area. Officer D.L. Aquino arrived shortly thereafter. After parking, Officer Thomas initially approached one vehicle on foot and checked on the occupants. Officer Robinson went to a second vehicle that was occupied by two people: one in the driver's seat and one in the front right passenger seat. The person in the driver's seat was later identified as Darryl Tyree Williams. Upon approaching the vehicle, the passenger opened the door and Officer Robinson observed an open container of alcohol and marijuana in the car and requested Mr. Williams and the passenger to exit. As the occupants were getting out of the car, Officers Aquino and Thomas approached to assist Officer Robinson.

During the investigative detention, Officer Robinson located a folded dollar bill in Mr. Williams' pocket containing a white powdery substance consistent with the appearance of cocaine. Officer J.R. Scott arrived as Officer Robinson was examining the contents of the dollar bill. Based on the contents of the dollar bill, Officer Robinson made the decision to arrest Mr. Williams for possession of a controlled substance. When Officer Robinson attempted to arrest Mr. Williams and told him to place his hands behind his back, Mr. Williams became combative and resistant. Subsequently, officers requested additional police assistance, including the need for an immediate response. Officers Thomas, Aquino, and Scott assisted Officer Robinson as he attempted to handcuff Mr. Williams and take him into custody. Mr. Williams continued to resist their efforts and was able to overpower and pull away from them.

Officers warned Mr. Williams, "stop or you are going to get tased!" Mr. Williams continued to actively resist the officers by pushing them and refusing to place his hands behind his back. At this point, Officer Robinson deployed his Taser, temporarily stopping Mr. Williams and causing him to fall to the ground in front of one of the businesses in the area. Officers gave Mr. Williams additional commands to stop resisting and to place his hands behind his back, but he continued to actively resist the officers. As the officers continued to struggle with Mr. Williams, Officer Thomas deployed his Taser but was unsuccessful in making contact. During the time in which this altercation took place, the passenger left the scene on foot.

Mr. Williams was able to break away from the officers and ran a short distance across the parking lot. Officer Robinson deployed his Taser a second time and missed Mr. Williams; however, while Mr. Williams was running, he lost his balance and fell forward to the ground. The officers were then able to catch up to Mr. Williams and they continued to struggle with him on the ground as he tried to get back up.

Shortly thereafter, Officers D.L. Grande and B.L. Ramge arrived and assisted the other officers as they continued their attempts to take Mr. Williams into custody. The officers struggled with Mr. Williams to gain control over his hands to place them in handcuffs. Mr. Williams was told multiple times to place his hands behind his back. Over the course of fifty seconds, there were two separate Taser deployments in the drive stun mode¹: one by Officer Thomas that made contact with Mr. Williams' side, with another from Officer Robinson that made contact with the left side of Mr. Williams' back. After the first drive stun, Mr. Williams can be heard on body worn camera saying, "I have heart problems." Officers were finally able to secure Mr. Williams in handcuffs and in accordance with their training, repositioned him on his side at approximately 2:00 a.m.

At 2:02 a.m., officers called for Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") to respond to the scene to evaluate Mr. Williams. Raleigh Police Department policy requires that all subjects that

¹ Drive stun mode is when the Taser is placed in direct contact with the body.



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have been tased receive on-scene medical attention by EMS personnel. EMS and Raleigh Fire Department (RFD) were dispatched at 2:02 a.m.

As the officers waited for EMS to arrive, they continually evaluated Mr. Williams, checking his pulse and respirations. Upon determining Mr. Williams was unresponsive, not breathing and without a pulse, officers immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) efforts. Another call was made to the dispatcher at 2:06 a.m., requesting EMS to expedite their response and that officers had begun performing CPR. The officers continued to provide medical assistance to Mr. Williams, including CPR. RFD arrived and took over CPR; EMS arrived shortly thereafter to assist with resuscitation efforts.

Mr. Williams was transported by EMS to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased at 3:01 a.m. The cause of Mr. Williams' death, including toxicology results, will be part of the ongoing investigations.

A search of the vehicle occupied by Mr. Williams was conducted and two firearms, one of which had previously been reported stolen, were recovered. Marijuana and suspected controlled substances were also recovered from the vehicle.

Pursuant to departmental policy, Officers Robinson, Thomas, Aquino, Scott, Grande, and Range were placed on administrative leave.

Raleigh Police Department officers are assigned body-worn cameras, and the officers' cameras captured the incident. In addition, dash cameras from the marked patrol cars also captured the encounter. As is standard protocol and in the spirit of transparency, the Department will petition for the release of relevant agency recordings in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4A.