

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
From	Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police EDP
Department	Police
Date	January 28, 2025
Subject	Preliminary Report of January 21, 2025 Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred on January 21, 2025, in the 600 block of Democracy Street. The incident took place after an individual, later identified as Antonio Rodrigues, fired on multiple Raleigh Police Department (RPD) officers, critically injuring one. Officers returned fire, fatally shooting Mr. Rodrigues. The shooting followed an incident in which Mr. Rodrigues shot an individual, later identified as John Rowe, during an apparent domestic dispute. Mr. Rowe was transported to a local hospital, where he later died. The injured RPD officer, Officer M.A Gillick, was also taken to a local hospital. At this time, he remains in critical but stable condition.

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a criminal investigation of the officer-involved shooting and will present a completed investigation directly to the Wake County District Attorney for review. The Detective Division of the Raleigh Police Department is conducting a separate investigation of the actions of Mr. Rodrigues. Additionally, the Raleigh Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is conducting an administrative investigation of the incident. When the internal administrative investigation is complete, it will be reviewed by members of the RPD Command Staff.

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

At approximately 5:39 P.M. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received a 911 call reporting a forcible entry at a residence in the 600 block of Democracy Street. The caller stated that a person she believed to be her ex-husband (Antonio Rodrigues), forced his way into her home, and assaulted her current boyfriend, Mr. Rowe, by tasing him. She informed ECC that she had an active domestic violence protective order against her ex-husband. She reported that the suspect left the residence after a brief struggle and neither she nor her boyfriend required medical attention.

At approximately 5:44 P.M., while ECC was gathering additional suspect information from the caller, she reported the suspect had returned and was actively breaking the glass to enter through the back door of her residence. She confirmed the suspect was in fact her ex-husband, and that he was now armed with a shotgun. While still on the line with emergency communications, she reported that her ex-husband shot her boyfriend and they urgently needed help.

Multiple RPD officers were dispatched to the initial 911 call classified as a burglary. At approximately, 5:46 P.M., as officers were en route, updated information was provided, including a description of the suspect and that he had reentered the home and shot an individual inside. As officers arrived at approximately 5:49 P.M., gunfire could be heard within the residence. Shortly thereafter, the 911 caller ran outside, informing a responding officer that “[her] boyfriend is dying on the floor” and confirming that the shots heard were coming from the rear of her residence. Officers instructed nearby residents to stay indoors while they approached with caution.

At approximately 5:53 P.M., K-9 Officer S. Henry, Officers M. Gillick, M. Batts, Z. Kwiatkowski and Sergeant E. Patton, entered the rear of the caller’s residence. Upon entry, they found the caller’s boyfriend, Mr. Rowe, conscious and bleeding from his side on the kitchen floor. Officers notified the dispatcher that they located the victim in the residence suffering from a gunshot wound. Officer Gillick stayed with Mr. Rowe, while the other responding officers conducted a protective sweep of the residence to secure the scene for emergency medical personnel to enter and render aid.

At approximately 5:56 P.M., when officers opened the interior door of the residence leading to the garage, they located Mr. Rodrigues who was armed with a firearm. Despite repeated commands directing him to show his hands and drop the weapon he was holding, Mr. Rodrigues fired multiple shots at the officers. In response, Officer Henry fired towards Mr. Rodrigues before seeking cover. Officer Gillick and Sgt. Patton moved the injured victim to a screened patio area a few feet away, while Officers Batts and Kwiatkowski took cover in a small area inside an adjacent laundry room. Mr. Rodrigues continued firing from inside the garage, confining those officers to their respective areas while they awaited additional support. Officer Gillick notified the dispatcher that shots were fired and urgently requested additional assistance from law enforcement. At the time, it was believed that Officer Henry and/or Officer Batts had been struck by gunfire. Accordingly, Sgt. Patton relayed over police radio at 5:57 P.M. that an officer had been shot.¹

At approximately 6:08 P.M., officers with RPD’s Selective Enforcement Unit (SEU), including Captain B. Gartin, Officer T. Webb, and Lt. K. Smithey, arrived and positioned themselves at the front entryway of the residence. Officers from other local law enforcement agencies responded to the area to offer assistance. The SEU officers gathered information from RPD officers on the scene, including the location of the suspect

¹ It was learned later that neither Officer Henry nor Officer Batts were struck by gunfire during this incident.

and the initial responding officers. During this time, Mr. Rodrigues intermittently fired shots from inside the garage and appeared to use a flare gun in response to officers' commands for him to drop his weapon and to surrender. Based on the information presented, SEU officers devised a tactical response using RPD's armored vehicle that was en route to the scene.

At 6:36 P.M., the armored vehicle was used to breach the exterior garage door to the residence. After the door was breached, Mr. Rodrigues entered the residence from the garage and fired at nearby officers, striking Officer Gillick who was still confined to the screened patio area. As Mr. Rodrigues fired his weapon, SEU officers deployed flashbangs² near the interior garage door as Captain Gartin, Lt. Smithey, and Officers Batts and Webb returned fire, fatally shooting Mr. Rodrigues. Other officers were then able to carry Officer Gillick and Mr. Rowe outside of the residence.

At approximately 6:38 P.M., once the scene was secured, EMS personnel transported Mr. Rowe and Officer Gillick to a local hospital for treatment. Mr. Rodrigues was pronounced deceased at the scene by EMS personnel.

Following the shooting, officers canvassed the neighborhood. There was evidence of ballistic damage to the structure of two nearby homes and the armored vehicle used during the breach. However, no other individuals reported any injuries.

A Rossi .44 Magnum lever-action rifle was recovered from the ground next to where Mr. Rodrigues was lying. A 9mm ghost gun,³ along with ammunition, were found in Mr. Rodrigues' waistband. At the time, he was wearing a bandolier belt across his chest. A total of nineteen (19) fired shell casings consistent with Mr. Rodrigues' firearms were located at the scene: thirteen (13) .44 Magnum shell casings were recovered from the garage, along with three (3) .44 Magnum shell casings and three (3) 9mm shell casings that were recovered from inside the residence. A taser consistent with the description provided by the 911 caller was located inside the residence. A flare gun and flare gun shell were located inside of the garage. A later search of Mr. Rodrigues' vehicle revealed a cache of hand explosives, which were safely disposed of by RPD's Hazardous Devices Unit.

Preliminary results indicate that five (5) RPD officers discharged their service weapons in connection with this encounter: Captain B. Gartin, Lt. K. Smithey and Officers S. Henry, M. Batts, and T. Webb. A total of forty-three (43) rounds were fired collectively by RPD officers. Pursuant to Departmental policy, the officers who discharged their weapons have been placed on administrative leave.

Body-worn cameras belonging to the officers involved were operational during this encounter and captured the officer-involved shooting. As is standard protocol and in

² Flashbangs are non-lethal explosive devices that create a loud bang and bright flash of light. They are used to temporarily disorient suspects.

³ The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) defines a "ghost gun" as a privately made firearm completed by someone other than a licensed manufacturer and lacks a serial number.

the spirit of transparency, the Department will seek the release of agency recordings that capture the officer-involved shooting in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4A.