



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Ruffin Hall, City Manager

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

DEPARTMENT: Police

DATE: January 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Preliminary Report of January 4, 2020,
Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred on January 4, 2020, near the campus of Southeast Raleigh High School. No one was injured during this incident. Following standard practice, both the Wake County District Attorney and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) were immediately notified. Because no one was injured as a result of the officer's discharge of his weapon, the SBI is not investigating this matter. The Raleigh Police Department Internal Affairs Unit is in the process of conducting a criminal investigation of the officer's discharge of his weapon, which will be presented to the Wake County District Attorney for review. The Detective Division of the Raleigh Police Department is investigating the actions of the suspect. At the conclusion of the criminal investigation, the Internal Affairs Unit will conduct an administrative investigation into the incident to determine if all Departmental policies and procedures were followed. When complete, the administrative investigation will be evaluated 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:

At approximately 7:48 a.m., a 911 call was received reporting that an armed man had just attempted to break into a car in the 2300 block of Creech Road. The suspect pointed a handgun at the owner of the vehicle who was watching from a window inside her home. He did not gain entry into her vehicle, and then fled on foot. The suspect was later identified as Mr. Najae Riley.

A short time later, Mr. Riley flagged down the driver who was operating a City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services sanitation truck in the 2500 block of Creech Road. When the vehicle stopped, Mr. Riley pointed a handgun at the driver and passenger and ordered them both out of the vehicle. Mr. Riley then climbed into the driver's seat and ordered the passenger to get back inside. Mr. Riley attempted to drive the sanitation truck but was unable to operate the vehicle. Mr. Riley then stole a City owned iPhone from the truck before fleeing on foot through several backyards on Slippery Elm Drive.

Officer L.A. Campbell, who was responding to the first 911 call, was flagged down by the two City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services employees who had both called 911. They told her what happened and pointed in the direction Mr. Riley

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had run. As Officer Campbell was driving down Creech Road, Mr. Riley walked into the street with both arms extended straight out in front of his body, while holding a dark object in his hands. While holding the object in both hands as if it were a handgun, he began pointing it directly at Officer Campbell's vehicle. Believing Mr. Riley was pointing a firearm at her, Officer Campbell stopped her vehicle and used it as cover before engaging him. She repeatedly commanded him to drop the weapon and get down on the ground. Mr. Riley refused to comply and ran several yards to a small patch of woods, where he hid behind a tree. After several repeated commands to drop the gun and get down on the ground, Mr. Riley dropped a dark object to the ground and ran away from Officer Campbell, toward the campus of Southeast Raleigh High School.

Officer Campbell reported that Mr. Riley had dropped the gun and was running. She then pursued him on foot, while still giving commands for him to stop and get on the ground. Mr. Riley ignored her commands and thrust both his arms forward towards her, as if he were pointing a weapon. Based on his actions, Officer Campbell believed Mr. Riley still had a gun, and stayed some distance away while continuing to give commands to stop and get on the ground.

At this time, Senior Officer R.S. Matroo arrived in his patrol vehicle to assist Officer Campbell. As he exited his patrol car, Mr. Riley turned toward Officer Matroo and extended both hands together, as if he were holding a firearm, directly at Officer Matroo. Believing Mr. Riley was pointing a firearm at him, Officer Matroo discharged four (4) rounds in the direction of Mr. Riley. Mr. Riley was not struck by any gunfire. Immediately after the shots were fired, Mr. Riley began to comply with instructions and was taken into custody without further incident.

A handgun believed to have been used during the attempted theft of the motor vehicle in the 2300 block of Creech Road and in the attempted carjacking of the Solid Waste Services truck in the 2500 block of Creech Road was located in a backyard on Slippery Elm Drive, along the route that Mr. Riley took when he ran from the sanitation truck. Mr. Riley's iPhone, which was in a black case, was recovered in the area that Officer Campbell saw him throw a small dark object to the ground. The City owned iPhone stolen from the sanitation truck, which was in a black case, was found next to Mr. Riley when he was taken into custody.

Officer Matroo was not wearing a body worn camera during this incident. There is dash and body camera video available from both Officer Campbell as well as the third officer who was arriving on the scene as the shots were fired. The Police Department has filed a petition for release of those videos in accordance with State law. The hearing on that matter is set for January 17, 2020.

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