

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
From	Rico L. Boyce, Chief of Police
Department	Police
Date	February 26, 2026
Subject	Five-Day Report of February 19, 2026 Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred on February 19, 2026, while Raleigh Police Department officers were serving a search warrant at 7101-K Woodbend Drive in North Raleigh. During this encounter, an individual later identified as Solomon Thomas Owens shot at RPD officers, and one of the officers returned fire. Another officer used a less-lethal force option on Mr. Owens before his arrest. Based on preliminary information, it appeared that Mr. Owens and one officer were struck by gunfire. The officers' body-worn cameras were active and recording at the time of this incident. During this investigation, the evidence was thoroughly reviewed and shows that a gunshot did not injure Mr. Owens; his injuries were sustained as he was restrained and taken into custody. Raleigh Police Department Officer J.D. Rich sustained minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital, then released. Mr. Owens was also taken to a local hospital for treatment for his injuries, transported to the RPD Detective Division, and then to the Wake County Detention Center.

Based on the information currently available to the Department, a preliminary review of the incident provides the following:

On February 19, 2026, the Garner Police Department requested assistance from the Raleigh Police Department to serve a search warrant at 7101-K Woodbend Drive, Raleigh. The search warrant sought to locate Mr. Owens, who had active felony warrants for larceny of a firearm and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon. Mr. Owens was also a suspect in a homicide that occurred in Garner on February 9, 2026. Members of the Raleigh Police Department's Selective Enforcement Unit held a briefing and formulated a plan to serve the search warrant.

At approximately 7:10 p.m., members of the Raleigh Police Department's Selective Enforcement Unit approached the front door of 7101-K Woodbend Drive, knocked, announced their presence, and forced entry into the apartment. When the door opened, Mr. Owens fired 10 shots from a Radical Firearms AR-style pistol chambered in 300 Blackout at the officers. Officer J.D. Rich was struck once in his ballistic helmet, and Officer Z.T. Hazzard's ballistic shield was struck three times. In response, Officer E.L. Trautz fired his duty weapon twice but did not hit Mr. Owens. After Officer Trautz fired, the officers took cover. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Owens and an adult female, holding a small child, exited the apartment. Just outside the apartment, Officer M.R. Michael used a less-lethal force option (40mm Sponge Round) to de-escalate and immobilize Mr. Owens. Officers took Mr. Owens into custody and then provided first aid for his injuries that were sustained during his arrest.

In addition to the larceny of a firearm and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon warrant, Mr. Owens was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the Garner homicide. As a result of his actions against Raleigh Police Department officers at 7101-K Woodbend Drive, Mr. Owens has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, three counts of felony assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill government officers, and five counts of felony assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm.

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a criminal investigation into the officer-involved shooting and will submit a completed report directly to the Wake County District Attorney for review. The Raleigh Police Department's Detective Division is conducting a separate investigation into Mr. Owens's actions. Additionally, the Raleigh Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is conducting an administrative investigation focused on departmental policy compliance. When complete, the administrative investigation will be reviewed by members of the Raleigh Police Department's Command Staff.

Pursuant to Departmental policy, Officer E.L. Trautz was placed on administrative duty for discharging his duty weapon. He has since been cleared to return to his duty assignment.