



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Ruffin Hall, City Manager

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

DEPARTMENT: Police

DATE: 5-24-2019

SUBJECT: Preliminary Report of May 19, 2019, Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred on May 19, 2019 at 5210 Falls of Neuse 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. Hendricks. 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 on-going, 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 9:30 AM on Sunday, May 19, 2019, members of the Raleigh Fire Department responded to a medical call at 5201 Falls of Neuse Road. When they arrived, they encountered Mr. Michael Anthony Hendricks, Jr. who was sitting on the floor of his apartment near a cardboard box. He told fire personnel that if they did not back off he would attack. Mr. Hendricks' roommate was present and informed fire personnel that Mr. Hendricks possessed a gun and kept it in the box immediately next to him. At that time, Mr. Hendricks began rummaging through the box. Fire personnel immediately backed away to a safe distance and asked for the Police Department to quicken their response.

In addition to the request from the Raleigh Fire Department for police assistance, another call was made to 911 stating that Mr. Hendricks was armed with a knife and was having a war flashback. As of the date of this memo, the Raleigh Police Department has not been able to locate any record of military service by Mr. Hendricks. As Raleigh Police officers were responding to the call, they were made aware that Mr. Hendricks was armed.

Officer C.T. Melochick was the first officer to arrive on the scene. While he was in the parking lot speaking with Mr. Hendricks' roommates about the incident, Mr. Hendricks came around the side of the building, walking toward the parking lot where Officer Melochick and the witnesses were standing. Mr. Hendricks had a gun in his hand that was raised at shoulder level and pointed at Officer Melochick. At the same time Officer Melochick spotted Mr. Hendricks, a

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second patrol vehicle arrived in the parking lot. Officer Melochick ran and took cover behind the vehicle that had just arrived. Mr. Hendricks' roommates, who were behind Officer Melochick at this point, began to run or duck for cover. Officer Melochick then gave multiple commands for Mr. Hendricks to drop the weapon. Mr. Hendricks refused to drop the weapon and continued to point it at Officer Melochick, who then fired one round, striking Mr. Hendricks in the abdomen.

Officers approached Mr. Hendricks to take him into custody and advised EMS that it was safe for them to respond to the scene. Fire and EMS, who had been staged just down the block, arrived within minutes and Mr. Hendricks, who was alert and conscious, was transported to WakeMed.

The crime scene was secured to await the arrival of the State Bureau of Investigation. When the gun found at the scene was collected into evidence, investigators determined it was an Airsoft gun which had been modified to remove its orange safety tip.

Officer Melochick was wearing a body camera, which was turned on and recording during the incident. His dash camera was operating and captured part of the incident. The dash camera of the second officer to arrive on the scene captured the incident as well. The City has filed a petition in Superior Court for release of all dash and body camera video that captured the events leading up to and including the shooting.

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