PS#15-09

3/05/15

On Thursday, March 5, 2015, at approximately 4:48 P.M., uniformed officers, in a marked police vehicle were in the shopping center parking lot, at 2100 Lehigh Avenue. One of the officers went into a store while the other officer remained in the police vehicle. Two males, armed with handguns, entered the store. The officer observed the offender near the counter and drew his weapon.

The offenders both discharged their weapons, striking the officer, as the officer returned fire, missing the offenders.

At that point, the officer that had remained with the police vehicle, upon hearing the gunshots, exited his vehicle, and approached the store. The two offenders ran out of the store. One of the offenders, upon seeing that officer, ran back into the store and attempted to blend in with witnesses.

The offender that did not re-enter the store discharged his firearm at the second officer, while running across the outside courtyard. The officer discharged his weapon at the offender, striking him. The offender fell to the ground and was subsequently apprehended. He was transported to Albert Einstein Medical Center for treatment. The other offender, who was uninjured, was apprehended inside the store.

The officer was transported to Temple University Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The offenders' firearms, a .40 caliber, semi-automatic pistol, loaded with six live rounds, and .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, loaded with one live round, were recovered at the scene.

^{***} Information posted in the original summary reflects a preliminary understanding of what occurred at the time of the incident. This information is posted shortly after the incident and may be updated as the investigation leads to new information. The DA's Office is provided all the information from the PPD's investigation prior to their charging decision.