

Pittsylvania County deputies called in to help - Danville Register & Bee (VA) - April 14, 2018

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Shortly after a fatal officer-involved shooting of a 25-year-old man in Danville, more than a dozen Pittsylvania County officers were called to help with a large crowd gathered at the local hospital, dispatch logs show.

Pittsylvania County Sheriff Mike Taylor confirmed this week that sheriff's deputies responded to a request for mutual aid at SOVAH Health-Danville following the shooting of **Juan Markee Jones**.

He said the gathering was peaceful, and no arrests were made.

The series of events began when Danville officers were called at about 1 a.m. April 7 to a parking lot in the 2300 block of North Main Street for the report of a domestic assault. While responding, the caller — described by police as a 22-year-old woman — told dispatchers she went back to her home in the 200 block of Sunset Drive "in an attempt to escape her attacker," police reported.

A video released Tuesday shows multiple Danville officers confront Jones on Sunset Drive as he sits in his car and then tries to back away as officers yell at him to stop. At some point, after officers repeatedly told him to step out of his car, Jones backs the vehicle into a wooded area and steps out.

Jones, with his back to the officers, abruptly whirls around toward them with his hands outstretched.

That's when police open fire and Jones drops to the ground.

Jones was transported to SOVAH Health-Danville where he was pronounced dead.

When asked, Danville Emergency Communication Director Steve Dishman said he couldn't release the Danville police dispatch records since it's part of an ongoing investigation.

Pittsylvania County 911 dispatch notes obtained by the Danville Register & Bee show a timeline of events from the outside agency asked to lend mutual aid.

However, Dishman said resource requests do not always come through a dispatch center.

"A lot of times, they'll call each other and get what they need," Dishman said.

The first call comes into Pittsylvania County's 911 center at 2:04 a.m.

The caller is identified as Cooper by the dispatcher.

At 2:05 a.m., the dispatcher notes a request for a K-9 unit for firearms.

The first Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office deputy — only identified only as unit 125 — arrives at the scene of the shooting in Danville. It is now 2:16 a.m.

One minute later, the dispatcher notes there was an officer-involving shooting and that a Danville Police Department major — only identified as Burke — asked for assistance at SOVAH Health-Danville in reference to a "large crowd."

"Originally, they were sending units to Sunset, but from there, it looks like there was a call to send extra units at the hospital," Pittsylvania County Emergency Services Director Jim Davis said Friday. "The units who were already on Sunset went over to the hospital."

Unit 126 arrives at the hospital at 2:33 a.m.

It's at 2:39 a.m. when another county officer — unit 121 — calls Taylor.

At 3 a.m., unit 121 requests for dispatch to put out a call for "anyone who can respond to DRMC." (The hospital was known for years as Danville Regional Medical Center and commonly referred to simply as DRMC.)

A minute later dispatchers are told a police SWAT team is not needed for the situation, logs show.

Taylor could not say how many people were gathered outside the hospital. Danville Police Department Lt. Mike Wallace told the Register & Bee he did not know anything about the gathering.

The number of county officers grows to 14 at SOVAH Health-Danville to assist with the crowd. It's now 4:14 a.m.

Taylor would not specify why so many officers were sent, saying that he could not speak to tactics.

By 6:24 a.m., units begin leaving from the scene at the hospital.

Back at 205 Sunset Drive, a Pittsylvania County K-9 arrives at 8:05 a.m. It's not clear if this K-9 is from the request put out at 2:05 a.m. for firearms.

The K-9 only stays for 10 minutes and leaves at 8:15 a.m., according to the dispatch notes.

The last two county units left the hospital at 12:50 p.m.

Elizabeth Harris, marketing director of SOVAH Health, did not return multiple requests for comment.