



Date and Time: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 2:35:00 PM PDT

Job Number: 87142254

Document (1)

1. [*Detroit ID'd as suspect in police dog shooting*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Theoddeus Gray"

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
-None-

Detroit ID'd as suspect in police dog shooting

The Detroit News (Michigan)

November 6, 2018 Tuesday, 1 Edition

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Section: BUSINESS; Pg. B2

Length: 450 words

Byline: By, Charles E. Ramirez, The Detroit News

Body

St. Clair Shores - Police identified the man who was killed by police after allegedly shooting a police dog Sunday as a 29-year-old Detroit man.

Theoddeus Gray was killed in a shootout with police outside the Lakeland Manor banquet hall in St. Clair Shores, according to authorities.

St. Clair Shores police have turned the investigation into the officer-involved shooting to the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, they said.

Officials with the sheriff's office identified Gray. They said they were not releasing further information until their investigation is completed.

On Sunday, St. Clair Shores police said officers responded to reports of a man outside a banquet hall on Harper near 11 Mile just before 6:30 p.m. About 70 people were inside the hall at the time, according to authorities.

The armed man allegedly ignored multiple commands from officers and fled the scene.

Axe, a police dog, was used to track the suspect, who shot the dog with a handgun, police said. Officers returned fire, striking the man, they said.

The shooter and the K-9 officer died later, police said.

Gray has a previous conviction on drug charges in Wayne County, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections. He served two years in prison and was released in May 2015, the department said.

On Monday, St. Clair Shores Mayor Kip Walby expressed his sadness about Axe's death on the city's official Facebook page.

"As Mayor of Saint Clair Shores, I am deeply saddened by the tragedy that occurred here last night," he wrote. "We lost K9 Officer Axe, a dedicated member of the SCSPD.

"This is a blow to our department, particularly Axe's partner, to whom Axe was not just a partner, but also family. Aside from being a police officer, Axe was an ambassador to our community, and was beloved by all he came in contact with."

Walby asked people to pray for the city and its police officers.

A couple of organizations have started fundraisers to help buy protective equipment for police dogs.

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The Officer Collin Rose Memorial Fund started collecting donations Sunday and has pledged \$7,500 toward an eventual replacement for Axe. The charity was started in 2017 to honor Wayne State University police officer Collin Rose, who was killed in the line of duty Nov. 23, 2016.

"This donation is in addition to our fundraising campaign that will keep other working police dogs safe," Chris Powell, president of the foundation, said in an email. "As of now eight dogs will be vested and another 20 dogs will have first aid bags."

In addition, a Gofundme page has been created in honor of the fallen police dog. The page aims to raise \$950 to help pay for protective equipment for a police dog.

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Graphic

Gray

Axe

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: det

Subject: DEATH NOTICES & OBITUARIES (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (90%); SHERIFFS (90%); DEATHS & INJURIES BY POLICE (90%); SHOOTINGS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (89%); DOGS (89%); CITY GOVERNMENT (87%); ENQUÊTE CRIMINELLE (75%); DEATH & DYING (75%); CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CRIME (69%); CORRECTIONS (68%); JAIL SENTENCING (68%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (64%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (63%); PRISONS (62%); FUNDRAISING (62%); SOZIALE NETZWERKE IM INTERNET (61%)

Company: FACEBOOK INC (54%)

Ticker: FB (NASDAQ) (54%)

Industry: SOZIALE NETZWERKE IM INTERNET (61%)

Geographic: DETROIT, MI, USA (79%); MICHIGAN, USA (92%); CENTRE-OUEST DES ÉTATS-UNIS (71%)

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Load-Date: November 6, 2018

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