

Dunwoody police shoot suspect - Dunwoody Crier, The (GA) - January 23, 2018

January 23, 2018 | Dunwoody Crier, The (GA) | Dick Williams and Sue Stanton For The Crier

UPDATE: Dunwoody police said Monday the responsibility for naming the officer rested with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Under state law the GBI now investigates all officer-involved shootings.

But Chief Billy Grogan changed his mind Tuesday and identified the officer as Jared Bradley, 38, a four-year veteran of the force who came to Dunwoody from the Gwinnett County police.

A fatal shooting in a Dunwoody shopping center parking lot Saturday morning is raising questions about police public information procedures.

At deadline, The Crier has learned that the victim, **Jason Lappe**, 44, has local ties. He once attended the Marist School as well as Chattahoochee and Milton high schools.

The shooting occurred just before 8 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the Dollar Tree store in the Winter Village Shopping Center on Winters Chapel Road.

Police were advised that a suspect in an armed robbery at a Johns Creek Kroger on Holcomb Bridge had arrived at the shopping center's parking lot. A witness to the Kroger robbery followed the suspect to the Dunwoody location, where Dunwoody and Johns Creek police confronted the suspect.

According to Dunwoody police, the suspect refused to comply with verbal commands and exited his vehicle.

Officers rendered first aid until EMS arrived. The suspect was transported to Grady Hospital where he died. Per police department procedures, the officer who shot the suspect was placed on paid administrative leave.

On social media sites, many expressed concern for the police officer and the man who died. Others didn't have much sympathy for the suspect. Several who posted to the DPD Facebook page thanked officers for protecting citizens.

On Nextdoor.com, the theme was largely the same, but one poster suggested that police officers should use stun guns to disable suspects.

Others were quick to defend the officers' actions against an armed suspect in a neighborhood shopping center including a poster who witnessed the police arriving and who heard the gunshot.

"If an officer has drawn his firearm and issued an order, you'd better comply or assume the worst

will happen," he wrote.

Dunwoody resident Jana Keeler wrote that an officer had to make the most difficult decision required in doing his job. Therefore, a life was lost and several others, including the officers', forever changed, Keeler wrote as she offered prayers for all involved including the suspect.

"Life will never be the same for them," Keeler wrote. "May they find a new normalcy."

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