

Pennsylvania slaying suspect was armed - - Barrington Courier-Review (IL) - August 2, 2018 - page 9

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New details from the officer-involved shooting last week in Lakemoor emerged July 27 when officials said the officer did not run the license plate before approaching a man sleeping in a vehicle backed into a remote gravel service driveway.

The vehicle in which Pennsylvania slaying suspect **Kenneth Edwin Martell** slept did not have a front license plate because it is not required in that state, law enforcement authorities said.

"She conversed with him for a period of time," said Sgt. Christopher Covelli, spokesman for the Major Crime Task Force, which investigates all officer-involved shootings in the county. "She then ran the plate through dispatch using her radio. She ran the plate and shortly after, that is when he attacked."

Authorities said the encounter escalated quickly into a deadly confrontation. No officers were injured.

The female officer approached the vehicle, which was in an area where cars are usually not parked, with the front facing Four Seasons Boulevard, Covelli said.

The officer woke Martell, 36, of Springboro, Pa., who was wanted on an arrest warrant in connection with a slaying in Crawford County, Pa. The name of the officer has not been released.

"He attacked her by pointing a gun, and the struggle was to keep the gun from pointing to her," Covelli said.

"He was reaching for a second weapon while struggling with the first one."

A backup unit arrived during the struggle, Covelli said, and the murder suspect started to reach for another weapon inside the vehicle when he was shot by police. Martell was pronounced dead at the scene.

"The body cameras are going to be very important in this case," Covelli said. The female officer has just less than two years of total police experience and the male officer has 13 years of total police experience, he said.

According to Trooper Cindy Schick of Pennsylvania State Police, vehicles are required to have only a rear license plate in that state. Covelli said investigators are still working on why Martell was in Lakemoor, a small village on the Lake and McHenry county border.

Martell was accused of killing 88-year-old Theodore Garver during a July 23 robbery attempt.

Martell killed the man and forced three people at gunpoint to help dump the man's body in a pond, according to state police.

According to The Associated Press, an autopsy showed Garver died of sharp-force injuries to the neck and some assault-related blunt- and sharp-force injuries. Police recovered his body July 24 from the pond.

"Both Lakemoor officers were transported to a local hospital for evaluation (with this) being an officer-involved shooting," Covelli said at the scene.

Officer-involved shootings are investigated by the task force, and then findings are forwarded to the Lake County state's attorney's office for review.

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