

Police: Cop who shot security guard Jemel Roberson gave 'multiple' commands to drop weapon before firing

Madhani, Aamer . USA Today (Online) ; Arlington [Arlington]14 Nov 2018.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)

The black security guard who was shot to death by police outside a suburban Chicago bar was given "multiple verbal commands" to drop his weapon, police said.

FULL TEXT

CHICAGO –A security guard who was shot to death by police outside a suburban Chicago bar this week was given "multiple verbal commands" to drop his weapon before an officer fired, Illinois State Police said in preliminary findings.

Jemel Roberson, 26, who worked as an armed guard at Manny's Blue Room Lounge, was pinning down a suspect outside the bar in Robbins, Illinois, early Sunday morning when the police officer shot him.

The person Roberson apprehended had allegedly fired a weapon inside the bar moments earlier, wounding multiple people and drawing police from surrounding jurisdictions to rush to the establishment.

The officer from neighboring Midlothian who killed Roberson saw a man decked out in "plain black clothing with no markings readily identifying him as a security guard, armed with a gun," the state police Public Integrity Task Force said.

"According to witness statements, the Midlothian Officer gave the armed subject multiple verbal commands to drop the gun and get on the ground before ultimately discharging his weapon and striking the subject," state police said in a statement late Tuesday.

Gregory Kulis, an attorney representing Roberson's mother, said Roberson wore a hat emblazoned with the word "SECURITY. "

"Everybody was screaming out he was a security guard," witness Adam Harris told WGN-TV. "And they basically saw a black man with a gun and killed him. "

Authorities have not released the name of the officer, who is white.

Midlothian Police Chief Daniel Delaney said the officer joined the department nearly four years ago after working for another law enforcement agency. The officer was a team leader for a regional SWAT team assembled by police departments in Chicago's south suburbs.

"We view this as the equivalent of a 'blue on blue,' friendly fire incident," Delaney said.

In an initial statement on the incident, Delaney referred to Roberson as "a subject with a gun. " He later praised Roberson.

"The Midlothian Police Department is completely saddened by this tragic incident, and we give our heartfelt condolences to Jemel, his family and his friends," he said. "There are no words that can be expressed as to the sorrow his family is dealing with. "

More: Police chief praises security guard killed by cop: 'Jemel Roberson was a brave man'

More: Police officer near Chicago fatally shot security guard who was detaining a suspect

The preliminary investigation found that the incident started around 4 a. m. Sunday when an armed person entered the lounge and fired, striking multiple people.

The suspect suffered non-life-threatening wounds and was hospitalized. He has not been charged. The Cook County Sheriff's Office is investigating the shooting inside the bar. Illinois State Police Sgt. Jacqueline Cepeda said there is no timeline for completing the investigation of the police shooting. She declined to say whether the officer wore a body camera or if the incident was captured by any other video surveillance. Cepeda said the task force will present its findings to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office prosecution bureau, which will determine whether the shooting was legally justified or if charges against the officer are merited. State police asked any witnesses who saw the officer shoot Roberson or have knowledge about what happened inside the bar to come forward. Beatrice Roberson, the security guard's mother, filed a federal lawsuit against Midlothian and the officer –identified only as John Doe –seeking more than \$1 million in damages. She called the officer's action "unprovoked" and an "excessive and unreasonable" use of force. Roberson suffered multiple gunshot wounds, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. Robbins is a predominantly black community of about 5,500 residents south of Chicago. Mayor Tyrone Ward expressed anguish about the incident Tuesday evening. Ward declined to weigh in on the Midlothian officer's decision to shoot, but he wondered whether the situation would have ended differently if a Robbins officer had encountered Roberson first. "I wish it had been one of our (officers) who came across the situation," Ward said. "They may have been more familiar with security (at the bar). That's my honest opinion. "

DETAILS

Subject:	Task forces; Criminal investigations; Guards
Location:	Cook County Illinois Chicago Illinois Illinois
Company / organization:	Name: State Police-Illinois; NAICS: 922120
Publication title:	USA Today (Online); Arlington
Publication year:	2018
Publication date:	Nov 14, 2018
Section:	news
Publisher:	USA Today, a division of Gannett Satellite Information Network, Inc.
Place of publication:	Arlington
Country of publication:	United States, Arlington
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--United States
Source type:	Newspapers
Language of publication:	English

Document type: News

ProQuest document ID: 2133061898

Document URL: <https://search.proquest.com/docview/2133061898?accountid=14026>

Copyright: Copyright USA Today, a division of Gannett Satellite Information Network, Inc. Nov 14, 2018

Last updated: 2018-11-15

Database: Global Newsstream

LINKS

[Check SFX for Availability](#)

Database copyright © 2019 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)