

Man killed in shootout had warrants - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - May 14, 2018 - page 1B

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The man who died in a shootout with law enforcement Saturday evening had active warrants for violating protection orders.

The Franklin County sheriff's office said in a statement Sunday afternoon that the deceased suspect, who shot and wounded a sheriff's deputy, was identified as **Darrell J. Bruffy**, 55, of Orient.

The release did not identify the injured sheriff's deputy, who was taken to OhioHealth Grant Medical Center on Saturday night in critical condition. After a surgery, the deputy was upgraded to stable condition.

Saturday's South Side shootout took place just after 6:30 p.m., when the deputy attempted to stop a man in a black pickup truck near Clime Road and Harrisburg Pike, said Marc Gofstein, sheriff's office spokesman.

It is unclear whether Bruffy's outstanding warrants factored into the initial pursuit.

The driver didn't stop, and a pursuit went on for five or six minutes, ending with the truck crashed into a pole in front of the Shell gas station at Harrisburg Pike and Hopkins Avenue.

It was at that corner where law enforcement officers and Bruffy started shooting.

Gofstein wouldn't say who fired first or how many shots were fired. It all remains under investigation, he said.

In eyewitness videos released by local TV stations, three separate sets of gunfire, each with about 10-second lulls in between, are heard exchanged between officers and Bruffy. More than 20 shots were exchanged altogether. In one video, a woman said, "Oh my God, he's shooting at the cop."

During the past two months, Bruffy had outstanding warrants for his arrest spanning for domestic violence, assault and criminal trespassing, along with two violations of protection orders.

On March 24, police were called to the home of Bruffy's estranged wife, Michelle, on a report that he had broken in and was assaulting her. When police arrived, officers heard a woman from inside repeatedly screaming for help from an open window, according to police reports.

Ms. Bruffy told officers that she had separated from her husband two weeks earlier. With blood on her shirt, she told police that Mr. Bruffy forced his way into her home and proceeded to strangle and strike her, according to police reports.

A temporary protection order was issued against Mr. Bruffy on March 26. But police were called again to Ms. Bruffy's home about a week later, on April 6. She told police that Mr. Bruffy came into her home while she was gone and took a .40-caliber silver Ruger handgun.

Ms. Bruffy told officers she kept the firearm because she "lives in fear" of her ex-husband and that "she doesn't feel safe anywhere now that he has a handgun," according to police reports.

Police were called to Ms. Bruffy's home on May 6 after she walked outside to close the shed and said she saw Mr. Bruffy standing in the shed watching her.

More information regarding the investigation will be released Monday, according to the sheriff's office.

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