

Merrillville police used stun gun before fatally shooting man outside car dealership: official

Jacobs, Becky . Chicago Tribune (Online) , Chicago: Tribune Interactive, LLC. Feb 16, 2018.

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ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)

The Northwest Indiana Major Crimes Task Force, which is investigating the officer-involved shooting at the request of Merrillville police, aims to wrap up its report next week and submit the case to the Lake County prosecutor's office, Greg Mance, task force chairman, said. Jimmy Terry, 30, of Sioux Falls, S.D., died Wednesday after he was shot by police in the parking lot of Art Hill Ford Lincoln dealership at 901 W. Lincoln Highway, according to Mance and the Lake County coroner's office.

FULL TEXT

Merrillville police used a stun gun on a South Dakota man before he was fatally shot Wednesday outside a U.S. 30 car dealership, an official said.

The Northwest Indiana Major Crimes Task Force, which is investigating the officer-involved shooting at the request of Merrillville police, aims to wrap up its report next week and submit the case to the Lake County prosecutor's office, Greg Mance, task force chairman, said.

Jimmy Terry, 30, of Sioux Falls, S.D., died Wednesday after he was shot by police in the parking lot of Art Hill Ford Lincoln dealership at 901 W. Lincoln Highway, according to Mance and the Lake County coroner's office.

Merrillville police Chief Joseph Petruch said two of his officers had been placed on paid administrative leave, following standard protocol.

Officers were called at 11:38 a.m. for a report of a man chasing an employee with a knife at the dealership, Mance said.

Police were told that the man later identified as Terry got into an SUV and stopped the vehicle near the dealership entrance, he said.

The man "disregarded the officers' lawful commands and less lethal force," Mance said in a release Friday. Mance said police used a stun gun on Terry, but it "was ineffective in subduing the subject as he continued his resistive and armed approach towards the officers," according to Mance.

Police then used lethal force and shot the man, he said. Terry was taken to Methodist Hospitals Southlake where he died, Mance said. The coroner's office ruled his death a homicide.

"Investigators of the task force have interviewed numerous witnesses and collected several articles of evidence related to this case," Mance said in a release Friday.

Mance confirmed that a knife was recovered from the scene.

A question to Mance on whether the stun gun was used while Terry was inside or outside the vehicle was not immediately answered Friday.

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Credit: Becky Jacobs

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