

Gunman in raid was shot 18 times - DA releases - Patriot-News, The (Harrisburg, PA) - March 8, 2018 - page A3

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Harrisburg

Kevin Sturgis fired the first shot inside a Harrisburg house in January, authorities said, hitting a U.S. marshals task force member in the elbow.

It was the only shot he fired inside the house in the 1800 block of Mulberry Street, authorities confirmed this week.

Sturgis fired three more bullets outside of the house, including one that hit a Harrisburg officer in his bullet-resistant vest, said District Attorney Fran Chardo, who provided more details about the police-involved shooting to PennLive/The Patriot-News this week.

Chardo would not say how many rounds of gunfire were fired by members of the task force, but Sturgis was hit 18 times, including seven graze wounds.

One bullet pierced his aorta, Chardo said, causing him to die in the street almost instantly. He was pronounced dead and his body was not moved while police collected evidence, Chardo said.

It's unclear whether Sturgis received some of his injuries as gunfire was exchanged inside the house or during an ensuing gun battle in the street amid residents' parked vehicles.

But many of his wounds likely came at the end, when a task force member found Sturgis hiding between two parked cars. Sturgis pointed a pistol at the officer, Chardo said, and the officer fatally shot Sturgis.

The pistol and two shell casings fired from it were found near where Sturgis was fatally shot, Chardo said. The district attorney ruled the shooting death justifiable.

The new information from Chardo came less than a week after authorities disclosed for the first time that a deputy U.S. marshal killed during the Jan. 18 raid of the home was struck by a bullet fired by an officer, not Sturgis.

The fatal bullet that struck Deputy U.S. Marshal Christopher Hill in his unprotected armpit area was one of several bullets that came through a wall behind Sturgis as at least one officer returned fire in the initial volley of gunfire inside the home.

Sturgis was wanted for skipping bail and failing to appear at his Jan. 5, 2017, sen

ing for a 2014 gun crime, where he was likely facing five to 10 years in prison. A prosecutor was

pushing for serious jail time noting that Sturgis had been arrested 11 times and had six convictions, not including a rape case as a juvenile.

He had been convicted in October 2016 of illegally carrying a gun in his car.

Less than one month after that conviction, while he was out on \$1 bond, Philadelphia police allege Sturgis nearly killed his pregnant girlfriend in the 800 block of East Price Street.

Police got a call about the sound of gunshots just after midnight, and officers found a 25-year-old woman with two gunshot wounds to her right arm and one to her chest. She was critically wounded but survived. Police did not have any information about the status of the baby.

While Sturgis was wanted for serious crimes, the U.S. Marshals Service maintains that the task force was at Shayla Pierce's house on Mulberry Street on Jan. 18 to arrest Pierce, not Sturgis, who was apparently hiding out there.

Authorities had a warrant for the arrest of Pierce for illegal gun possession and two misdemeanors. It's unclear why this gun case would draw the attention of a federal task force as illegal gun cases in the city are common.

A Marshals Service spokeswoman said the Harrisburg police department asked for their assistance in arresting Pierce, but police Chief Thomas Carter said he could not comment on who asked for the federal assistance.

Adding to the confusion about the genesis of the raid, a prosecutor had just dropped a child-abuse case against Pierce two weeks prior, as Pierce stood in Dauphin County Court before a judge.

Now, Pierce could face additional charges from federal authorities, who have filed a detainer on her to keep her behind bars. She has remained in jail for her gun charge since Jan. 18.

Her attorney Aaron Holt said he is planning a vigorous defense. He said he doesn't believe Pierce knew of the extent of Sturgis' criminal record.

While neighbors referred to Sturgis as Pierce's boyfriend, Sturgis had a wife and children in Philadelphia.

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