

REMARKS BY POLICE CHIEF GARY EUGENE.

July 21, 2016 - Officer Involved Shooting Press Conference

I REALIZE THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED MONDAY NIGHT.

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

THE COMMUNITY HAS QUESTIONS.

WE AS A CITY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT HAVE QUESTIONS...

AND I ASSURE YOU, WE WILL GET ALL THE ANSWERS.

AT MY REQUEST, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IS CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION.

BRINGING IN AN OUTSIDE AGENCY SHOWS OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY AND OBJECTIVITY IN THIS SENSITIVE MATTER.

ALSO, THE STATE ATTORNEY OFFICE IS INVOLVED. THEY WILL BASE THEIR DETERMINATION OFF THE F-D-L-E FINDINGS.

ONCE BOTH OF THOSE AGENCIES HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR WORK, THE CASE WILL BE REFERRED BACK TO US FOR OUR OWN INTERNAL REVIEW. THIS IS PART OF NORMAL PROCEDURE.

WHILE IT MAY SEEM THAT THIS IS ADDING MORE TIME TO THE PROCESS, IT IS INDEED THE PROCESS UNDER FLORIDA LAW.

WHAT WE KNOW FOR SURE IS A 911 CALL WAS RECEIVED ABOUT A MAN WITH A GUN THREATENING TO KILL HIMSELF AND OUR OFFICERS RESPONDED TO THE SCENE WITH THAT THREAT IN MIND.

WE HAD WITNESS STATEMENTS THERE WAS A GUN. WE HAD A 911 CALLER WITH THAT SAME INFORMATION. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO GUN RECOVERED.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO A POLICE INVOLVED SHOOTING IS DESIGNED TO BE METHODOICAL AND THOROUGH.

THE LAW REQUIRES US TO GATHER EVERY FACT AND RESOLVE EVERY QUESTION BEFORE MAKING A PRONOUNCED JUDGEMENT. THAT IS A PROCESS - DICTATED BY LAW. WE ARE FOLLOWING THAT PROCESS.

LET ME END BY SAYING, I CAN ASSURE YOU OUR DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE.