

Offense #09-1083

On 01-30-09, at approximately 0944 hours, I was dispatched to 111 Camellia Place, Crestview Florida, in reference to what was originally passed on as a Crestview Police Officer involved shooting of a youth. This information was not broadcast over the radio, rather, Sgt Eubanks was told to make contact with dispatch via telephone for information.

Sgt Eubanks and I arrived on scene at the same time. As we pulled onto Camellia Place, I immediately noticed numerous Crestview Police Department vehicles, and an area in front of two houses cordoned off with crime scene tape. I then made contact with Crestview Police Department Narcotics Lieutenant Joseph Floyd who provided me with what little information he had about this case. Floyd stated that the house cordoned off at 111 Camellia Place was the residence of Patrolman Hank D. Bass. He further explained that while Bass was on Patrol, at least two of Bass' children were at home and involved in a shooting which mortally wounded one of them. According to what Floyd understood and explained, Zachary Bass and his brother Michael were sitting at the kitchen table across from each other. Michael had a shotgun in his hands, finger on the trigger, and Zachary grabbed the barrel and attempted to pull it towards him when the gun discharged. The shot struck Zachary in the neck area.

At that time, no officers were in the home, however, Per Lt Floyd, the following Crestview Police Officers had already been on scene and inside the residence:

- Patrolman Hank D. Bass, arrived first at approximately 0926 hours
- Lt Kent Buckner, shift supervisor, arrived at approximately 0927 hours
- Sgt John Cook, arrived approximately the same time as Lt Buckner
- Lt Eddie Lehneis, unknown time of arrival
- Investigator Jason Oury, unknown time of arrival
- Investigator Jim Baggett, unknown time of arrival

Additionally, Lt Floyd provided the following names of other Crestview Police Officer's who arrived at the residence but did not go inside of the crime scene:

- Police Chief Brian Mitchell
- Major Ken Bundrick
- Lt Joseph Floyd

Per Crestview Police Department dispatch, they were notified at 0925 hours of the shooting. EMS and Fire were notified. EMS was notified at 0929 hours and arrived on scene at 0932. The EMS personnel were:

- Tim Young
- Jill Corder
- Amanda Stewart

Per Tim Young, who provided me with a sworn written statement, EMS was dispatched to 111 Camellia Place in reference to gunshot wounds. When they arrived, they staged along with rescue personnel from Crestview Fire Department and waited for Crestview Police Department to secure the scene. Crestview Police Department personnel informed him that the victim was already deceased. Young entered the residence while other EMS and Fire Department personnel waited outside. Young said the victim was found sitting at the kitchen table in front of a window. There was a black pump-action shotgun sitting in a chair at the opposite side of the table. The victim was leaning to his left side with his head on the chair. Young said the victim had major trauma to the chin and neck with what appeared to be some missing section of trachea.

Young said there were no signs of life and the victim was pronounced deceased at 0934 hours. Young did not make physical contact with the victim.

Young had mentioned to me that there were other juveniles at the home when he arrived, another male and a female. Young did not know who they were, but research indicates that Zachary and Michael have one sister, Teresa, and one other brother, Hank D. Bass, Jr. I did not see any of these children on scene while I was there.

While I was collecting this information, Sgt Eubanks was making notifications. Lt Christmas from CID was notified of the incident at 0955 hours and arrived on scene at 1027. Christina from the medical examiner's office was notified at 0957, but had not arrived on scene prior to my departure. Additionally, several other investigators had arrived on scene, as well as Tori Moore and Lisa Hughey who were the Crime Scene Investigators.

Prior to anyone from the Sheriff's Department making entry, I was dispatched to the North Okaloosa Medical Center to obtain pictures of Michael Bass's right hand which had been injured when he struck it against a wall in or outside of the house after the incident occurred. Photos were taken and copied to a disc which was submitted to evidence. Additionally, I collected all of Michael's clothes with the exception of his underwear. These clothes consisted of a light blue "hoodie", white tee-shirt, blue jeans, tennis shoes and black ankle socks. These items were packaged and turned into evidence.

The crime scene was assumed by investigations personnel at approximately 1105 hours when I departed for the hospital.

The Department of Children and Families Hotline was contacted. I spoke to Marisa, operator #5205, who stated a report would be taken.

Crestview Police Department

Page: 1

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR DETECTIVE JASON C OURY

Ref: 09-100-WA

Entered: 04/27/2009 @ 1428

Entry ID: JCO

Modified: 04/27/2009 @ 1428

Modified ID: JCO

CRESTVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT**CASE NUMBER: 09-100-WA****DEFENDANT: Harris, Walter Lee****ADDENDUM OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

The above named defendant committed the offense of Child Neglect with Great Bodily Harm, when he left a loaded unsecured pellet rifle inside the living room near the front door. The pellet rifle was in a "charged" state and loaded with one (1) .177 lead pellet. Two (2) of the defendant's children were playing in the living room when the older, thirteen (13) years old, picked up the pellet rifle and poked his five (5) year old brother in the abdomen with the barrel. The five (5) year old, also armed with an air soft BB pistol, pushed the barrel away. The pellet rifle discharged at this point, with the pellet striking the five (5) year old in the lower abdomen.

The five (5) year old was taken to the hospital by his mother, where it was learned the pellet had entered the left side of the abdomen and traveled to the right side where it was still contained within the body. The five (5) year was then flown to Sacred Heart Hospital where surgery was performed to repair damages caused by the pellet and to remove the pellet. The Iliac Artery and Bladder had been damaged by the pellet and repaired during the surgery.

The defendant stated the pellet rifle is his and explained it (pellet rifle) is kept loaded and left by the front door, as he shoots aggressive neighborhood dogs with it. The defendant advised the BB pistol, which was recovered from the living room floor, is used by his five (5) year old son to play "Army."

The thirteen (13) year old son stated he was unaware of the pellet gun being in a ready to fire state. He does not reside with the defendant and only at the residence because he had spent the night the night before.

Also present in the living room was the five (5) year old child's mother, who was sick and asleep on the couch. She did not know of the incident until awakened by the five (5) year old child's screams.

This offense is evidenced by the injuries received by the five (5) year old child and statements from the defendant and thirteen (13) year old son as to where the pellet rifle is kept within the residence. The defendant's negligence in maintaining the pellet rifle in a manner to prevent harm, great bodily harm or death of the children residing within the residence.

This offense did occur within the city limits of Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida.