

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

400-B S. Martin L. King Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89106

Office (702) 828-3394 Fax (702) 828-1550



Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

November 14, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director Carla Alston
Sergeant Jeff Clark
Officer Laura Meltzer
Officer Larry Hadfield
Officer Jacinto Rivera
Officer Aden OcampoGomez

Assistant Sheriff Tom Roberts Briefs the Media on November 11, 2017 O.I.S.

On November 11, 2017 at approximately 5:34 p.m. patrol officers were dispatched to a gas station located at 780 East Pyle Avenue for reports of a male strangling a female. It was further reported that the male was possibly armed with a handgun and that a young juvenile was trying to intervene.

A patrol officer arrived in the parking lot and observed a male, later identified as 41 year old Phillip Pitts struggling with a female on the sidewalk in front of the store. The officer observed Pitts holding a handgun and told the young female juvenile to get back. Pitts continued to struggle with the female and then held the handgun up to his head telling the officer he would shoot himself. The officer issued numerous verbal commands for Pitts to drop the gun and was telling the female to try to get away.

Officer Nesheiwat arrived second in the parking lot and observed Pitts still struggling with the female. He exited his patrol vehicle and observed Pitts pressing his handgun against the female's abdomen. Officer Nesheiwat issued verbal commands to Pitts to drop the gun and then fired two shots from his duty handgun striking Pitts. Pitts fell to the ground still pointing the handgun in the female's direction. Officer Nesheiwat then fired two more rounds striking Pitts. Officers moved in and disarmed Pitts while taking him into custody. During the incident, the female victim also sustained a gunshot wound. Pitts and the victim were rendered aid until medical arrived.

Both were transported to UMC Trauma where Pitts was pronounced deceased. The female underwent surgery and was listed in stable condition.

###

Don't forget to visit our web sites

www.LVMPD.com or www.ProtectTheCity.com



A video of today's press conference can be viewed by clicking on the following link:
<https://youtu.be/o6ROQT1aBgl>

This is the 21st officer involved shooting for 2017. The LVMPD Force Investigation Team is currently investigating the officers' use of force in this incident. Their findings will be forwarded to the Clark County District Attorney for review.

An examination of this incident is being conducted by the LVMPD Critical Incident Review Team. This review will focus on policy, tactics and training as it relates to this use of force.

This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with any information is urged to contact the LVMPD Force Investigation Section at 702-828-8452. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 702-385-5555, visit www.crimestoppersofnv.com or text: "CRIMENV" + tip information to 274637 (CRIMES). Message and data rates may apply. Tips leading directly to an arrest or indictment processed through Crime Stoppers may be eligible for a cash reward.

PO 264b 11-14-17
171111-2780 LH

###

Don't forget to visit our web sites
www.LVMPD.com or www.ProtectTheCity.com