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Police kill man who had knife, cleaver Incident this year's fourth officer-involved fatal shooting in county

Author: Katie Fallon

Article Text:

MARIETTA -- Cobb County saw its fourth fatal officer-involved shooting after a patrolman shot a man who was wielding a kitchen knife and a meat cleaver during a domestic disturbance.

The shooting, which the Cobb County Police Department's Crimes Against Persons Unit is investigating, took place shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday.

Investigators said several people had left a house at 3607 Main Station Drive near Marietta when an officer approached the home on foot.

The officer, whose name police did not release, confronted **Tedric Trimble**, who was outside the home, and quickly saw that Trimble was armed with a meat cleaver and a kitchen knife.

Cobb County Police Department spokesman Officer Wayne Delk said the officer initially intervened because Trimble, whose age was unavailable, was continuing to endanger the lives of others gathered outside the home.

"(Trimble) continued to advance in a threatening manner, disregarding commands by the officer," Delk said. "The officer fired his handgun and struck the armed subject to protect himself and the others outside the home."

Delk said police do not know yet if Trimble lived at the home or how many times he was shot.

"I don't know all the specifics," Delk said.

So far this year, Cobb police have fatally shot three suspected criminals.

Most recently, Cobb SWAT officers shot 35-year-old **Christopher Shawn Mosley** after a standoff that lasted more than four hours in a Smyrna apartment community.

On **March 16, police shot and killed a man** who was beating a young child with a rock inside a Mableton mobile home on Whitney Court.

Delk said the number of fatal officer-involved shootings has not yet sounded an alarm in the department.

But Cobb Police Chief George Hatfield declined comment without first examining the statistics.

So far, Delk said the officers involved in the Mableton and Smyrna shootings each have been cleared of wrongdoing. In each case, an internal investigation concluded that the officers were justified in their use of deadly force.

Cobb County Public Safety Director Mickey Lloyd said Cobb's number of police shootings is "not out of line" based on the size of its population.

"It does not seem to be greater than in recent years," he said.

The number of situations in which police have had to use deadly force also has increased, Lloyd said.

While Sunday's shooting was the third for Cobb Police, it was the fourth officer-involved fatal shooting in Cobb County this year.

Early on Oct. 23, Cobb County Sheriff's deputies shot and killed a man who was on the run for nearly two days after he allegedly shot at a Cobb Police Officer during a routine traffic stop.

Christopher Lee Conte, 24, was fatally wounded at 3 a.m. when deputies confronted him in a barn on Pete Shaw Road near Sandy Plains Road and Lassiter High School in east Cobb.

A deputy with the Sheriff's Office Tactical Operations Unit shot Conte after he allegedly raised a handgun at deputies. The case is still under investigation.

kfallon@mdjonline.com

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