

The Commercial Appeal

May 16, 2003

Edition: Final

Section: Metro

Page: B2

Topics:

Index Terms:

SHOOTING POLICE MEMPHIS FATAL RULING SUICIDE

DOCTOR AIMED AT POLICE; SEPARATE DEATH RULED SUICIDE

Author: Chris Conley

conley@gomemphis.com

Article Text:

Memphis officers fatally shot a medical doctor after he pointed a pistol at them on an East Memphis parking lot, police officials said Thursday.

Dr. Anthony Bowman, 44, a cardiologist at the Cardiovascular Specialists Group, was killed outside his apartment at 5490 Poplar just before 10 p.m. Wednesday.

The shooting was the second involving Memphis police Wednesday that ended in death.

Police said Bowman had ignored requests by specially trained Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers to put down a pistol he was holding.

Attorney Rob Starnes read a statement on behalf of Bowman's colleagues, stating they were "shocked and saddened by his sudden passing."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time," the statement says.

Starnes said Bowman had been with the medical group since January 2002, but could not provide any further information about the doctor's professional career.

Bowman was living in the Denver area in 1999, according to a Colorado reporter who interviewed him that year.

Next-door neighbor Rita Robins described Bowman as a "very, very nice man" who lived with his wife and teenage son in the Colonial Apartments.

She said Bowman had frequently advised her about health issues when asked. "He was always willing to answer questions, always willing to explain."

Police, responding to reports of at least one shot fired in the apartment complex parking lot just after 9 p.m. Wednesday, found Bowman standing inside his apartment with a gun to his head, according to a police report. Bowman was threatening to kill himself and others.

As police tried to calm him, Bowman walked out of the apartment and into the parking lot, where officers struck him with projectiles designed to stop, but not kill.

As he walked along the fence line on the east side of the complex, he leveled his 9mm handgun at the officers, and was shot by one of the officers, according to the police account.

The other fatal shooting involving police Wednesday was ruled a suicide on Thursday by the medical examiner's office.

Keith Harris, 26, died early Wednesday after fleeing in his truck from police responding to a domestic violence complaint. He ran into a wooded area behind 2474 Covington Pike in Raleigh, and, according to one witness, fired at police as he was running.

When police surprised him in the thicket, Harris fired at police, one of whom fired a shotgun at Harris.

An autopsy showed that while Harris suffered shotgun pellet wounds in his hand, his death was caused by a close-contact shot from the gun he was holding.

Investigators found a suicide note in his home, according to police reports.

Copyright 2003 The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, TN