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Police chase ends in driver suicide man wanted for not showing up in court tries to flee officers  
then shoots himself

SUICIDE: Deputy on patrol saw man near local motel

Author: KEITH EPPS

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Wanted man kills himself prior to arrest

Article Text:

A man who led Stafford deputies on a brief chase up Interstate 95 killed himself late Wednesday as deputies moved in to arrest him, police said.

Stafford Sheriff Charles Jett said Sgt. Alex Smith and Deputy George Hernandez pursued the suspect about three miles north on the interstate before getting him to pull onto the right shoulder at the 136 mile marker.

Before the deputies could get out of their vehicles, Jett said, the suspect pulled out a handgun and shot himself in the head.

The victim was identified as 42-year-old Michael Anthony Mullins. His last known address was in Prince William County, Jett said.

"Our prayers go out to [Mullins'] family," Jett said. "This was a tragic event for all parties involved, including the deputies."

According to Jett, Smith was on routine patrol about 11:40 p.m. in the parking lot of Motel 6 on U.S. 17 when he saw a man sitting in a pickup truck.

The man didn't appear to be checking into a room, so Smith walked up and had what police described as a "consensual and friendly" discussion.

After talking to Mullins, Smith returned to his cruiser to check out the information he'd received, Jett said. He learned that Mullins was wanted in Stafford and Prince William for failing to appear in court.

Court records show that Mullins was charged earlier this year in Stafford with grand larceny, breaking and entering, larceny with the intent to sell and obtaining money by false pretenses. He was supposed to appear in Stafford General District Court May 2 to name his attorney, but didn't show up, court records show.

He also had charges pending in Prince William for obtaining money by false pretenses and failure to appear in court.

When Smith went to confront Mullins about his legal troubles, Jett said, Mullins sped off to the nearby interstate.

Hernandez, who was coming to provide backup for Smith, joined in the pursuit and got the suspect to stop.

Jett said there was evidence found in the victim's vehicle indicating that he was intending to take his own life. The sheriff didn't elaborate.

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404 [kep@freelancestar.com](mailto:kep@freelancestar.com)

Caption:

Mullins

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