

Roswell Daily Record (NM)  
September 24, 2009  
Section: Local News

#### Shooting under investigation

##### Article Text:

Rudy Lucero, who was shot and killed by Roswell Police on Wednesday, had a warrant out for violating the conditions of his release.

Travis Holley, a spokesman for the Roswell Police Department, said Lucero had been released from a federal penitentiary in September 2008, after serving a 46-month sentence.

Lucero received the sentence after he pleaded guilty in 2003 to being a felon in possession of a firearm, Holley said.

Lucero was shot while exchanging gunfire with officers. He had pulled his gun out while he was running away from the officers at about 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday.

Holley declined to identify the two officers involved in the shooting. However, he did say that they were placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the incident by a joint task force made up of investigators from the New Mexico State Police, the Chaves County Sheriff's Office and the Roswell Police Department.

Holley said the investigation doesn't imply that the officers have done anything wrong. Officers are required to take three days off after an incident of that nature to ensure the welfare of everyone involved in the incident is intact, he said.

"Everyone reacts to those kind of situations differently so it's not necessarily, as most people assume, that it's under investigation,"

Holley said. "A lot of this is just to give the officer a breather."

Holley said the officers will undergo a critical incident debriefing and evaluation where they are required to sit down with the Police Department's psychologist. It's up to the psychologist to declare them fit to return to duty, he said.

Training and mentally preparing for potentially difficult situations, such as Wednesday's shooting, are some of the tools designed to assist police in upholding the law, protecting the public and returning to their job after being placed on administrative leave, Holley said.

"None of us, nobody, comes to work wanting for this to happen," Holley said. "We all hope and pray that it is something that we never have to do, but it is a reality of what we do. So, there's a lot of training and a lot of preparation so that you're mentally prepared - not only to survive the incident itself through your training and tactics - but you're mentally capable of dealing with the aftermath."

Copyright 2009, Roswell Daily Record, All Rights Reserved.