

Loganville Tribune, The (GA)

August 27, 2008

Section: News

Deputy shoots, kills armed man

Author: Brian Arrington; The Walton Tribune

Article Text:

WALTON COUNTY - A John Deere Road man was shot and killed after he reportedly pointed a 12-gauge shotgun at sheriff deputies.

Joel Scott Cash, 48, of 1125 John Deere Road was pronounced dead after 3 a.m. Monday morning at Walton Regional Medical Center after the confrontation with the deputies.

Walton County Sheriff's Office Deputy Dan Dennington responded to a 9-1-1 call at 3:15 a.m. at the John Deere Road home after family members said Cash had fired two shots inside the home.

Dennington arrived on the scene to find Cash outside the house armed with a shotgun, WCSO officials said.

Authorities said Dennington told Cash to drop his weapon, but he did not. Other deputies arrived on the scene and Cash continued to threaten officers with his weapon. It was then that Dennington shot at Cash an estimated four times, according to WCSO Chief Deputy Bruce Wright. It was not clear where or how many times Cash was hit.

"That deputy saved about three or four other deputies from getting hurt or killed," Sheriff Joe Chapman said.

As part of standard operating procedure, the GBI will conduct its own investigation into the incident and the WCSO will conduct an internal investigation.

However, Wright says Dennington does not appear to have violated any procedures.

"Early indications indicate there were no policy violations," Wright said.

Until the GBI completes its investigation, Dennington has been put on administrative leave with pay.

WCSO officials said in his two-and-a-half year career at the sheriff's office, Dennington has not had any disciplinary problems.

Cash has had run-ins with police in recent years. In December of 1999 he was charged with stalking. In January of 2003 he was charged with theft by receiving and in May of 2005 he was transported by deputies to a hospital for a mental evaluation.

Cash's death comes as another blow to a family that has faced adversity in recent years.

In March of 2005, the Mike Cash store on South Broad Street was briefly shut down by the state Department of Revenue after four liens totaling more than \$1.65 million were put on the property for failing to pay years of state taxes and penalties. Mike Cash is Joel Scott Cash's brother. Mike Cash quickly resolved the matter with the state Department of Revenue.

In December of 2006, Cash's father Ernest Washington Cash and brother Ernest Lee Cash, Joe O'Kelley and Jenny Lynn Cash were indicted on charges related to an insurance fraud scam at Cash and Sons Insurance.

On Dec. 22 of last year, Michael Cash Jr., was seriously injured after he was pinned between two trucks at Mike Cash Offices Supplies. He continues to recover.

Copyright 2008 The Loganville Tribune. All rights reserved