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Man who killed himself in front of Cleveland police was former East Cleveland prosecutor, sources say

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Article Text:

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- The man who shot himself dead in front of Cleveland police last week was Michael D. Winston, a former East Cleveland prosecutor, according to three sources with ties to the case.

The sources independently told Northeast Ohio Media Group that Winston was the man who, according to police, turned a gun on himself March 13 in a parked car on East 85th Street.

Police reported seeing the man enter the car after running from an East 84th Street home where gunfire had killed one man and wounded another.

The sources spoke on the condition they not be named because the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office has not publicly released the name due to problems locating Winston's next of kin.

All three sources identified Winston as a former prosecutor in East Cleveland. NEOMG has sought but not yet received records detailing Winston's employment history.

As a city prosecutor, Winston made headlines in August 2013 when he authored an internal memo condemning 12 of 13 Cleveland police officers who opened fire during the climax of a November 2012 police chase that ended with two unarmed suspects killed.

Winston unsuccessfully ran for Cleveland Municipal Court judge in 2013. He came in last among six candidates.

Last week's shootings also took the life of 60-year-old Walter Saunders. A third man, whose identity has not been released, was treated at MetroHealth Medical Center.

Police have not confirmed Winston's role in the shootings.

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