

Richmond Times-Dispatch
December 17, 2002
Edition: City
Section: Area/State
Page: B-1

Topics:
Index Terms:
SHOOTING
RICHMOND
POLICE
MAN KILLED IN POLICE SHOOTOUT
OFFICER RECOVERING FROM HIS WOUND

Author: Jim Mason
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer
Contact Jim Mason at (804) 649-6451 or jmason@timesdispatch.com

Article Text:

A 21-year-old Richmond man is dead and a city police officer is recovering from a gunshot wound after a shootout early yesterday in South Richmond.

State police, who are investigating, identified the dead man as Isaac Jerome Thompson but refused to identify the wounded officer. Richmond police said the officer is a three-year veteran. The officer was taken in a police car to Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, where he was treated for a chest wound and released, police said.

Police said he was wearing a protective vest when he was shot about 12:10 a.m. yesterday in a residential neighborhood a block north of Walmsley Boulevard.

He and another unidentified officer, on patrol together in a police car, had stopped a car at the intersection of Castlewood Road and Southgate Street, state and city police said.

After making the traffic stop, the officers ordered the two men to get out of the car.

"The officers had handcuffed the passenger and they were in the process of handcuffing the driver when a scuffle ensued," state police Sgt. Dave Chewning said. "The driver attempted to flee but turned and fired at the officers with a handgun."

Both officers returned fire, striking the suspect, he said.

Court records show that Thompson was convicted in July 2001 of possession of cocaine and was sentenced to 12 months in jail.

In the fall of 2000, Thompson was convicted of driving without a valid operator's license and without insurance. He paid the court fines in both cases.

Thompson died yesterday at the shootout scene, police said.

His death was the first fatal shooting by a city police officer since Richmond Police Chief Andre Parker was sworn in Aug. 1. But there have been five other fatal shootings by city officers since June 8, 2001.

In September, Parker said he planned to arrange for an independent review of police use of force. Richmond police investigated the five previous shootings involving city officers.

Parker could not be reached yesterday to discuss the status of the planned review or to

comment on having state police investigate yesterday's shootout death. A city police spokeswoman said both officers involved will be placed on administrative leave pending completion of the state police investigation and a review by the Richmond Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

Copyright 2002 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.