



604 C Street ~ Eureka, CA 95501  
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**Todd Jarvis**  
Chief of Police

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

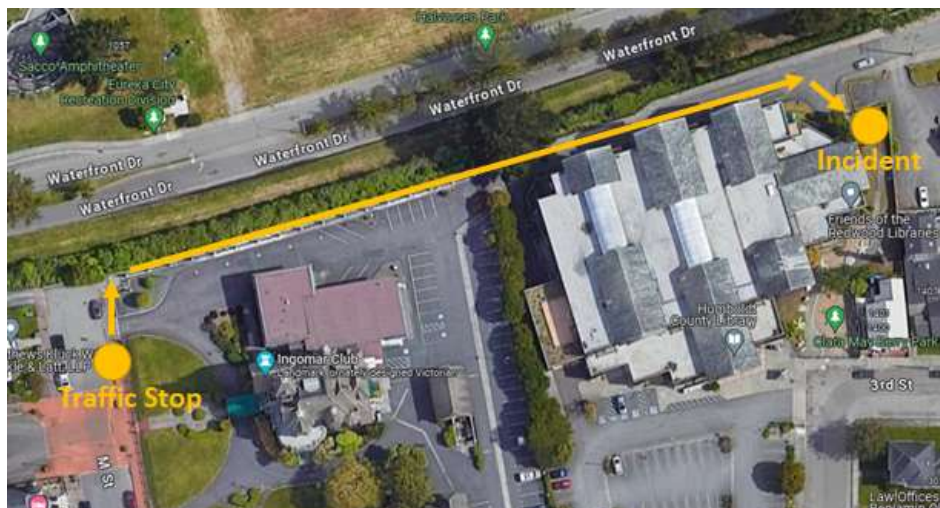
**December 01, 2023**

**Subject: UPDATE Officer Involved Shooting Investigation**

This press release is an update to the November 26, 2023 officer involved shooting with information current as of today.

On November 26, 2023, at about 9:36 a.m., a Eureka Police Department officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for expired registration, on M Street, north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. When the vehicle stopped, the right front passenger immediately exited the vehicle and began fleeing on foot; the male ran east along a walkway north of the Ingomar Club and towards the northside of the Humboldt County Library. The officer conducting the traffic stop did not pursue the male.

While the officer who conducted the traffic stop remained with the vehicle and its two occupants, nearby officers responded to check the vicinity for the male who fled. An officer located the male as he was attempting to scale a fence to the north side of the Clara Mayberry Park, which was closed. Utilizing verbal commands, the officer attempted to gain voluntary compliance for the male to stop. However, the male refused to comply and a physical altercation ensued.



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**Police Business Desk**  
(707) 441-4060

**Public Information Officer**  
(707) 441-4388

**Dispatch Non-Emergency**  
(707) 441-4044

A second officer arrived to assist. The male then produced a pistol which he held in his right hand. During the altercation, the male was able to manipulate the firearm's slide, chambering a live round.



Photo of the firearm in the male's hand, captured from the officer's body worn camera



Photo of the male chambering a live round, captured from the officer's body worn cameras



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At this point during the altercation, shots were fired by officers and the male was struck by the gunfire. It's unknown at this time if the male fired his handgun during the altercation.

The male was then quickly detained and life-saving efforts were immediately provided by officers followed closely by Humboldt Bay Fire. The male succumbed to his injuries while on scene. An autopsy is scheduled to be performed which will provide further details on the extent of the male's injuries. The male has been identified as 31-year-old Cutten resident, Matthew Robert Williams.



Matthew Robert Williams

Williams was found to be in possession of 42 grams of fentanyl, a large amount of cash, and had several outstanding felony warrants for his arrest. The firearm Williams possessed has been determined to be a ghost gun. (A ghost gun is an un-serialized and untraceable firearm.)



Firearm recovered from Williams.

The officer that conducted the original traffic stop left that location to assist the officers who had been involved in the shooting. The vehicle and occupants left the area and were later located by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. The occupants were interviewed and the vehicle was towed as evidence.

The shooting was captured on one of the officer's body worn camera. However, the body camera from the second officer suffered a malfunction and did not capture the incident.

All body worn camera and audio footage will be released in accordance with state law.

One officer has over 7 years of experience in law enforcement. The second officer has over 4 years of experience in law enforcement. Their names will be released at a later time in accordance with state law. Both officers suffered minor injuries as a result of the altercation and incident. The officers have both been placed on paid Administrative Leave per department protocol.

As is standard protocol within Humboldt County, the multi-agency Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is handling the criminal investigation. Upon completion, the investigation will be turned over to the District Attorney's Office for review.

Eureka Police Department has initiated an Internal Shooting Review that will run concurrent with the criminal investigation being conducted by CIRT. The Internal Shooting Review determines whether involved officers followed departmental policy, identifies potential policy and procedural changes, and any training needs. Once completed, this report will be reviewed by the City of Eureka Independent Police Auditor (IPA) who will report to the Community Oversight on Police Practices (COPP) board.

This is an on-going investigation. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Detective Bailey with the Eureka Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit at 707-441-4215 or DA Investigator G. Hill at 707-268-2553.



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Original Press Release:

On November 26, 2023, around 9:36 a.m., the Eureka Police Department attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the vicinity of 2<sup>nd</sup> and M Streets in Eureka. During the traffic stop, a 31-year-old white male occupant of the vehicle fled from the scene. While officers were checking the area, the male was located to the rear of the library.

While officers attempted to detain the male, a physical altercation ensued. During the altercation the suspect produced a firearm, shots were subsequently fired by officers and the suspect was struck. Life-saving efforts were immediately performed by officers and Humboldt Bay Fire personnel. Due to the extent of injuries, the suspect succumbed to his injuries on scene. A loaded firearm was recovered from the suspect at the scene.

The Humboldt County Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), led by the Eureka Police Department and the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office, was activated to investigate this incident.

The incident was captured on body worn camera and will be released upon completion of the investigation pursuant to SB 1421. Senate Bill 1421 requires the disclosure of records and information under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250, et seq.) concerning records relating to the report, investigation or findings of an incident involving the discharge of a firearm at a person by a peace officer or a custodial officer.

There are no outstanding threats to the community. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Detective Bailey with the Eureka Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit at 707-441-4215.

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Media Release Prepared by: Katie Hill