



Spokane County
— Sheriff —
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News Release

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North Spokane Shooting Leaves One Dead, K-9 Injured

A traffic stop-turned-pursuit ended late Tuesday with an officer-involved shooting that cost the 22-year-old suspect his life and left a police canine seriously injured.

Spokane Police officials invoked the Critical Incident Protocol and the Spokane County Sheriff's major crimes office assumed the lead role in the shooting investigation. Per the protocol, names of the officers and the canine involved will be withheld for 72 hours.

The incident began about 10:20 p.m. Tuesday when an SPD patrol officer noticed a Honda Civic being driven recklessly in the area of Division and Longfellow. When he attempted to stop the driver for the traffic violations, the suspect sped away.

After a short chase, the suspect disappeared. However, minutes later he was spotted leaving an alley and the chase resumed. At Division and Rich, the suspect high-centered the Honda on a concrete lane divider and then ran from the car.

There were numerous other SPD officers converging on the area as containment, so rather than engage in a foot pursuit, the officer secured the Honda and called for a K-9 team to conduct a track.

The K-9 team and cover officer tracked the suspect into an alley that runs north off Lacrosse just west of Division. There the dog found and engaged the suspect.

The cover officer tried to physically take control of the suspect. However, the suspect pulled a small-caliber pistol and shot the canine. The K-9 handler returned fire and shot the suspect, later identified as Johnnie L. Longest.

Longest has a nine-year criminal history and in January alone showed convictions for vehicle theft, felony drug possession, reckless driving and driving while license suspended.

Longest was taken by ambulance to a downtown hospital where he died from his injuries shortly after midnight.

The canine was taken to a 24-hour pet emergency clinic where he was declared in stable condition at midnight. Staff said they expected the dog to undergo surgery sometime Wednesday morning.

Police learned after the shooting that the Honda had been stolen from a North Spokane County address. Its theft apparently had not yet been discovered by the owner. A shaved key was found jammed into the Civic's ignition.

Division was closed for a few hours while investigators seized and towed the stolen car from the concrete divider where it had been stuck. Lacrosse west of Division and areas adjacent to the shooting scene were expected to be sealed for several hours while detectives processed the area for evidence.

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