

CITY OF TOLEDO



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

March 11, 2020

Contact:

Lt. Kellie Lenhardt - Public Information Officer

419-245-3217 (Office), 419-277-8662 (Cell)

Kellie.Lenhardt@toledo.oh.gov

Armed Robbery Suspect Hospitalized after Officer-Involved Shooting

Toledo, OH (March 11, 2020): An armed robbery suspect is being treated in the hospital and a Toledo Police officer is not injured after an early morning gas station robbery. At 12:51 AM, officers were dispatched to an armed robbery at the Speedway located at 5160 Dorr St. The 911 caller informed the operator that the location was just robbed at gunpoint by a white male with a handgun who fled towards the Tim Hortons in the plaza across the street.

At 12:53 AM, Officer Knapp, a one-man police unit, arrived on scene. The suspect was observed running behind the Dollar General, located at 1305 N. Reynolds. Officer Knapp encountered the suspect and commanded him to show his hands. The suspect walked toward the officer while brandishing a handgun. Officer Knapp fired seven rounds from his department-issued handgun, striking the suspect in the leg. The suspect then dropped the gun and complied with Officer Knapp's verbal commands. Additional police units arrived and rendered life-saving aid to the suspect.

The suspect has been identified as 51 year-old Paul Villagomez. He is still being treated at a local hospital and is expected to survive. His firearm was recovered at the scene. A bag containing money was found inside his clothing and a warrant has been issued for Aggravated Robbery. Detectives will continue to investigate this incident, which is the first officer-involved shooting in 2020. An Internal Affairs Review and a Firearms Review will also be conducted. The last officer-involved shooting occurred on 12/20/18.

Officer Knapp joined the department in 2013. He will be placed on a three-day paid leave, per union contract, and have access to critical incident debriefing. According to department policy, an officer may use deadly force when the officer reasonably believes the action is in the defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in defense of any person in imminent danger of serious physical injury.

Chief Kral will hold a news briefing tomorrow: March 12, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Records Conference Room, located on the first floor of 525 N. Erie. The surveillance video, dash cam, body cam, and 911 call will be released at that time.

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