

News Release 05/02/15 - UPDATE (2)

UPDATE: Armed suspect shot and killed by Smyrna Police Officer

The subject involved in this incident was identified as Kenneth Mathena, 52, of Smyrna, Delaware. His body was turned over to the State of Delaware Division of Forensic Science, where a full autopsy will be conducted. At the time of this release no information pertaining to the autopsy is available.

Preliminary investigative details of this incident were previously released this morning at 6:36 AM, since that time the investigation has determined that when officers responded to the residence the second time at approximately 12:18 AM they observed Mathena in front of the #30 building of Malvern Lane, they observed he was holding a firearm and immediately began giving repeated verbal commands to Mathena to put the gun down and drop the weapon. Mathena refused to comply with the verbal commands and then turned towards officers, allegedly pointed the firearm at them. It was at this time the officer fired upon and shot the armed subject. Methena's shotgun was recovered at the scene by investigators.

Officers from the Clayton Police Department and the Delaware State Police immediately responded to the scene to provide assistance with this incident.

At the infancy stages of the investigation the Smyrna Police Department contacted and requested assistance from an outside agency who was not involved in this incident. The Smyrna Police Department immediately contacted the City of Dover Police Department for assistance with the shooting investigation. At the request of our agency, the investigation into the shooting is being conducted by the City of Dover Police Department in conjunction with the State of Delaware Attorney's General Office. The Smyrna Police Department is cooperating fully with the investigation.

No further information will be released regarding this investigation until it's concluded at which time a full release off all investigative details will be made available.