

Officer Involved Shooting Incident Summary

May 31, 2023: 2800 Ruth Street (OISI: 23-16)

On May 31, 2023, at about 7:17 p.m., two PPD officers were on routine patrol, when they heard gunshots in the area and saw people running away. The officers met a sergeant, who had been told by a witness that the gunshots came from a location on the 2800 block of Ruth Street. The officers found a fired cartridge casing at the steps to the front door of the location. The sergeant heard a noise and movement coming from inside the house and made forced entry.

Officers cleared the first and second floor, escorting two women and a man outside. In the basement, officers located a 36-year-old white man, hiding in the crawl space at the back of the basement. The officers repeatedly yelled for the man to show his hands, to come out, and to drop a rock he was holding. After several minutes, an officer drew his Taser and pointed it at the man. The man grabbed the officer's Taser and officer deployed the Taser against the man.

The officer said that the man had a gun and the officer fired his weapon at the man in the crawl space. Two other PPD Officers also fired. One of the officers fell, shouting that he had been shot in the hand. Although unclear at the time, it was later determined that the officer was struck by friendly fire.

The officers stayed on scene waiting for SWAT officers. An officer used a shovel to reach inside the crawl space and drag out the gun, a semiautomatic firearm. SWAT officers arrived and removed the man from the crawl space. The man had two gunshot wounds to his chest and was pronounced dead at the scene by medics.

All three (3) discharging officers BWCs were activated for this incident. The officer who was shot was transported to the hospital, where he was treated and later released.