

## **Officer Involved Shooting Incident Summary**

### **October 4, 2023: 7500 Whitaker Ave (OISI 23-27)**

On October 4, 2023, at approximately 7:07 a.m., PPD officers responded to a radio call for a “Person with a gun,” and a report of a shooting at 7500 Whitaker Avenue. Upon arrival, officers were met by an armed suspect outside of that location. Officers gave verbal commands to the suspect/decendent to drop his gun. The decendent, later identified as Michael Hwang a 42-year-old man, failed to comply and a gunfight ensued between the officers and the suspect. Sgt 1 was shot once in his left hand during the encounter, Officer Samantha Gress was shot one time in the rear right leg area, and Officer John Hesdon was shot one time in the right leg. Officers Gress and Hesdon, and Sgt. James Borgia returned fire, fatally wounding Mr. Hwang. Philadelphia Fire Department personnel responded to the scene and pronounced Mr. Hwang dead at 7:27 p.m.

The preliminary investigation indicates that Mr. Hwang became involved in a verbal altercation with a man in his late 30s after the decendent discharged his weapon inside the home. Mr. Hwang then fired his weapon at least one time at the man, striking him in the face. Mr. Hwang then exited the home, where he encountered officers.

There were two other individuals at the home at the time of the incident, who were not hurt.

The investigation revealed that Mr. Hwang was wearing a ballistic vest. In addition, a 40 caliber Glock pistol, loaded with eleven live rounds in an extended magazine with a 22-round capacity was found underneath the right side of his body. Police also recovered two loaded magazines from Mr. Hwang’s back pants pocket.

All officers were treated at Jefferson-Torresdale Hospital for their injuries and listed in stable condition. The victim of the shooting inside the home was transported by medics to Abington Hospital. Shortly after the incident, he was listed in critical but stable condition.

Responding officers were wearing their BWCs. All officers involved in this incident are assigned to the 2nd Police District.

Officer Samantha Gress is 32 years old and a 4-year veteran of the Department.

Officer John Hesdon is 34 years old and a 6-year veteran of the Department.

Sgt. James Borgia is 33 years old and a 10-year veteran of the Department.

Sgt. 1 is 37 years old and a 17-year veteran of the Department.