



Waukesha Police Department Media Release

Officer Involved Shooting at Waukesha HS

12/02/19

On Monday, December 2, 2019 at approximately 10:07 am a student reported that a male student was reported to have brought a handgun to school and was currently in possession of this handgun. The School Resource Officer immediately responded to the classroom. The SRO made efforts to secure the classroom by getting other students to safety. Other officers responded to the school and began dialogue with the suspect in an attempt to deescalate the situation. The suspect would not remove his hands from his pocket and continued to ignore officers' commands. The suspect removed the handgun from his waistband and pointed it at the officers.

An officer was forced to discharge his firearm striking the suspect. Officers immediately provided lifesaving medical attention. The remaining students were evacuated from the classroom and the school was put on LOCK DOWN.

A firearm was recovered. The suspect is a 17-year-old male. He was transported to the hospital and is in stable condition.

The officer is an 11-year veteran of the police department. No officer or other students were injured during this incident.

Waukesha South will slowly be releasing students back to their families.

More details will be released once we have been able to verify all information.

We are not looking for any other persons of interest.

The Milwaukee Area Investigative Team, with the City of Greenfield Police Department as the Lead Agency, is conducting the investigation.

We will not be taking any questions at this time.

Further information will be released once it has been verified.

Initial information shows that the officer acted within state statute and department policy, and fulfilled the Mission of the Waukesha Police Department, "A Pledge to Serve with Integrity, Honor and Courage".

WAUKESHA SOUTH – OIS 12/03/19

Press Conference

Thank you for all attending the update regarding the Officer Involved Shooting at Waukesha South High School yesterday. I will give a brief update and Captain Baumann will provide a little more context to the incident and he will answer a couple questions.

First, I would like to thank our amazing community. The support we have received is why the City of Waukesha is such a strong tight-knit community. Your kind words, generous food drop-offs, and most importantly the thoughts and prayers mean a great deal to our organization. The words “thank you” are not enough to show how much we appreciate you.

To the students, you did exactly as you were trained. You “Saw something and you said something”. That information allowed the School Resource Officer, Waukesha South staff and students to react as trained and assisted in preventing the situation from spreading throughout the school thus mitigating the harm to others. To the Waukesha South community.... WE THANK YOU and we are glad no officers and no staff or other students were injured.

The 17-year-old suspect in this case was transported to Children’s Hospital and received exceptional care. The suspect was greeted by a team of highly trained and prepared medical personnel. After the suspect went through surgery, he was placed in the intensive care unit and will be transferred to a general floor. The suspect is in stable condition.

The SRO at Waukesha South did a great job responding immediately to the information and was able to remove many students from harm’s way. While that was happening, a different officer was forced to discharge his firearm based on the imminent threat the suspect posed. That 11-year veteran of the department was Sgt. Brady Esser.

I am so proud of these two officers, as well as the many officers and deputies that responded to the scene. Most people run away from danger, law enforcement officers run toward danger ... especially when someone is threatening our children!!!

There were reports that the SRO was the officer that was the one who discharged his firearm, as the SRO was present in the classroom. That report did not come from us. That misinformation being shared resulted in media outlets going to the SRO’s house, causing undue stress to him and his family.

We typically do not name the officer, however because of those media outlets, Sgt Esser preferred his name be released in order to allow other officers and their families the ability to maintain their privacy. To that end, we are requesting that you do not reach out to him for comments or go to his residence. Please respect Sgt Esser’s privacy!

Thank you!
Chief Russell Jack
Waukesha Police Department

Captain Dan Baumann:

As the Chief said I will be able to answer a few questions, however the answers will be narrow in scope as we need to maintain the integrity of the investigation and respect the judicial process. Also, we are very mindful of the parallel investigation being conducted by the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team, with the lead agency being the City of Greenfield Police Department. MAIT will be investigating the officer involved shooting incident and the City of Waukesha Police Department will be investigating the criminal actions of the suspect.

Relative to the incident:

The SRO received information that a student had a “gun” in the classroom. Furthermore, the student told the SRO that the gun had been pointed at a student’s head. The SRO and a Detective were in the SRO’s office. They immediately responded to that classroom and requested more officer’s assistance. The remaining students and teacher were able evacuate the room, as the SRO and Detective began dialogue with the suspect.

As early reported the suspect removed the gun from his hoodie and pointed at the officers.

In this first picture you will see Sgt Brady Esser



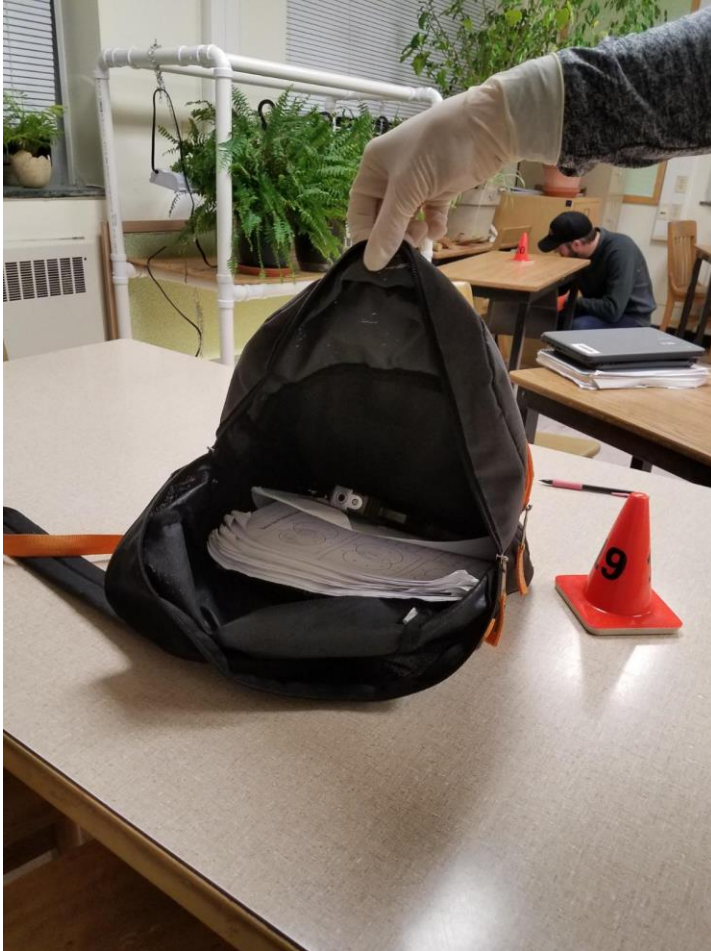
In the second picture is of the gun that the suspect had in his hand at the time incident



In this 3rd picture the officers are providing immediate medical attention and placing tourniquets on the suspect.



And lastly, this is what investigators found in the suspects backpack. This would be a total of two handguns in the student's possession.



We will open up to a few questions, however reminding everyone that we will be limited on details that can be released at this time.

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