

“For Immediate Release”



Auburndale Police Department

News Release

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Auburndale Police Officer and Suspect Shot at Scene of Traffic Stop

At approximately 11:08 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020, an officer of the Auburndale Police Department stopped a red Hyundai 4-door sedan because the right front headlight was not working. The stop occurred just west of the intersection of US Highway 92 East and Dairy Road, Auburndale.

The officer obtained identification from the driver and passenger and then ran standard checks for license status, wants, warrants, etc. An item in the background of both occupants gave the officer reason to think there may be illegal narcotics in the vehicle and he requested consent to search the vehicle. When that was denied, he summoned a narcotics detection K9 team to respond.

At that point, two officers arrived to provide assistance to the first officer. As they asked the two occupants to exit the car, the initiating officer noticed a folding knife on the belt of the passenger and he asked him not to touch it. The passenger sprung his door open and got out quickly. He then pulled a black semi-automatic pistol out of his waistband and pointed it at the initial officer who was in front of him. The officer drew his pistol and during an exchange of gunfire, one of the back-up officers was struck by a bullet in the top of his left foot, having passed through both pants legs of his trousers. The suspect appears to have fired several shots and two officers also fired multiple shots, striking the suspect. Law enforcement officers from APD and the Polk County Sheriff's Office provided emergency aid to both the suspect and the officer and summoned a Polk County Fire Rescue ambulance and the Auburndale Fire Department. The suspect was transported to the hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. The officer was transported to the hospital where he was treated for his injuries and later released.

The driver of the red Hyundai was identified as Brittany Bass, 29, of 1907 Emily Blvd., Winter Haven. The passenger and deceased suspect is Sabastian S. Noel, 27, of the same address.

The incident is being investigated by the Polk County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the Tenth Circuit State Attorney's Office. Once those investigations are complete, the Auburndale Police Department will complete an administrative investigation of the incident.

The three officers who were on scene at the time of the incident will be placed on administrative leave in accordance with department guidelines.

Updates will be provided as they become available. A photo of Sabastian S. Noel is below for your review.



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