

MEDIA ADVISORY

ARMED ROBBERY/AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

Date/Time: December 23, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Location: 7600 West Thomas Road

Incident Report Number: 2019-2220807

Victim-1: Female, 53 years of age

Victim-2: Female, 44 years of age

Victim-3: Male, 56 years of age

Officer-1: 40 year old male with 17 years of service

Officer-2: 29 year old male with 3 years of service

Suspect: 38 year old, Richard L. Ruiz

On December 23, 2019 at approximately 11:00 a.m., Phoenix police officers responded to a business in the area of 7600 West Thomas Road reference shots fired. Callers reported the suspect had attempted to take the victim's vehicle at gun point. The victim, a 53 year old female, was able to drive away from the suspect. As she fled in her vehicle the suspect shot her.

The suspect continued to walk around the parking lot of the business and located the second victim, a 44 year old female, who was sitting inside her vehicle. The suspect got into her vehicle and pointed a gun at her. She was able to open her door and ran from her vehicle. The suspect shot at the second victim. While shooting at the second victim, a 56 year old male was struck by the suspect's gun fire.

The suspect drove away in the second victim's vehicle. Responding officers were given the description of the suspect and the victim's vehicle. Officers arrived on scene and located the vehicle driving through the parking lot at a high rate of speed. Officers activated their lights and siren in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The suspect did not yield and a pursuit was initiated. The suspect traveled around the area of the mall and as he approached the entrance of the mall an officer used his patrol vehicle and collided into the suspect to prevent him from driving any further. The suspect's vehicle was not disabled and it continued driving around the parking lot.

Officers continued to pursue the suspect. The suspect abruptly stopped in the parking lot south of the mall and exited the truck. The suspect was armed with a gun and pointed it at the officers. Two officers shot at the suspect, striking him.

Officers approached the suspect and began life saving measures as they waited for fire personnel. Upon arrival, fire personnel rendered aid and pronounced the suspect deceased on scene. There were no injuries to officers and the two injured victims are expected to survive.

Information provided by:
Mercedes Fortune, Sergeant
Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau