



KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
301 VIRGINIA STREET EAST
CHARLESTON, WV. 25301
304-357-0169*

***Sheriff Michael Y. Rutherford
Chief Deputy Joseph H. Crawford***

NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 22, 2024.

Contact: Sergeant Joshua L. Lester
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Shooting

Malden, WV- On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, around 6:43 p.m., the Charleston Police Department and Kanawha County Sheriff's Office went to a home in the 1000 block of Snowbird Drive, located in the Malden area of Kanawha County regarding a wanted person.

We initially learned that when officers attempted to call the wanted man from the home, he ran into the nearby woods armed with a firearm. Officers tried to call the wanted male out of the woods to surrender himself; however, the male refused to comply with officers. The male produced the firearm, forcing officers to engage him with gunfire. After the shots were fired, the officers engaged in lifesaving measures; however, their efforts were unsuccessful, and the suspect succumbed to his injuries.

Investigators with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigative Section are currently on the scene and have been there reviewing evidence much of the evening and night hours. Detectives confirmed early on that the suspect had an active felony warrant issued by a Circuit Court Judge. Detectives learned that the officers involved were wearing body cameras, and those videos were made immediately available.

After carefully reviewing the video evidence, investigators determined that the male did run into the woods shortly after the officer's arrival. The officers chased after the wanted man and found him hiding in the woods. Officers quickly identified what appeared to be a firearm in the man's hand as he pointed it at his head while refusing to drop the weapon per the officer's commands. Officers gave the man numerous commands to drop the weapon, but the male would not and yelled repeatedly for the officers to kill him. The man then pointed the firearm in the direction of the officers. Feeling that their lives were in immediate danger, a Charleston Police Officer discharged his firearm at the suspect, fatally injuring him.

No one in the community was injured during this incident and no officers were harmed. There is no continued threat to the community or need for residents to be alarmed.



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This is the most current and up-to-date information we have on the investigation but to protect the integrity of the investigation some details will remain confidential until the case is complete. The Kanawha County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigative Section will be leading the investigation and will provide updates as appropriate.

As always, we appreciate the support and good working relationship we have with the Charleston Police Department. They have been respectively cooperative, transparent, and urgent with the needs of our investigation as we all work to provide informed answers to the events leading to this unfortunate incident.



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