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For immediate release

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APD Releases Details of Recent Officer-Involved Shooting at 701 Central Ave NE

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The Albuquerque Police Department released details today of the Oct. 16, 2020 officer-involved shooting at 701 Central Ave N.E.

Summary of Events Leading up to OIS

Location: 701 Central Ave NE

Time: 7:17 a.m.

Valley Field officers were dispatched to a disturbance call at 7:17 a.m. on Oct. 16, 2020 at the Imperial Inn, 701 Central Ave N.E. The call was delayed by two hours providing information relayed from nightshift employees who heard a single gunshot earlier in the morning (approx. 5 a.m.). The dayshift manager walked the premises and noticed there was a window at room 128 that had been “shot out”. The manager reported that the occupant of room 128, listed as Edward Giliart, became disorderly and aggressive when they knocked on the door.

Uniformed officers arrived on scene about 7:50 a.m. and spoke with a victim at the motel. The victim stated that he had been staying near Room 128, and heard two more shots fired since the original call was made to 911. This victim also had a confrontation with the occupant of room 128, and it was later determined aggravated assault charges existed against Jason Edward Galliard.

While officers and a sergeant were on scene, they started to develop a perimeter around the motel and form a plan of action to address room 128. They also began to gather intelligence information concerning Jason. From a distance officers were able to verify there was damage to the window of room 128 consistent with a gun shot.

Officers heard an additional shot fired from the area of room 128 at 9:02 a.m. Officers began public address announcements to any occupants in room 128 with no response. Specific instructions were given to Jason in room 128 to exit with his hands empty; and officers could ensure his safety. Warnings were also given to surrounding occupants to shelter in place. These public announcements were given numerous times, approximately every five minutes.

Additional officers were requested with force array options. Central Ave was closed and rescue personnel were requested to stage nearby. The rooms surrounding 128 were also evacuated.

Jason's girlfriend, Rachel, arrived on scene at 9:36 a.m. and advised Jason told her he knew officers were on scene, and officers were not going to take him alive. Jason told her that he was going to commit suicide. Neighbors heard movement inside the room, including banging noises and furniture being moved the room

Summary of SWAT Activation

Location: 701 Central Ave NE

Time: 10:41 a.m.

10:41 a.m. -- Based on the situation, a SWAT activation was started.

11:03 a.m. -- Jason's mother called 911 and said she received a call from him and he told her "He had done something wrong" and "he was not giving up".

11:46 a.m. -- Officers on scene were advised that Jason contacted Rachel again and stated he was not going back to prison and officers would have to shoot him.

12 p.m. -- The aggravated assault charges were confirmed and a warrant was drafted by detectives.

1:52 and 1:57 p.m. -- Tactical units heard additional shots from inside room 128, and Jason barricaded the windows to his room.

2:50 p.m. -- A bystander told a perimeter officer that Jason was armed inside the bathroom and was waiting for officers to enter so he could shoot them. The officer relayed the information over the radio.

3:06 p.m. -- Tactical officers advised an additional shot was fired from inside room 128.

Crisis Negotiators continuously attempted to make contact with Jason.

- 120 phone calls to three different cell numbers.
- 3 texts were sent.
- 5 voice mails left.
- 80 phone calls to the motel phone in room 128.
- 5 calls to a phone they provided to him utilizing a robot.
- 9 a.m. -- 4 p.m. Public address announcements continued throughout the incident continuously
- Negotiators provided an exit plan to Jason over the public announcements of how to exit his room with nothing in his hands and they could ensure his safety.

Summary of OIS

Location: 701 Central Ave NE

Time: 4:06 p.m.

Officer Engh and Officer Durham believed Jason had been shooting out of the room, toward officers. Officer Engh reported seeing the male from inside the room walk toward the window and started to climb out while he was gripping a gun in his right hand. Officer Engh recognized that Jason could fire at any second based on the grip he had on the gun. Based on the shots being fired from inside and refusal to comply with the exit plan, Officer Engh believed he had to stop Jason before he could shoot at officers again, and/or shoot and hurt a civilian. Officer Engh discharged his rifle one time.

Officer Durham also saw Jason exit with a gun in hand and started to turn to the east as if he was going to run. Officer Durham saw Jason fall to his hands and knees (as Engh fired), but Jason started to try and stand up. Officer Durham believed Jason would shoot at officers, ambush the perimeter officers, or hurt/shoot a civilian. Officer Durham fired one round from his rifle when Jason was trying to stand up with the gun in his hand.

Officer Cadroy fired a 40mm round simultaneous to Officer Durham's shot, stating he too saw Jason armed and possibly attempting to flee or occupy a different room. Not all of the rooms to the property had been evacuated due to refusal by occupants.

A fourth shot was heard, which was later determined at autopsy to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. The Office of the Medical Examiner determined the cause of death was suicide. Jason fired the fatal shot.

Officer Engh's shot caused a superficial wound to Jason, only penetrating the skin to the chest. The other two shots by officers did not strike Jason.

Post incident interviews with Jason's family revealed he had been using a significant amount of methamphetamine recently, and his paranoia was very high. Family also reported Jason had made several statements to each of them in the past, that if the police ever came for him, that he would make them shoot him.

Involved individual: Jason Gallart (11/3/1978)

The officers from the SWAT Unit who were involved in the shooting were:

- **Officer Aaron Engh**, who has been with the department since 2006, has been involved in one prior officer-involved shooting.
- **Officer Paul Durham**, who has been with the department since 2011, has been involved in one prior officer-involved shooting with another agency.

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