

# JOPLIN

# POLICE

303E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street \* Joplin, MO 64801-2274 \* 417-623-3131 \* Fax 417-624-9820

Matt Stewart  
Chief of Police

**Date:** August 13, 2016  
**Origin:** Department PIO  
**Contact:** Captain Bob Higginbotham  
**Phone:** 623-3131 #643

### **NEWS RELEASE-Update and correction #3**

- Five people and two service-dogs occupied the Immanuel Lutheran Church van.
- Vicki Eby- Front seat passenger of Immanuel Lutheran Church van was not injured.
- Karen Mech was a back seat passenger of the Immanuel Lutheran Church van. She received minor injuries (shrapnel/glass cut injuries.)
- A bullet grazed one dog. The second dog sustained a gunshot injury and is undergoing surgery.

### **NEWS RELEASE-Update #2**

The identity of the victims and their respective injuries are as follows:

- Kenneth Eby- driver of Immanuel Lutheran Church van - multiple gunshot wounds- critical but stable.
- ~~Vicki Eby- Front seat passenger of Immanuel Lutheran Church van - minor injuries (shrapnel/cuts)~~ (see correction in update #3)
- Heidi Gustin- back seat-passenger of Immanuel Lutheran Church van - gun shot would to the arm- serious but non-life threatening
- Donal Pugh- driver of truck at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Texas Ave.- multiple gunshot wounds- serious but stable condition
- Debbie Pugh- passenger in truck at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Texas Ave.- minor injuries- shrapnel/cuts

### **NEWS RELEASE-Update #1**

August 13, 2016, at 5:08 AM, Joplin Police responded to 1810 Connecticut Ave. in reference to a report of a subject shooting at that location. There were four victims injured by gunshots and one victim struck by shrapnel. A suspect has been arrested.

Joplin Officers located a possible suspect vehicle southbound on Connecticut Ave. As they were preparing to engage in a vehicle stop, officers reported hearing shots being fired from the suspect vehicle. The sole occupant and operator of the vehicle fired shots striking victims at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Connecticut Ave. The officers engaged in pursuit of the suspect during which the suspect fired additional shots at victims near 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Texas Ave.

At 5:22 AM, the pursuit ended at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Pearl Ave. where the suspect submitted to arrest without further resistance.

At 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Connecticut Ave. a van was stopped at a traffic signal. As the suspect traveled through the intersection he fired multiple rounds. Three adult victims were injured as a result of either direct gunfire and/or shrapnel. These victims were transported to a local hospital. (The van was an Immanuel Lutheran Church van. One victim is listed as critical but stable, one victim is listed as serious but stable and the third victim has been released.)

The suspect continued driving east onto Connecticut Ave. Near 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Texas Ave., the suspect fired multiple rounds at an oncoming, westbound vehicle. One victim-driver was struck by rounds and the victim-passenger was struck by shrapnel. These two victims were transported to a local hospital. (The driver is listed as stable and the passenger has been released.)

The suspect turned around and continued fleeing westbound on 32<sup>nd</sup> St. At 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Pearl Ave., the suspect turned north onto Pearl Ave. In the area of 30<sup>th</sup> St. and Pearl Ave. the suspect exited his slowly moving vehicle and submitted to arrest without further resistance. The suspect vehicle continued in motion until it struck a parked vehicle.

At 5:22, Tom S. Mourning II, 26, Joplin, Mo. was arrested. Charges have not yet been submitted to the Jasper County Prosecutor's Office.

The motivation for this event has yet to be determined. Police recovered a rifle and a handgun. There does not appear to be any relationship between the suspect and the victims.

We are asking anyone with any information regarding this event to please contact the Joplin Police Department at 417-623-3131.

The Joplin Police Department extends our appreciation to the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, the Newton County Sheriff's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Duquesne Police Department, the Joplin Fire Department and Metro Emergency Response System (METS) Ambulance Service for their assistance during this event.

The investigation continues and further details will be released as they are available.

**NEWS RELEASE**

August 13, 2016, at 5:08 AM, Joplin Police responded to 1810 S. Connecticut Ave. in reference to a report of a subject shooting at that location.

Officers located a possible suspect vehicle southbound on Connecticut Ave. As they were preparing to engage in a vehicle stop, the sole occupant and operator of the vehicle fired shots striking victims at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Connecticut Ave. The officers engaged in pursuit of the suspect during which the suspect fired shots at victims near 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Texas Ave.

At 5:22 AM, the pursuit ended at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Pearl Ave. where the suspect submitted to arrest without further resistance.

Multiple victims from each location were transported to local hospitals. At this time, there have been no fatalities as a result of this incident.

Crime scenes are being held at 1810 S. Connecticut, 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Connecticut Ave., and 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Texas Ave. The investigation continues.

At 9:30 AM, there will be a press conference in the lobby of the Joplin Police Department.

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