



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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SHOOTING

Update: 03.17.15

Detectives have charged suspect Stephen Hall Clarke with the following additional charges;

- One Count of Attempted Homicide on a Law Enforcement Officer
- One Count of Firing into an occupied vehicle
- Possession of a stolen firearm

Original: 01.06.15

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a shooting that occurred on Monday, January 5th at approximately 1:45 A.M. The incident took place in the 2300 block of Southeast 17th Street in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

A Fort Lauderdale Police Officer, working an approved off-duty detail, observed a suspicious vehicle driving with no headlights, slowly through a residential neighborhood.

When the officer followed the suspect vehicle through the neighborhood, two suspects dressed in all black clothing appeared from in between the residences located in the 1500 block of East Lake Drive. One of the suspects ran to the vehicle while the other fled on foot from the area. The officer continued to follow the suspect vehicle through the neighborhood, when they circled back to the 1500 block of East Lake Drive and he heard a gunshot. That gunshot was fired at the rear window of the officer's vehicle; it shattered the window and grazed the officer's head.

Immediately following the gunshot, two suspects ran on foot from the area and the other two remained inside the vehicle. The vehicle fled from the scene at a high rate of speed westbound on Southeast 17th Street Causeway.

A countywide B.O.L.O. for the vehicle was provided to officers and Fort Lauderdale Police Officers located the suspect vehicle in the 1400 block of West Sunrise Boulevard. A felony traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and two suspects (Donnie Heath and Torrence Wilkins) were taken into custody.

Fort Lauderdale Police Officers, in conjunction with Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies and the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Air Unit, responded to the scene and established a perimeter. One of the suspects (Casicus Wesley) was

observed running through the perimeter and was taken into custody, while the search for the final suspect continued.

Fort Lauderdale Police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team Officers, a Fort Lauderdale Police K-9 Officer and a Fort Lauderdale Police Marine Officer formed a team to begin searching the waterway. With the assistance of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Air Unit, the fourth suspect was successfully located while attempting to conceal himself beneath a dock. When that suspect (Stephen Clarke) was taken into custody, he was wearing a holster for a handgun, and had two cans of pepper spray and a pair of gloves in his possession.

Throughout their investigation, detectives learned that these suspects were responsible for burglaries in the City of Fort Lauderdale and the City of Highland Beach.

The identity of the suspects and their charges are as follows;

- Torrence Wilkins Jr., B/M, 8/14/90
 - One Count of Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon
 - One Count of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary
 - One Count of Possession of Stolen Firearm
- Donnie Gary Heath, B/M, 2/14/94
 - One Count of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary
 - One Count of Possession of Firearm While Committing a Felony
- Casicus Terrell Leonard Wesley II, B/M, 3/26/94
 - One Count of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary
- Stephen Hall Clarke, B/M, 9/21/88
 - One Count of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary
 - One Count of Resisting Arrest

The officer involved in this incident is an undercover detective and his identification will not be released.

This case remains an active and on-going investigation, and additional charges may follow.

Detectives recovered the below pictured scooter from the suspects' vehicle and are attempting to identify its owner.

Anyone who recognizes this scooter or has information regarding this incident should contact Detective Brice Brittenum at 954-828-5898, Detective Juan Cabrera at 954-828-5581 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS (8477).



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