

Gastonia Police Department

Preventing Crime Through
Problem-Solving Partnerships



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Jan. 9, 2009

Officer Involved Shooting

Four Gastonia Police Narcotics Detectives were conducting a drug investigation that led them to Charlotte. Upon completion of their investigation, they were returning to Gastonia in separate undercover vehicles traveling on Brookshire Freeway at approximately 7:30 pm January 8, 2008. A speeding vehicle passed the officers and became involved in a motor vehicle accident in front of the lead Gastonia Detective Jim Poole. Poole stopped at the accident scene to render aid when the occupants of the speeding vehicle entered his vehicle in an apparent attempt to carjack his undercover police vehicle. An altercation occurred which led to Detective Poole discharging his service weapon. The subjects drove away in the police vehicle and were involved in another collision a short distance away still on Brookshire Freeway resulting in the police vehicle becoming engulfed in flames.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Officers arrived shortly thereafter and pulled one subject from the burning vehicle. The subject that was pulled from the burning vehicle was pronounced deceased on scene. The second subject fled the scene on foot and was apprehended a short time later.

The two subjects involved in this incident are suspects in an armed robbery of an individual that was robbed at gunpoint and pistol-whipped at 1705 Eastway Drive, Charlotte.

CMPD Homicide Detectives and the HITS unit are investigating the incidents.

Gastonia Police Internal Affairs Unit is conducting an administrative investigation. Detective Poole, age 46 and an 18-year veteran of GPD, has been placed on administrative leave pending the results of the administrative investigation per departmental policy.

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