

Man killed in officer-involved shooting

August 26, 2021



A 38-year-old man has been killed as a result of a police officer-involved shooting in Crescent City on Wednesday.

Around 2:45 p.m. police officers from the California Highway Patrol and Del Norte County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene of a disabled vehicle, which was blocking the road near Parkway Drive and Sherwood Lane. Upon their arrival, the officers discovered a man was walking in the road with a knife, according to a Thursday press release from the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office.

"The male subject advanced toward the officers and an officer-involved shooting occurred. The subject died as a result of the incident."

No police officers were injured as a result of the incident.

Police did not identify the subject, but the Triplicate has identified him as 38-year-old Robert Anderson through reports from friends and family.

Previously a city bus driver in Detroit, Michigan, Anderson moved to Crescent City about seven months ago to work at a local adoption agency, according to Derrick Willis, Anderson's friend.

Willis said he was one of the last people to see Anderson alive.

"He was just at my house, and then I had to go over to the morgue and see him in a plastic bag," he said.

According to Willis, Anderson was at his house about three hours before the shooting. Willis said he was acting strangely, and recently had a dispute with his spouse.

Around 8 a.m. Wednesday, Anderson posted a more than 40 minute live stream to Facebook. In the video, Anderson appears to be distraught and is walking shirtless through the woods.

"When you think s*** is one way and it's really another...that's the relationship I've been in," Anderson said through tears.

Willis refutes law enforcement's account of the incident and described Anderson as a gentle, hardworking man. He said police are attempting to "slander" Anderson, and called this another example of an unjustified police killing of an unarmed Black man.

"They're trying to make it out that he was a bad person when he wasn't. He was a gentle guy and he was here taking care of troubled kids," said Willis. "The cops killed him. They shot him not once, not twice, but eight to ten times. That's a little excessive."

The Thursday press release does not detail how many shots were fired.

Willis also questioned why the officers involved chose to use their firearms, instead of their tasers.

According to the press release, the CHP Northern Division Critical Incident Investigation Team and Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team personnel are handling the investigation. Any witnesses should contact CHP.

This is a developing story and more information will be reported as it becomes available.