

Volusia Sheriff Department Press Releases

November 22th To December 8th 2016

The Shooting Death Of K9 Deputy Forest

Update #5 – December 8, 2016

The Volusia County Sheriff's Office met with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on Thursday to receive a status report on the investigation into the Nov. 22 shooting that resulted in the death of K-9 Forest. While FDLE's investigation is ongoing, the following information is being provided in order to update the news media and public about FDLE's preliminary findings: Information obtained during the investigation has confirmed that the defendant, Eddie Powell, was armed with a gun both during the initial shooting on Nov. 22 as well as the subsequent shooting the following day that ended with Powell's capture. However, there is no evidence at this time indicating that Powell fired his weapon. During the initial shooting on Nov. 22, two deputies fired their weapons as Powell punched and fought with K-9 Forest while pointing a gun at one of the deputies. It has been determined that Forest was tragically killed by friendly fire, sustaining two gunshot wounds during the incident. It is unknown at this time which deputy fired the rounds that struck the K-9.

Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson released the following statement regarding the new information: "Sadly, unintended consequences sometimes occur in shooting situations," said Sheriff Johnson. "This doesn't change the fact that Forest died a hero while trying to subdue a dangerous gunman. Our deputies were put into a deadly threat situation and were forced to defend themselves. As far as I'm concerned, Eddie Powell is responsible for the death of Forest just as surely as if he had pulled the trigger."

Powell has been booked into the Volusia County Branch Jail in Daytona Beach on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. He's also being held on a probation violation out of Georgia. The Sheriff's Office will be filing additional charges of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and battery on a police dog.

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Update #4: Volusia County sheriff's investigators are charging Powell with use of a deadly weapon against a police dog, two counts of attempted second-degree murder with a firearm, possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon, fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer and failure to register a motor vehicle.

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Update #3: The identity of the suspect taken into custody today has been confirmed as 34-year-old Eddie Durell Powell. He's being treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford, and his family has been notified. Sheriff's investigators are working

on warrants for their charges against Powell at this time, and those details will be provided in a future update.

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Update #2: A suspect in this case has been shot and is in custody receiving medical treatment. The sheriff will be available to speak with you on scene in a few minutes. We are working to officially and positively identify the suspect before confirming his ID.

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Update: The person of interest in yesterday's shooting incident involving our K-9 is Eddie Durell Powell, 34 (DOB 8/19/1982), who is thought to be a transient in the Deltona area, but is originally from Georgia. Powell is believed to be armed with a black handgun and was last seen wearing a white shirt. Several photos of him are attached, although he may have longer hair today than pictured here. He is described as 6 foot 1 and 200 pounds. Law enforcement efforts to take the shooter into custody are continuing, and no additional updates are available at the moment.

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Nov. 22, 2016

For immediate release

Contact: Andrew Gant, Public Information Office

SHERIFF'S OFFICE K-9 KILLED WHILE PURSUING FLEEING SUSPECT

A Volusia County Sheriff's Office K-9 suffered a fatal gunshot this evening after chasing down an armed suspect who fled and fired at deputies in Deltona.

K-9 Forrest was rushed to DeLand Animal Hospital following the shooting but couldn't be saved. Forrest was shot at about 7:16 p.m. near Vann Park after the suspect opened fire on deputies who were searching for him in a wooded area.

Deputies were in the area investigating a Crime Stoppers tip about a wanted fugitive at a home on Wing Terrace. While they were outside the address of the tip, a man drove by recklessly on a white dirt bike. When a deputy tried to stop him, the suspect fled. Deputies did not pursue him. Shortly thereafter, he drove by recklessly again, and disappeared again. The dirt bike was later found abandoned nearby.

Later, as deputies were contacting the people inside the house where the fugitive was believed to be staying, they heard someone jumping over fences in the area. Deputies set up a perimeter, and the Sheriff's Office Air One helicopter spotted the suspect in a nearby wooded area. K-9 Forrest had started tracking to him when the suspect opened fire, prompting both deputies to return fire.

As of 10:54 p.m., the suspect was still surrounded by law enforcement in the area of Vann Park. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.

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