



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the Police Chief
605 N. Capital Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2024

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Officer Involved Shooting – Econo Lodge on Broadway

Idaho Falls, ID – Yesterday, April 8, 2024, Idaho Falls Police Officers were called to the Econo Lodge on Broadway Avenue to assist hotel staff with evicting a tenant who had stayed in their room past checkout and would not leave. Staff originally called dispatch around 1:15 p.m. Officers were unavailable due to other higher priority calls for service at the time and ultimately responded to the hotel around 3:00 p.m.

Hotel staff stated that two people had been staying in the room, a woman and a man. Due to prior knowledge and experience with the man, Officers took extra precautions including bringing a ballistic shield to the room and responding with multiple officers.

Officers knocked on the door of the room, announced that they were Idaho Falls Police Officers and called to the two people by name. Officers stated that the two people did not have any warrants and were not under arrest, but they needed to leave the hotel. Officers yelled into the room several times with no response.

Officers used a key card provided by hotel staff to open the door, then kicked the door to break the chain lock. Officers again tried to communicate with the two people believed to be in the room with no response.

The bathroom door was shut, and Officers believed the two people may be in the bathroom. Officers again yelled through the door, stating that they were police officers, calling the people by name, and telling them they needed to leave the hotel. No one responded.

Officers moved to force the bathroom door open. An Idaho Falls Police K9 Officer was present with his K9 and yelled warnings that if the people did not come out a K9 would be sent in, and they would get bit.

At that point, a gunshot was fired from inside the bathroom. Officers moved for cover. Three Idaho Falls Police Officers were trapped inside the hotel room, unable to get safely past the bathroom and into the hallway.

One of the three officers had the ballistic shield. As the three officers moved together to get behind the shield, the man reached out of the bathroom door with a gun in his hands and fired at officers. An Idaho Falls Police Officer inside the room fired his service weapon back at the man. A second Idaho

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Falls Police Officer in the hallway also fired.

Officers inside the room believed the man had been hit but could hear him moving and making other noises. Officers called to the man but received no response.

Officers worked to evacuate hotel guests and the Idaho Falls Police Department SWAT team was activated, with assistance from the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office. The three Idaho Falls Police Officers in the room were evacuated through the hotel room window.

The SWAT team utilized a variety of methods to attempt to get a safe visual inside the hotel room and to communicate with the man. Visuals showed that the man was still moving but attempts to communicate with him went unanswered. Eventually, the SWAT team utilized a flashbang, entered the room and took the man into custody. A handgun was recovered from the bathroom where the man was located.

The man sustained gunshot wounds during the incident. Idaho Falls Fire EMS were on scene and began providing care once it was safe to do so. The man was transported to a local hospital. At this time, the man is alive and continuing to receive medical care. He is in the custody of the Idaho Falls Police Department and facing criminal charges related to this incident.

The woman originally believed to be present was not on scene and appears to have left sometime prior to police arriving on scene.

Immediately after the suspect was taken into custody, the scene was secured and turned over to the East Idaho Critical Incident Task Force (EICTF). The EICTF exists to conduct external investigations of critical incidents involving police officers. The Idaho State Police are serving as the lead investigative agency with assistance from other East Idaho law enforcement agencies. The Idaho Falls Police Department will cooperate fully with the investigation but will hold no investigative role in the process. The results of their investigation will be provided to the Prosecutor's Office who will determine whether the officers were justified in discharging their service weapons during this incident.

Five of the six Idaho Falls Police Officers on scene, including the two who discharged their service weapons, had their body cameras activated and recording during the incident. One officer's camera battery had died shortly before arriving on scene, but their actions were captured on activated cameras. This body camera footage has been provided to the EICTF and will be released to the public as the investigation proceeds.

As is standard policy, the two Idaho Falls Police Officers who discharged their service weapons have been placed on administrative leave while the investigation proceeds. The officer's names are expected to be released after they have been interviewed by the EICTF and other necessary interviews have been completed. The name of the suspect is expected to be released at the same time.

Additional information is expected to be provided to the public as the investigation proceeds.

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