

RIVERSIDE: Police shoot, kill suspect (UPDATE)

A narcotics investigation led to a fatal officer-involved shooting in Riverside on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 18, police said.

BY RICHARD BROOKS AND MICHAEL WATANABE / STAFF WRITERS

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A Riverside police officer shot a person Tuesday, Nov. 18, Keller Avenue in the area of Bushnell Avenue and Gramercy Place in Riverside. No officers were injured.

RICHARD BROOKS, STAFF

UPDATE:

Circumstances of the shooting added.

A narcotics investigation led to a fatal officer-involved shooting in Riverside on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 18, police said.

The shooting happened about 2:30 p.m. in the 10400 block of Keller Avenue near La Granada Elementary School.

No officers were injured.

"The suspect is deceased," Lt. Mike Cook said shortly before 4:30 p.m. from the scene.

The gunfire erupted at the end of a narcotics investigation, and the gun was recovered at the scene, he said.

The incident began when officers taking part in a drug probe tried to stop the suspect's vehicle, Riverside police later said in a written release. The release doesn't specify why the vehicle was targeted.

The driver – who officials didn't name until his next of kin could be reached -- didn't stop until he reached a driveway in the 5400 block of Bushnell Avenue, the release said. He then fled on foot, and officers gave chase.

When the suspect reached the backyard of a home on Keller, he stopped, turned and pointed a gun at officers, the release said. Officers then shot and killed the suspect.

Officers called in medical aid and attempted first aid on the suspect. Fire personnel and ambulance crews arrived and pronounced the man dead.

Some area residents said they saw bits and pieces of the incident.

"I heard a police car coming, with the sirens," said neighborhood resident Jennifer Garcia. "I saw the police car fly down the street. And then I heard, 'Pow, pow, pow.'"

"Then mobs of police cars came and blocked off the street."

Police taped off a section of Bushnell and nearby Keller.

The incident prompted a 10-minute lockdown of La Granada Elementary on Keller. Alvord Unified School District spokesman Shawn Loescher said the school was on an abbreviated schedule, letting out at 1 p.m., so most students were gone before the shooting.

But those in after-school programs were held inside, Loescher said. Parents were notified by a recorded phone message, and those with students in the after-school program were allowed to pick up their children early. Few took the school up on the offer, Loescher said.

Operations at the district office, also on Keller, were unaffected, he said.

Anybody with information on the case is asked to contact Detective Dave Smith at 951-353-7103 or Detective Greg Rowe at 951-353-7136.