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June 12, 2013

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Officer Involved Shooting

Riverside, CA – On June 11, 2013, at approximately 11:00 PM, a Riverside Police officer came across a traffic collision blocking the northbound lanes of Van Buren Boulevard at the 91 freeway. When the officer stopped to investigate he contacted the driver of the vehicle and saw the passenger walking away toward a gas station on the west side of Van Buren Boulevard. While the officer was notifying the dispatch center of his findings, citizens driving by the accident were calling into the dispatch center advising that the subject walking away from the vehicle had a gun in his possession.

This information prompted additional officers to arrive at the gas station and search for the subject with a gun. Officers encountered a subject at the rear portion of the building and gave him commands. The subject ran away from the officers and while running encountered additional officers who were at the front of the building. The subject pointed a handgun at those officers and an officer involved shooting occurred. Medical aid was summoned and the subject was pronounced deceased at the scene. The name of this subject will be released by the Coroner's office pending notification to next of kin.

Detectives from the Robbery Homicide Unit responded and were assisted in their investigation by personnel from the Forensic Evidence Unit. Based on the preliminary investigation, it is believed the driver of the vehicle involved in the traffic collision was also involved in a hit and run accident on the westbound 91 freeway near Madison. He exited the freeway at Van Buren Boulevard and collided with the center divider. The driver of the vehicle, Clifton Carl Chapple, a 21 year old Riverside resident was arrested by the California Highway Patrol for hit and run and driving under the influence. Any inquiries regarding Chapple's arrest should be directed to the California Highway Patrol Riverside office.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Rick Wheeler at (951) 353-7134 or Detective Rick Cobb at (951) 353-7135.

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CHRISTOPHER ERCOLI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Riverside Police and Highway Patrol officers investigate the scene of a fatal officer involved shooting at Van Buren Blvd. near Indiana Ave. early Wednesday June 12, 2013.

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BY CHRIS ERCOLI AND BRIAN ROKOS | STAFF WRITERS | June 11, 2013; 11:50 PM | Comments (18)

Riverside police shot and killed the passenger in a vehicle involved in a hit-and-run crash after the passenger pointed a gun at officers late Tuesday, June 11, police said.

Rashad Jarrett Hopes, 26, of Corona, died at 11:21 p.m. on Van Buren Boulevard near Highway 91, the Riverside County coroner said.

The driver, Clifton Carl Chapple, 21, of Riverside, was

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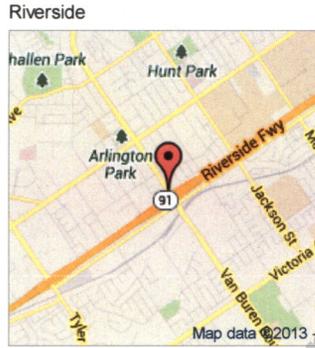
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arrested by the California Highway Patrol on suspicion of hit-and-run driving under the influence.

Riverside police Sgt. David Amador gave this account of the incident: About 11 p.m., two vehicles collided on Highway 91 at Madison Avenue. He wasn't aware of any injuries during the crash.

The vehicle that police say caused the crash left the scene but was followed by witnesses.

That vehicle exited the freeway at Van Buren, where it crashed into the center divider. The passenger got out and walked to a Chevron gas station on the west side of Van Buren. Witnesses told police he was carrying a gun.



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When officers arrived, they were directed to the rear of the gas station and found Hopes, who ran to the front of the station and was confronted by officers.

Hopes then pointed his handgun at those officers, who shot him, Amador said. No officers were injured.

Hopes was due to appear in Riverside County Superior Court on July 11 to answer to accusations that he violated his probation from misdemeanor convictions of drunken driving and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, according to court records.

Chapple had a warrant out for his arrest for failing to appear after being cited in 2012 on suspicion of driving at an unsafe speed and not being licensed, court records show.

Anyone with information about the shooting may call Detective Rick Wheeler at 951-353-7134 or Detective Rick Cobb at 951-353-7135.

Contributing to this report: Staff writers John Asbury, jasbury@pe.com, and Michael Watanabe, mwatanabe@pe.com

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