



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2016

CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO AND POLICE COMMISSIONER BRATTON HOLD MEDIA AVAILABILITY AT KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL

Police Commissioner William Bratton: At approximately 3:20 a.m. this morning, [inaudible] an armed suspect in the confines of the 8-1 Precinct in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, two police officers, assigned to the 8-1 Precinct anti-crime team, were struck by gunfire.

The incident began when two uniformed housing police officers, from PSA 3, heard a shot fired near the intersection of Quincy Street and Malcolm X Boulevard in the confines of the 8-1 Precinct. As they approached the suspect, he pointed a revolver at them and fled in a vehicle. The officers began to follow the vehicle and radioed for additional assistance.

Officers from the 8-1, 8-3, and PSA 3 commands responded to the calls for assistance. At the corner of Lexington Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard, the suspect, traveling the wrong way, rammed a responding marked patrol car from the 8-3 Precinct. Multiple officers then engaged the armed suspect.

Multiple officers fired at the suspect, striking him multiple times. A .357 revolver was recovered from the front seat of the suspect's car with five spent shell casings in the revolver.

During the engagement, the two police officers were struck by gunfire, anti-crime police officers. One of the officers was struck in his protective vest in the area of his chest. The bullet did not penetrate his vest and he suffered blunt-force trauma. A second officer was struck once below the vest line and a bullet entered his right hip.

The officers are being treated here at Kings County Hospital. The Mayor and I have had the opportunity to visit them and their families who are here with them. They are both alert and in stable condition. Both officers are assigned to plainclothes anti-crime team in the 8-1 Precinct.

The suspect is a 34-year-old male who is at Brookdale Hospital in critical condition. He was shot multiple times. He has been identified as Jamal Funes, F-U-N-E-S, who we believe is from New Jersey.

The investigation, as you might anticipate, is ongoing at this time. At this time I'd like to introduce Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you very much Commissioner. Well, this morning is a reminder of the important and dangerous and crucial work that our police officers do, and the way they put their lives on the line for us every single day, and that is why this city is kept safe, because these men and women step up for us. The two officers, as Commissioner Bratton said, we had the opportunity to visit with them, to visit with their families. They were alert, they were talkative in fact, and it was so good to see them in the good they were in, despite everything they've been through.

This incident certainly underscores the importance of the vests that we invest in for our police officers, and how we have to keep them safe in every way we can: giving them the best training, the best technology. And these officers pursued their work last night with vigor, with focus, these are very dedicated officers who were out there protecting us. Thank God they had some of the things they needed to keep them safe.

One of the officers, nine years on the job, and had an opportunity to talk to him and his family but also his commanding officer. An officer, obviously – this officer who is here in the hospital, obviously an exemplary cop who's worked very, very hard and is proud to be a cop out there on the front line, just participated in a gun collar yesterday, and was telling me

how proud he was of the gun collar. Here's a guy in his hospital bed, obviously in some pain, but very proud of the fact that just the day before, he got another gun off the street. And by the way, as you heard Commissioner, he mentioned that ShotSpotter was a key part of that effective arrest the other day. He's a father of two with one more child on the way, we were there with his wife and he was in great, great spirits.

And then the other officer, younger officer, three years on the job, obviously extraordinarily devoted to his work, having been taken under the wing by veteran officers. Really someone focused on becoming as good a cop as he can be. His dad, his mom, and his wife are with him there.

And amazing to see the devotion of these officers and the relief their families felt being with them there and knowing they're going to be okay. I just want to take one more moment to thank everyone at Kings County Hospital. I want to thank Dr. Raju for being here and all the staff here at Kings County for the great work they do. I want to thank everyone at FDNY EMS, the first responders that got there to help our officers right away. And the bottom line today is: thank God both these officers will be making a full recovery, and thank God for what they do for us.

Question: Commissioner can we ask you a question about, just for a little bit more information about what happened there at the scene, because when I first heard it, the way you're describing this is miraculous, that these two officers are going to be okay and they're going to be fine. But was this perp in his car?

Commissioner Bratton: That's correct. We believe that, at this time, there were a total of eight officers in three separate vehicles. Four anti-crime in an unmarked vehicle, PSA officers who initiated the encounter, and an additional two officers from the adjoining precinct. So a total of eight officers involved, multiple shooting officers – we're still determining how many. The suspect was armed with a .357 Magnum revolver, five spent shell casings still in the revolver. He was struck numerous times. The circumstances were that the PSA officers as I described, [inaudible], saw the individual, reported pointing a weapon out [inaudible] them. They got back in their vehicle and began to pursue, the other officers responded to their pursuit. In fact, did ram one of the marked police cars that was coming at him. We're still putting it together, it was a complex crime scene, [inaudible] crime scene. The Mayor referenced ShotSpotter – all of the shooting was captured on the ShotSpotter device, so that will be helpful to us in making a determination as to – as to the specific sequencing at the scene. [inaudible]. We will be able to provide names of the officers a little later today, [inaudible] just make sure that family members have in fact been notified. And one of the ironies is that one of the officers, his father was involved – now a retired officers – in a shooting incident a number of years ago where he was shot, and his bulletproof vest saved his life. So the irony of father-son, number of years apart, both saved by the bulletproof vest that we require that all of our personnel [inaudible].

Question: Commissioner, the two officers, can you tell us where they were? Were they in a car? Were they in the car that was rammed?

Commissioner Bratton: In terms of the two officers and the marked car was rammed by the suspect vehicle, anti-crime vehicle directly behind the suspect vehicle, the four officers behind in another [inaudible] car with two officers. We believe [inaudible] eight officers involved in this shooting situation. Again, this is all preliminary as we put it together. But as of now two hours after the incident, that's what we know.

Question: But the two officers who were shot were in a vehicle?

Commissioner Bratton: The officers who were shot were in a vehicle. They were part of an anti-crime team, plainclothes, four of them in one vehicle, all of whom were at the scene of the shooting.

Question: But not the one car that was rammed?

Commissioner Bratton: That's correct, that's the information we have at this time.

Question: The suspect was by himself and no one else?

Commissioner Bratton: I'm sorry?

Question: The suspect was by himself?

Commissioner Bratton: One suspect only. He is in custody in the hospital in critical condition, at the other hospital. And we are now – we are attempting to get additional information on him, his history, and what might have prompted him to [inaudible] the police officers.

Unknown: We will have more for you on him back at our office, alright?

Question: Do we know why the shots were fired? Initially what –

Commissioner Bratton: That we don't – that will be part of the investigation as to what the initial shot was all about and the [inaudible] two of our officers.

Question: The anti-crime unit officers, were they – they were in their car, they weren't approaching the suspect, and he was also in his car?

Commissioner Bratton: The circumstances of the shooting itself, that's what we'll attempt to identify, where were the various officers at the time of the incident – [inaudible] in vehicles, out of vehicles, it's still too early, still preliminary [inaudible].

Question: Was the shooter in the vehicle when this –

Commissioner Bratton: The shooter was in the vehicle throughout the whole incident, that's right.

Unknown: Thank you very much Commissioner, Mr. Mayor.

####