



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 31, 2019

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## **Updated Information on Officer Involved Shooting in Wilkinsburg**

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY** – The Allegheny County Police continue to investigate an officer-involved shooting that occurred on December 22 in the Borough of Wilkinsburg. The following information is being provided in order to clarify what is known to investigators at this time, and to address rumors and/or inaccurate information that are circulating in the Wilkinsburg community.

The following information is based on 9-1-1 call information, officer and witness statements, and physical evidence recovered during the investigation to date.

On December 22, 2019, at 1:00 a.m., a man called County 9-1-1 to report that a black male, wearing a black jacket and grey sweatpants, had “pulled a gun” on the caller near the intersection of Penn Avenue and Wood Street in Wilkinsburg. The caller further stated that the gunman had black dreadlocks and was carrying a silver handgun. Three uniformed Wilkinsburg police officers, in two marked police vehicles, were dispatched to the area where they attempted to locate the parties involved.

After brief conversations with two separate individuals on the street, the two Wilkinsburg officers riding together observed a man wearing a dark jacket and dark sweatpants which matched the description of the gunman. The officers pulled their marked car in front of the walking man and were able to see that his hairstyle also fit the reported description of the person with the gun. The 9-1-1 caller, in contact with the 9-1-1 operator, confirmed that the officers had located the individual with the gun; this information was relayed to the officers.

One officer directed the man to “take his hands out of his pockets” while both officers began to exit the marked police car. At that point, the man, ignoring officers’ commands to stop, began to run away. The two officers gave chase, travelling off Penn Avenue through a vacant lot between two buildings, eventually turning onto Stoner Way. The suspect then turned into a yard behind 908 Center Street as one of the officers gained on him in the darkness. At that time, the suspect fired one round at the officer. The officer returned fire, striking the suspect seven times. Approximately 43 seconds elapsed from the beginning of the foot pursuit until the exchange of gunfire at 1:06 a.m.

Paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced the man deceased at 1:16 a.m. He was later identified as 24-year-old Romir Talley of Wilkinsburg.

A silver revolver was recovered at the scene, with one spent cartridge recovered from inside the cylinder below the hammer. Four live rounds were recovered from the cylinder.

Neither body-worn cameras or in-car dashboard cameras were in use by Wilkinsburg officers at the time of this incident.

As the department continues to investigate, anyone with information concerning this incident is asked to call the Allegheny County Police tip line at 1-833-ALL-TIPS (1-833-255-8477). Callers can remain anonymous. The department can also be reached via its social media sites.

As previously stated, all the investigative information will be turned over to the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office for review and appropriate determinations. Questions regarding the identity and/or the employment status of the involved officer should be directed to Wilkinsburg Borough officials.

The Allegheny County Police Department is cognizant of and understands the desire for a transparent investigation; however, the goal of the ACPD investigation is to obtain accurate information. Sometimes obtaining the most accurate information takes time. When information is released prematurely in response to calls for immediate transparency, there is a danger that such premature release of information may serve to call the integrity of the investigation into question if later information, corroborated and fully vetted, appears to be different or contradictory to previously released information.

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Coleman McDonough, Superintendent

**Department of Police – Homicide**

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