

TOPICAL

Everything we know about Friday afternoon's police shooting in Racine

Adam Rogan

May 20, 2022



Police Chief Maurice Robinson, left, leads a press conference in the Mayor's Office in City Hall just after 7 p.m. Friday. At right is Mayor Cory Mason and at far-right is a representative from the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation.

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RACINE — One man is dead after being shot by a Racine Police officer just after 1 p.m. Friday afternoon.

The name of the man has not been publicly released.

Racine Police Chief Maurice Robinson said during a City Hall press conference at 7 p.m. Friday that he had not yet confirmed that next-of-kin had been notified. No new information was released as of press time Saturday.

According to initial reports from local and state officials, at 1:03 p.m. Friday, an officer “attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle that was the subject of a search warrant for a felon in possession of a firearm.” Robinson said the initial traffic stop was attempted near the intersection of 12th Street and Schiller Street.

A “brief” vehicular pursuit ensued, according to the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation. Then, the suspect fled on foot, ignoring the officer’s “commands to stop and drop to the ground,” Robinson said.



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An initial report from DCI stated: "Following a foot chase, the subject was seen with a handgun."



An officer stands behind police tape Friday in Racine's Midtown neighborhood.
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No details about how the handgun was seen have been released, including if it was being held in the subject's hands or carried in some other fashion. Robinson described the suspect as an "armed man."

The Racine Police Department released a photograph of the gun, lying in grass with a No. 1 evidence marker next to it. The firearm appears to be a Springfield XD handgun.

Without giving specifics, Robinson said Friday that the suspect "took an action" that led to the officer firing their gun, killing the suspect. Officials took no questions during Friday's press conference at City Hall, which lasted less than four minutes, leaving it publicly unknown what the "action" was.

Life-saving measures were attempted — onlookers' videos show officers performing CPR — and the individual was taken in a Racine Fire Department ambulance to Ascension All Saints Hospital on Spring Street in Racine, but was pronounced deceased there.

There is body-camera footage of the shooting, DCI and Robinson both said.

The officer involved has been placed on leave, officials said.



The Racine Police Department released this photo on the evening of Friday, May 20. The RPD identified the firearm pictured as one that had been seen with a suspect, later identified as Da'Shontay King, being pursued on foot by a Racine Police officer before the officer fatally shot the suspect.

Racine Police Department

In attendance at Friday's press conference were two representatives from DCI, Robinson, Mayor Cory Mason and Racine Police Criminalist Todd Hoover, president of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association.

The shooting occurred in the Midtown neighborhood on Racine's south side, near Carroll Street, about a block west of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Center Street, and a block north of where the initial traffic stop was attempted.

Robinson said "the foot pursuit went over a fence and up a small hill."

DCI is leading the investigation, as it does with all officer-involved shootings in Wisconsin. DCI reported that the Wisconsin State Crime Lab and State Patrol are assisting in the investigation. The Racine County Sheriff's Office and the Mount Pleasant Police Department also responded to the scene Friday.

Robinson said that, upon the conclusion of DCI's investigation, the investigative reports will go to the Racine County District Attorney's Office.



Racine's police chief asks for public's help to prevent gun violence after city's 6th homicide of 2022

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Crackdown

Robinson opened Friday's press conference by referencing how the city has experienced a **49% increase in shots fired reports** so far in 2022 as compared to the year prior, including **six homicides** (all by guns) as of May 15. In 2021, there had only been three homicides in the city, as of May 15, 2021.



Shots fired reports up 49% this year compared to 2021 in the City of Racine

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Robinson indicated that Friday's traffic stop which turned fatal was sparked by the RPD aiming to crack down on illegally possessed guns.

"In an effort to curb the gun violence, Racine Police have been executing search warrants on identified vehicles and persons," Robinson said.

According to a **2019 report** from the U.S. Department of Justice, based on the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates, "about 1 in 5 (21%) of all state and federal prisoners reported that they had possessed or carried a firearm when they committed the offense for which they were serving time in prison..."

"An estimated 287,400 prisoners had possessed a firearm during their offense. Among these, more than half (56%) had either stolen it (6%), found it at the scene of the crime (7%), or obtained it off the street or from the underground market (43%). Most of the remainder (25%) had obtained it from a family member or friend, or as a gift. Seven percent had purchased it under their own name from a licensed firearm dealer."

Ryan Patterson of The Journal Times contributed to this report.

Last five years

Friday's shooting was the first fatal shooting of a suspect by a Racine Police officer since **Jan. 17, 2018**, when **Donte Shannon** was killed after fleeing a traffic stop while armed; the two officers involved said that they opened fire after Shannon pointed a gun at them.

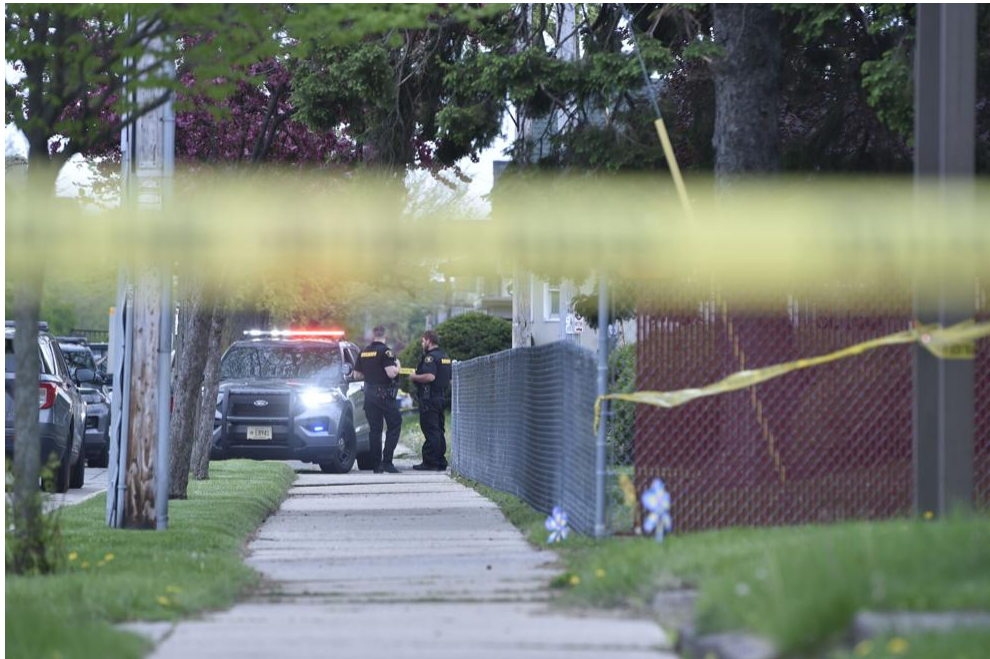
After 1:30 a.m. on **June 15, 2019**, near the Racine-Mount Pleasant border, **Ty'Rese West** of Racine fled from a Mount Pleasant police sergeant who was attempting to stop West for riding a bicycle without a light. According to official accounts West fled and tried tossing away a gun, which hit a fence and bounced back toward West, who fell down, with the gun coming to rest near his hand. The sergeant caught up and stood over West, soon after shooting West in the head. The sergeant reported that it appeared West was reaching for the gun when the trigger was pulled. In dispatch audio, someone is heard twice saying **"OK"** in the moments before West was shot; West's family believes the person who said **"OK"** was West and that he was complying with orders moments before his death. In her decision not to file charges against the sergeant, Racine County District Attorney made no mention of the **"OK."**

On **May 18, 2020**, according to official accounts, **Nathan Lee Davis**, 38, was about to be taken into custody but then shot himself with his own firearm following a scuffle outside his apartment on Erie Street in Caledonia. Davis was suspected of having been in possession of child pornography and was also known to have owned more than a dozen firearms, which is why officers attempted to arrest him outside his home rather than inside it.

On **July 13, 2021**, **John McCarthy**, a man Sheriff Christopher Schmaling later described as a "maniac" and a wannabe mass shooter, shot and killed 22-year-old **Anthony "Nino" Griger** at the Pilot Travel Center next to Interstate 94 before fleeing eastbound. McCarthy then stopped at the Mobil gas station in Franksville, where he attempted to shoot another stranger, who happened to be an undercover Racine County Sheriff's deputy. The two exchanged gunfire and both were hit before McCarthy turned the gun on himself, the state concluded in its official report.

16 photos from situation in the Midtown neighborhood on Racine's south side Friday afternoon

Officers on Center Street



Deputies stand behind police tape on Center Street Friday in Racine.

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Police officers converse



Police officers converse at the intersection of Carroll Street and Center Street Friday in Racine.
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Police tape covers intersections



Police tape covers multiple intersections looking east from 12th Street Friday in Racine.
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Officer talks with residents



A Sheriff's Office deputy talks with residents on Carroll Street in Racine on May 20 following the police shooting of Da'Shontay King.
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Officers speak with residents



Sheriff's Office deputies talk with residents on Carroll Street Friday in Racine.
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Tent near Carroll Street



A canopy stands on a grassy area near Carroll Street Friday in Racine about two hours after officers were seen giving CPR to an individual there.

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Police car and tape



A Racine County Sheriff's Office squad vehicle and police tape are shown blocking access to 12th Street Friday in Racine.
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Officer in front of building



A Racine Police Department officer stands in front of Wisconsin Plating Works, 931 Carroll St., Friday in Racine.
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Police tape on 12th Street



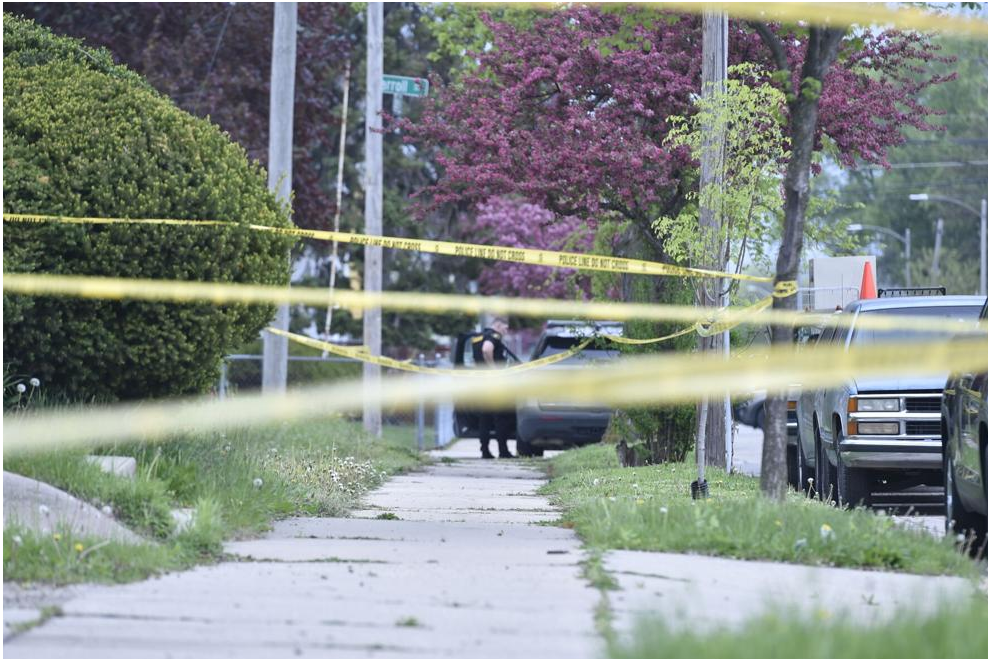
Police tape covers multiple intersections looking west on 12th Street Friday in Racine.
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Officer walks by apartment building



A police officer and resident walk near St. Paul Garden Apartments, 1120 Center St., Friday in Racine.
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Officer stands behind tape



An officer stands behind police tape Friday in Racine's Midtown neighborhood.
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Residents talk on 12th Street



Several residents talk behind police tape on 12th Street Friday in Racine Friday in the Midtown neighborhood.
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Officer gets out of car



An officer exits his vehicle on 12th Street Friday in Racine.
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Police vehicles



Law enforcement vehicles park on Carroll Street Friday in Racine. Part of a tent is seen on the grass at right.
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Three officers converse



Three law enforcement officers converse on Carroll Street Friday, May 20, in Racine, following the fatal shooting of Da'Shontay King.
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May 20, 2022 crime scene



Police tape is shown here at the intersection of 11th and Center street Friday afternoon.
Ryan Patterson