

Riverside Police Department
Continuation Sheet

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207 PC

File #P17-196932
Det Rick Cobb #260

During the course of this investigation I was assigned to assist with the interviewing of involved officers. The interviews were conducted at the Magnolia Station on 10-31-17.

Interview of Officer Wilder

I interviewed Officer Wilder at 2110 hours. I told him that he was being interviewed as a witness in this case.

Officer Wilder is a member of the Riverside Police SWAT Team. He responded to Castle View Elementary School regarding a female being held hostage inside a classroom.

Officer Wilder was originally assigned to the first Emergency Response Team (ERT). The team was relieved from that assignment and he was then assigned as a member of the second ERT. His team were in the classroom next door to classroom A-1, where the suspect was holding the victim hostage. A folding wall partition separated the two rooms. The partition was closed.

To prepare for a possible entry to rescue the victim, Officer Wilder's assignment was to help open the partition when the order was given to rescue the victim. He and Officer Kerr went to another building at the school which had the exact classroom design with the same partitions separating the rooms. They both practiced opening the partition. They spent approximately 15 minutes and practiced on 4 or 5 partitions.

Officer Wilder said that when the order was given to make entry into the classroom to rescue the victim, he and Officer's Kerr and Newton tried to open the partition. After the flashbang diversion was deployed, they tried to open the partition, but something was blocking it and it only opened 1 to 1 ½ feet. While he was trying to push the partition open, he heard gunshots and knew that a SWAT officer fired.

Officer Wilder said that a few seconds after the shots were fired, the victim was being pulled through the small opening of the partition by SWAT members. He grabbed the victim and took her out of the classroom. Paramedics were there and took the victim for treatment.

Officer Wilder said he never saw the suspect inside the classroom when the rescue mission started.

Officer Wilder said he never fired any of his weapons during the rescue mission.

Officer Wilder had no further information.