

## RIVERSIDE: Police involved in shooting; 1 hurt



STAFF PHOTO/RICHARD BROOKS

Police investigate an officer-involved shooting that began with a stolen-car investigation at the Peppertree Place Apartments in Riverside on Monday, Feb. 25.

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One person has been wounded and hospitalized after an officer-involved shooting at an apartment complex in Riverside, police say.

The gunfire erupted at 8:50 p.m. during a stolen-car investigation in the parking lot of the sprawling Peppertree Place Apartments, 7911 Arlington Ave., just west of Van Buren Boulevard.

"I don't know the extent of the injuries," Lt. Guy Toussaint said about the suspect.

No officers were injured.

Officers were summoned by reports of a car theft in progress, said Lt. Chuck Griffiths.

"Witnesses pointed out somebody in a car and said, 'That's the guy who tried to steal our car,' " Griffiths said at the scene. "Officers chase the guy and ended up cornering him ... and an officer-involved shooting occurred."

At about 11 p.m., roughly 20 detectives were preparing to canvass the apartments to interview witnesses to the incident.

The wounded suspect's name, age and hometown were not available.

He'd driven to the apartments in a Honda that police say may have been stolen, police said.

A woman who lives in an apartment near the shooting said she just returned home with her daughter from Walmart and saw a man climb out of an Expedition SUV while talking in Spanish on a cellphone.

Janette Ruiz recalled the man saying he told of using his SUV to block in a vehicle. He then ran into the apartments.

Ruiz doesn't believe that was the man who was shot, and she did not know what role, if any, he played in the incident.

Ruiz and her daughter went inside her home, and heard yelling and gunshots a couple minutes later.

Judging by what she saw after the shooting, she said she believes the suspect was in the Honda when he was wounded. She recalled hearing reports that the Honda had been stolen at the complex before Monday night's incident.