

RIVERSIDE: Officers involved in fatal shooting after traffic stop



STAN LIM/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The scene of an officer involved shooting along Anna St. in Riverside on Thursday, March 1, 2012.

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A pre-dawn traffic stop turned deadly today when Riverside police shot a passenger they said ran into a backyard while carrying a handgun.

The man died at a local hospital soon after the 2:30 a.m. shooting along Anna Street near Lincoln Avenue.

His name has not been released. But based on a tentative identification, his apparent criminal record would have given him a motive to run and try to avoid arrest, said Lt. Toussaint.

“He’s not currently on parole, but he’s an ex-felon,” Toussaint said. “And if I am an ex-con and I have a gun, I’m going back to prison.”

The driver was being questioned, but has not been arrested.

The traffic stop turned into a foot chase when the passenger fled, Toussaint said.

“The suspect jumped into a backyard,” he said. “As an officer entered the backyard, an officer-involved shooting occurred.”

Detectives are still investigating details of the confrontation, but have determined that the suspect was armed. “A handgun was recovered at the scene,” said Toussaint.

The shooting happened up the street from Victoria Elementary School. As parents dropped off their children this morning, they noticed the yellow crime-scene tape that cordoned off the shooting scene.

The street directly in front of the scene was blocked, but the school wasn't directly affected by the violence.