

Turbulent relationship sparked slayings

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Two dead, suspect dies in Riverside shootings

Three dead in Riverside shootings

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The couple at the center of the Riverside shootings that left three people dead had a romantic relationship marked by violence, lies, jealousy and lawsuits, court documents reveal.

On Tuesday evening, Virgil Millon fatally shot his ex-fiancee, Arabella Bradford, and her close friend, Malvin Conley Jr. Police then killed Millon outside the home he and Bradford owned.

All three had worked for the state Department of Corrections. Millon, 46, was a lieutenant in the juvenile justice division; Bradford, 38, was a parole agent; Conley, 43, of Riverside, was a corrections officer at California Institute for Men in Chino.

Less than 24 hours before her death, court documents show, Bradford -- who wrote that her ex-fiance had been stalking her -- had served Millon with a notice that she planned to seek a permanent restraining order that would prohibit him from contacting her.

Millon and Bradford met about 13 years ago at work, according to court records. They moved in together in 2000 in Orange County. In 2005, they purchased the home on Trailway Drive in the upper middle class Riverwalk neighborhood near La Sierra University.



David Bauman/The Press-Enterprise

A police evidence van exits a southwest Riverside neighborhood early Wednesday where a gunman fatally shot a man and a woman Tuesday night. The gunman was later shot and killed by a Riverside police officer.

They became engaged sometime before 2008, but Bradford had doubts. She said in a deposition for a lawsuit filed against her by Millon that she didn't want to get married. "I have anger-management issues," she said.

FIANCE SET UP

That anger boiled over Feb. 12, 2008.

Bradford, under the influence of alcohol and prescription drugs, assaulted Millon in their home. She pointed her service revolver at him and chased him around the house, and she pointed a second gun at him. But Bradford told arriving police that he had actually attacked her and was possibly armed.

"I wanted him (the police officer) to pull out his weapon and shoot (Millon). Riverside is notorious, known for shooting people without weapons," Bradford testified after Millon was arrested.

Because of Bradford's lie, Millon was charged in February 2008 with inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, assault with a gun, making criminal threats, attempting to dissuade a witness, false imprisonment and possession of an assault weapon.

Millon was fired from his job as a lieutenant with the Department of Corrections that August.

In September 2009, as Millon's trial began, Bradford -- given immunity against prosecution -- quickly admitted that she lied about the attack on her fiance in order to avoid going to jail, save her job as a parole agent with the Department of Corrections and to prod police into shooting Millon.

"Everything I did, I just turned it on him," Bradford testified. "Every gun I pointed to him, I just said he did it."

Millon was acquitted and got his job back. He did serve three days in jail for a weapons violation.

In the deposition, Bradford said they "kind of broke up" because she refused to seek counseling for her anger-management issues. Yet they remained living together.

Bradford was being deposed in a lawsuit Millon filed against her in 2010 after his acquittal. He claimed defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault and negligence. They were due back in court June 9 in that case.

SPLIT COMPLETE

Millon moved into a neighbor's garage across the street at some point in the past two years. In Bradford's request for a temporary restraining order filed April 29, she said Millon jumped out of the bushes in front of where she lived and threatened a visiting co-worker.

In 2010, he tried to run her and a co-worker off the street as they jogged, and he threatened the co-worker, according to the restraining order request. This year, he stalked her at a party for a

co-worker, Bradford wrote, and would park around the corner and watch visitors come and go from the home.

Riverside Superior Court Judge Irma Poole denied the request until a court hearing could take place, checking a box on a form that said "The facts did not show reasonable proof of a past act or acts of abuse."

On Monday at 7:05 p.m., a process server handed Millon a notice that a hearing on Bradford's request for a permanent restraining order would be held May 19.

On Tuesday about 6 p.m., Millon interrupted a barbecue Bradford was hosting, police said. He grabbed Bradford and pointed a gun at her.

He then exchanged words with Conley, Riverside police Lt. Guy Toussaint said.

Millon fired at Conley, who ran into the front yard. Millon and Bradford wound up in the front yard as well.

"The suspect fired several rounds at the male victim at close range," Toussaint said. "He then turned his rage on the female and shot at her several times at close range" as the woman sought cover under a car. Millon apparently reloaded his gun at some point, Toussaint said.

Police arrived and shot Millon during a confrontation, Toussaint said. He did not have any additional details.

Wednesday morning, Holly Huddleston, who owns five houses in the gated community and who lives in an adjoining neighborhood, said she knew Bradford and Millon, though she did not identify them by name.

She said Bradford had been harassing Millon and that they had been feuding about their house. Huddleston described Millon as "the nicest guy in the world."

"I think she pushed him too far," Huddleston said. "I think he probably snapped."

Staff writers Richard K. DeAtley and Steven Barrie contributed to this report.

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