



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RMPD INVESTIGATES TWO SHOOTING INCIDENTS

Two Individuals Deceased, Another Injured

The Rocky Mount Police Department is currently investigating two shooting incidents that occurred this morning. RMPD investigators are examining the possible correlation between the two incidents and are considering Mr. Thomas Willis Smith, of 116 Ketch Point Court, Rocky Mount, to be the shooter in both incidents. Investigators do not believe that there are any other suspects in this case.

At approximately 8:40 this morning, RMPD Dispatch received a call from Guardian Care of Rocky Mount, a nursing home at 160 S. Winstead Avenue. The caller reported that gun shots had been fired within the facility. RMPD officers immediately responded to the scene and secured the area. The Rocky Mount Police Department believes that the visitors, employees, and other residents of the facility were never in danger throughout the morning.

Upon arrival, RMPD officers found a resident at the facility, Ms. Emma Smith, 89, deceased in her room. Mrs. Emma Smith had suffered a gunshot wound to her body. Mrs. Emma Smith's son, Mr. Thomas Willis Smith, 58, was found unconscious in his mother's room with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Mr. Smith was transported by Nash County EMS to Nash General Hospital. Mr. Smith was then airlifted to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville, where later this afternoon he was pronounced deceased.

Just prior to the incident at Guardian Care of Rocky Mount, at approximately 8:15 am, RMPD Dispatch received a call regarding an incident at 116 Ketch Point Court. RMPD officers responded to the residence, where they found Mrs. Martha Smith, 52, with an injury to her head. Mrs. Martha Smith, the wife of Mr. Thomas Willis Smith, was transported to Nash General Hospital, where later doctors determined the victim has sustained a gunshot wound to her head. Mrs. Martha Smith was transported to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville. Mrs. Martha Smith's injuries do not appear to be lifethreatening at this time.

Upon their arrival at the nursing home, RMPD officers and investigators spoke with staff and administrators of Guardian Care of Rocky Mount, who were helpful in securing the area and allowing the investigation to begin immediately. RMPD investigators have learned that Mr. Smith regularly visited his mother during the nursing home's morning visitation hours. Mr. Smith's vehicle was later identified in the nursing home's parking lot.

The investigation is ongoing.

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