THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POLICE INVESTIGATE COMMERCIAL ROBBERY AND OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN NORTH PARK

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating the late night robbery of an adult business that culminated in a fatal officer-involved shooting.

Several minutes after midnight, an armed, masked male entered the 'F' Street bookstore at 2004 University Avenue, jumped the counter, and robbed the business at gunpoint. As the suspect quickly left the business, a two-officer unit from Western Division turned eastbound on University Avenue from Florida Street. Although the officers were unaware of the robbery that had just occurred, they found the suspect's behavior suspicious and made a u-turn to speak to him. When the officers turned north on Florida Street, the suspect had disappeared from view. However, the officers noticed a green Chevy Cavalier, occupied by one person, pulling away from the east curb of Florida Street. Believing the driver might be the male who had just left the bookstore, the officers followed the vehicle for one block with the intention of stopping it.

The driver turned west in the 1900 block of Lincoln Avenue, a dead end street, and pulled to the north curb. Both officers exited their patrol vehicle and approached on different sides. As one officer (contact officer) questioned the driver, the cover officer (positioned on the passenger side of the suspect vehicle) illuminated the interior of the vehicle with his flashlight. The cover officer noticed the suspect holding a handgun between his legs, and he alerted his partner to the threat. The cover officer yelled for the suspect to drop the weapon. The suspect neither responded nor complied. Instead, he raised the weapon toward the driver's window and fired several rounds at the contact officer. Both officers responded to the threat as the suspect raised his weapon, firing multiple rounds into the vehicle. The officers recovered the handgun from the vehicle as the suspect lay mortally wounded inside the vehicle. Paramedics responded and pronounced the suspect dead at scene. The suspect has not been positively identified.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that the original robbery suspect fled the bookstore, ran north on Florida Street, and yelled for the driver of the suspect vehicle to leave. The robber fled on foot, eastbound through an apartment complex, and shed clothing, gloves and his handgun along the way. Those items have been recovered. The original robbery suspect, described only as a young black male, 5'7"-5'8", 130 pounds, wearing a beige shirt, is still at large.

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