

Subject shot during armed robbery, despite complying with demand for money

Written by News Desk
Friday, 28 March 2014 19:28 -

By SARAH MORRISON STEPHENS

One person is recovering from a gunshot wound to the hand and torso after two subjects forcibly made their way into a Millbrook home early Saturday morning. The assailants demanded money and fired one shot. As of Tuesday morning, no one was in custody but a full investigation is in process, says Millbrook Police Chief P.K. Johnson.

The victim, Thomas Foster, 56, of Montgomery, was treated at the scene by paramedics from the Millbrook Fire Department. He was transported to Baptist South Emergency Room with life threatening injuries.

According to Johnson, authorities were contacted around 3:20 a.m. and called to the 4500 block of Lakeshore Drive with a report of a subject shot. Officers were told that there had been a knock at the door, and when the home owner opened the door two black males forced their way into the residence at gunpoint.

Both individuals had their faces concealed by bandanas. One of the subjects, who armed with a semi-automatic handgun, approached the victim Foster demanding money. As he was attempting to comply with the gunman's demand, the subject fired a single shot, which initially struck one of the victim's hands, passed through his hand, striking him in the upper torso.

The two subjects forcibly took cash from three of the residence's occupants. After taking the currency both individuals fled the residence on foot. Detectives from the Millbrook Police Department's Criminal Investigative Unit did respond to the scene to collect evidence and interview witnesses.

"After speaking with our detectives, I believe that we are fortunate that there was only one person shot during this robbery," Johnson said. "According to witness statements, the victim was attempting to give one of the offenders his money, as instructed, when he was shot. He was not resisting in any way. There was no reason whatsoever for this man to be shot.

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"We believe the perpetrators knew the victims or at least had knowledge that the people at the residence had been playing cards prior to the robbery. They knew who had money and obviously had no problem using deadly force to remove it from their person. The victim had emergency surgery immediately upon his arrival at Baptist South. He is listed in critical but stable condition at this time."

Johnson said he is sickened that these subjects had no value for human life, and they were so determined to shoot someone during the commission of this crime.

"That kind of wanton neglect and disrespect for life has no place in Millbrook or society in general. We will make every effort to identify and apprehend the individuals that committed these offenses. They have no business walking our streets. When apprehended they will be charged with Burglary 1st Degree, Robbery 1st Degree (3 counts) and Assault 1st Degree," Johnson said.