



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Statement by Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson on the Shooting of a 14-year-old Trenton Resident by the New Jersey State Police

On Friday, August 7 at 10:15 p.m., the Communications Unit of the Trenton Police Department received several calls about shots being fired in the area of Prospect Village in West Trenton. Two New Jersey State Troopers and a Mercer County Sheriff's Officer who were working as part of the Targeted Integrated Deployment Effort (TIDE), a multi-agency initiative to address violence in Trenton, responded to the area. During their investigation into three individuals who were coming from the direction of where the shots had been fired, a foot pursuit ensued with a 14-year-old male who failed to obey the directions of the officers. During the pursuit the 14-year-old reached into his waistband, which led to officers discharging their weapons and striking the male. The 14-year-old was transported to Capital Health Regional Medical Center where he was admitted in stable condition. A handgun was later recovered at the scene.

Yesterday, I spoke with Acting Attorney General John Jay Hoffman about this incident and the status of the investigation into the shooting. Whenever a New Jersey State Trooper fires a weapon, it is standard operating procedure for the Attorney General's Office to investigate. Rest assured, my Office, Trenton Police Department detectives, including the department's Criminal Investigation Bureau, are providing assistance and support to the investigation.

I have also had conversations with members of City Council, community leaders, and members of the clergy, who are all deeply concerned about the shooting, as am I. Let me be clear: when a law enforcement officer discharges their firearm to protect themselves and the public, it is a very serious matter that requires careful and transparent investigation. The public should expect nothing less. I am committed to excellence in public safety that is guided by the principles of strong community relations, transparency, accountability, trust and communications. The Trenton PD will continue working with its federal, state and local law enforcement partners to combat violent crime and build strong relationships with residents toward a safer city with a good quality of life. As your Mayor who you have entrusted with the public good, Trentonians expect nothing less.

I urge the public not to engage in speculation about what may have happened, but to wait until all of the facts have been thoroughly verified and communicated. The investigation is a substantial effort, and we are a part of this work.

Keeping our city safe, our children safe, our property and businesses protected, involves an engaged citizenry that actively participates in the everyday process of being vigilant about crime and watchful of people in our city who engage in criminal activity. Trenton is our city, and it belongs to law abiding people.

August 11, 2015