

Investigative Findings by APD Detectives of Linked Homicide Cases

On Saturday November 12, 2016 Officers recovered the gun used by the suspect in the shooting of an APD Officer. In the investigation, police have found that this gun is the same gun that was used in five other homicides.

The department has outlined information below regarding the homicide investigations in which the gun has been linked:

July 3, 2016 – Homicide of Jason Netter and Brianna Foisy at 200 block of North Post Road

- Police received a call from a bicyclist reporting two dead bodies discovered on the bike path.
- Police find some ballistic evidence but no shell casings
- Police identified the victims and conducted victimology to determine any additional information that could lead detectives to a suspect in the case.
- Information provided by acquaintances indicated that one of the victims may have had recent involvement with drugs
- Police received results on ballistic testing the indicated the weapon that was used was a Colt Python 357
- Police received reports from people in the area that they had heard shots fired between 3:00 and 5:00 a.m.
- A phone recovered from one of the victims did not provide any additional investigative leads.

July 29, 2016 - Homicide of Treyveonkindell Thompson on the 300 block of Bolin Street

- Police received calls from multiple neighbors reporting gunshots and a male lying in the street
- Police responded and located a male with multiple gunshot wounds who was declared deceased at the scene
- No shell casings were discovered at the scene indicating that potentially a revolver had been used in the shooting
- The bullets recovered from the victim were submitted to the State Crime Lab

July 29, 2016 - Homicide of Treyveonkindell Thompson on the 300 block of Bolin Street (continued)...

- The State Crime Lab verified that the bullets were from the same weapon used in the Post Road homicide
- Police conducted further investigation but found no links between the homicide victims of this case and the Post Road case.
- Police knew that Thompson's bike had been taken by the suspect.
- Police also received information from three witnesses who indicated that they had seen the suspect prior to the shooting. The FBI worked with the witnesses to help create the composite sketch. This sketch was released to the public, along with a photo of the victim's bicycle in an effort to generate leads and identify the suspect.
- Over 175 tips were received by the FBI and the Anchorage Police Department regarding the sketch that was shared with the community.
- Police obtained video surveillance of the shooting from the neighborhood. The Alaska State Troopers assisted APD with calculating a potential height of the suspect. The suspect was estimated to be around 6'3" and it was believed that the suspect was wearing a camo jacket.

August 28, 2016 – Homicide of Bryant De Husson and Kevin Turner at Valley of the Moon Park

- Police were contacted by a female citizen stating she discovered a male along the bike trail who had been shot.
- Police responded and located the male who was declared deceased at the scene. While police were conducting an investigation they discovered a second victim under the pavilion in the park who also had gunshot wounds. That victim was declared deceased at the scene.
- Police conducted an area and neighborhood canvas but were unable to develop any leads about the suspect or what happened to the victims.
- There was no indication of any link between the two victims and it appeared they did not know each other.
- Bullets recovered from the victims were sent to the State Crime Lab. The Crime Lab confirmed with police that the bullets were fired from the same weapon used in the Bolin Street and Post Road homicides.
- At this point police still did not know who the shooter was or if there was more than one.
- Very little evidence was left behind at this scene.

November 12, 2016 – Shooting of Police Officer Arn Salao at 5th Ave/Cordova

- A Colt Python 357 was recovered by police at the scene. This gun was used by the shooting suspect who was identified as 40-year-old James Dale Ritchie.
- The gun was sent to the State Crime Lab and ballistics testing confirmed that the gun was the weapon that had been used in the five other homicides.
- During the shooting, the suspect was wearing a camo jacket (similar to the suspect clothing in the Bolin Street homicide).
- The suspect's height was determined to be 6'4" and his driver's license photo resembled the composite sketch of the suspect in the Bolin Street homicide.

Detectives are hoping to develop more information about 40-year-old James Dale Ritchie and ask that anyone with any information to contact police at 786-8900. A recent picture of him has been attached in this release. To provide an anonymous crime tip please contact Anchorage Crime Stoppers at 561-STOP or go online to www.anchoragecrimestoppers.com

