

# JOPLIN

POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Police Department**  
303 E 3rd Street  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
417-623-3131

Press Release: Officer Involved Shooting 12-24-2023

Date: December 24th, 2023

Media Contact: Captain William Davis 417-623-3131 x1446

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4:26 p.m. the Joplin Police Department Emergency Communications Center received a report of a suicidal individual at 1611 E. Vandalia Street in Joplin. During the call, the suicidal individual indicated he was armed with a firearm, made suicidal statements, and requested officers to respond to his address. As officers arrived on scene, they encountered the individual in the front yard of the address. During the encounter there were shots fired. The individual did suffer gunshot injuries and medical aid was rendered by police until EMS arrived on scene. The individual was transported to Mercy Hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. Identification information is being withheld at this time pending formal notification of next of kin. The Joplin Police Department can confirm that two Joplin Police Officers did discharge their weapons during the incident and that no officers were injured. The involved officers will be placed on paid administrative leave per department policy. Per department protocol, the Joplin Police Department has requested assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol to conduct an investigation to determine the facts of what took place. Further details will be released at a later time as information becomes available throughout the investigation.

We ask for the public to please keep the officers involved in your thoughts and prayers, along with the family and friends of the individual. The Joplin Police Department knows the holiday season can be a stressful time. We want to remind everyone that you can call, text, or chat with someone at the Crisis Hotline by dialing or texting 988. Trained crisis specialists are available and can help individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance use, and/or mental health crisis or any other kind of emotional distress.