

**Bethany Police Department****Press Release**

**From:** Lieutenant Angelo Orefice, Investigations Division

**Date:** February 13, 2017

**Subject:** Officer Involved Shooting

On February 10, 2017, Bethany Police Officers responded to 8308 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Bethany, Oklahoma, in response to a domestic assault and battery, which had been reported to officers at the Bethany Police Department.

Officer subsequently went to the residence in order to arrest the suspect, James Stephen McMullen. Officers knocked on the front door of the residence, at which time reports indicate James McMullen answered the door with a gun in his hand. Officers issued multiple commands for Mr. McMullen to drop his weapon. It was not until McMullen refused to drop his firearm and made a furtive movement towards the officers, when Officer Matthew Branscum, a 2 year veteran of the police department, discharged his weapon shooting McMullen. Officers and emergency personnel rendered aid to McMullen and he was transported to OU Medical Center.

On February 11, 2017, James McMullen succumbed to his injuries. The deceased was taken to the Medical Examiner's Office for further investigation.

The investigation into the incident is ongoing. The officer involved in the shooting has been placed on routine paid administrative leave. Upon completion of the investigation, it will be turned over to the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office for review.