



PETER T. HANSEN, CHIEF OF POLICE

REDDING POLICE DEPARTMENT
1313 California Street, Redding, CA 96001-3396
530.225.4200 FAX 530.225.4553

**PRESS RELEASE
UPDATED
January 9, 2010 5:00 A.M.**

10-1724

On January 8, 2010 at 9:21 P.M., Redding Police Department officers responded to the area of West and Gold Streets in regards to a citizen complaint of indiscriminate shooting. While checking the area, another call was received of a traffic accident in the 2000 block of West Street.

Investigation revealed expended 9 mm shell casings in the area of Gold and West Street along with broken automobile glass. A deceased male adult was located in the vehicle that had crashed in the 2000 block of West Street. Both left side windows of the deceased vehicle appeared to have been shattered by gunfire. The deceased male adult appears to have at least one gunshot wound to the upper body.

The investigation continued through the night and into the afternoon hours. Information was developed which led investigators to locate and interview several individuals who know the deceased victim. Computer research was conducted which led investigators to interview several more individuals including family members of one of the suspects. The suspects were identified as Robert Lee JAMES, IV, 22 years old of Redding and Vanessa Kay Williamson, 24 years of Redding.

Investigators located the suspect vehicle, a 1998 red Ford Mustang convertible parked in the 700 block of Cherwell Court. A residence was identified where the suspects were believed to be hiding.

A search warrant for the residence, suspect vehicle and two arrest warrants were written and signed by a local magistrate, with a bail of one million dollars each.

The Redding Police Department SWAT team was activated and served the arrest and search warrants at 12:00 P.M., January 9, 2010. Both suspects were located inside the residence and arrested per the arrest warrants. A search of the residence is on-going at this time. Both suspects are being questioned at Redding Police Investigations and have made admissions as to their involvement in the murder of the victim. The victim and defendant Vanessa Williamson were involved in a verbal and texting argument just prior to the shooting.

After the interviews with investigators, both were booked into the Shasta County Jail.

The cause of death is pending an autopsy which is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2010. The identity of the deceased victim is pending notification of next of kin and will be released by the Shasta County Coroner's Office.

Contact: Sergeant Bruce Bonner
Investigations Division
Redding Police Department
225-4214

Reviewed by: 301