



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police release identity of officers in shooting at domestic incident** *Injured officers treated and released from hospital*

Howard County police are releasing the identity of the three officers involved in a violent encounter with a man who was violating a protective order in a domestic incident in Elkridge Jan. 7. During the exchange, the suspect was shot and killed by an officer.

The officers involved were Police Officer First Class Matthew Shiplett, a 3-year veteran of the HCPD; Police Officer Jacob Lorentson, a 1-year veteran; and Police Officer First Class Joel Henderson, a 16-year veteran. PFC Shiplett and Officer Lorentson were both treated at Howard County General Hospital and later released. PFC Shiplett was the officer who fired his weapon.

All three officers are on standard administrative leave.

The suspect, William Tucker Mathis, 41, of no fixed address, broke into his estranged wife's home, assaulted and injured responding officers, and was shot by police. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police received a 911 call around 8:52 a.m. from a woman who reported that her estranged husband was at her home in the 6300 block of Woodland Forest Drive. She told the dispatcher that she had a protective order against him. Police have learned that Mathis had a history of violating protective orders in the past.

Dispatchers reported that the woman was screaming for help as the man broke into her home, and then she dropped the phone. There were three small children also inside the house.

Officers responding to the residence found the rear glass door shattered, made entry, and were confronted by the suspect, who engaged them in a violent encounter. The suspect strangled one officer and struggled with two others before being shot. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The woman and her children were not injured.

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