INVESTIGATION TURNED OVER TO STATE POLICE

A Gallup man was shot and killed early Sunday morning by a Gallup police officer. The name of the victim was not released by police nor was the officer who did the shooting.

“There is one suspect,” Lt. Rosanne Morrissette, public information officer at GPD, said. “The investigation is being handed over to the state police.”

Morrissette said a call came in to dispatch about 12:45 a.m. about a disorderly and unruly man armed with a weapon at 304 Arnold St. She said the investigation was put in the hands of the New Mexico State Police as to avoid investigatory bias.

NMSP Sgt. Chad Pierce confirmed in a news release this afternoon that the man was armed with two knives.

"Upon arrival the officers encountered the suspect, who was armed with two knives, on the west side of Arnold Street in the alley," Pierce wrote. "Subsequently, shots were fired by the officers and the suspect was struck."

Pierce added that the suspect was "immediately treated by EMS and transported to Gallup Indian Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased."

The shooting is believed to be the first in 2016 by the Gallup Police Department. Morrissette did not say whether the police officer in question was placed on administrative leave. The deceased suspect's name will be released once next of kin is notified.

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