



Ft. Pierce Police Department News Release



09.25.07

R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police
34950

920 S. U.S. #1
Ft. Pierce, FL

Police investigate death of sergeant

FORT PIERCE – The Fort Pierce Police Department and the Medical Examiner's Office, are investigating the death of Sergeant Tim Gahn.

Gahn, 53, was found by Lieutenants James Tedder and Carlos Villanueva at his home on Monday, September 24, after he did not report to work at 4:00 p.m. It appears that Gahn, a 19-year veteran with the police department, may have died from a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound. The time and cause of death will be confirmed at the conclusion of the autopsy.

"This is a sad and unfortunate situation," said Chief R. Sean Baldwin. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to Tim's family."

During Sergeant Gahn's career at the police department, he was widely respected for his dedication to law enforcement and his commitment to serving our residents. He clearly impacted many lives and contributed to the improvement of the quality of life for Fort Pierce residents as evidenced by the numerous letters of appreciation and gratitude he received during the past two decades.

In addition, his reputation as a consummate police officer transcended the boundaries of this agency and our community. As a supervisor of the Special Operations Division, gang coordination and various patrol units, Gahn not only set the example, he was "the example" for his unit to follow.

Prior to his hire in July 1988, Gahn worked 10 years as a deputy with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. The experience and skills he amassed during his tenure as a deputy greatly benefited this department.

"Tim was a dedicated police officer and one of the most compassionate individuals that you could ever meet," said Chief Baldwin. "We are all searching for a reason to explain this tragedy, but we will likely never fully understand it."

To aid department personnel in handling this loss, Chief Baldwin held a debriefing Monday night for members of Gahn's unit and anyone else in the department that wished to attend. He encouraged the unit to honor Gahn's service and help each other to cope with this loss. Chief Baldwin has scheduled a formal Critical Incident Stress Debriefing today for all police department personnel.

Information on Sergeant Timothy Ausberry Gahn
Age: 53
Hired: July 10, 1988
Promoted to Sergeant: January 7, 1999
Current Assignment: Neighborhood Policing District 1

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