



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

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NEWS RELEASE

January 13, 2021

VPD Report Number: 21-003400

Date/Time Occurred: 01/13/2020 at 1135 a.m.

Type of Incident: Bank Robbery/Officer Involved Shooting

Location: 509 S. Pinkham Street, Visalia Court Street/Laura Avenue

Name of Business (if applicable):

Tri Counties Bank

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. White Male Adult
- 2.

43

Details: On 01/13/2020 at 11:35 am, officers received a report of a robbery that had just occurred at Tri Counties Bank located at 509 S. Pinkham Avenue. The suspect took an undetermined amount of currency and fled in a truck. A suspect description and vehicle description were provided by witnesses.

An officer responding to the bank located a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle description in the area of Walnut and Santa Fe. Additional officers responded and followed the suspect vehicle to the area of Court Street and Laura Avenue. The officers initiated a felony traffic stop on Court Street south of Laura. The suspect vehicle pulled over and the officers gave the suspects commands. The suspect exited his vehicle in possession of a black handgun. As the suspect began to move the handgun in the direction of the officers, officers fired several rounds at the suspect, after they gave additional commands to drop the firearm. The suspect was struck and he fell to the ground, still in possession of the firearm. Officers gave the suspect additional commands to release the firearm and he failed to do so. A trained negotiator commenced negotiations and the suspect still did not comply. The suspect picked the gun up again and additional shots were fired by the officers. The suspect continued to hold onto the gun and would not drop it. The suspect again moved the gun towards the officers and the officers fired again. Officers took the suspect into



custody and immediately began CPR. Emergency medical staff also rendered aid however, the suspect died as a result of his injuries.

The identity of the suspect is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The Visalia Police Department will be conducting an administrative investigation and the Tulare County Sheriff's Office will conduct a criminal investigation.

A video of the statement provided by Chief Salazar can be viewed on our Facebook page @visaliapd (<https://www.facebook.com/visaliapd>).

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Patrol/VC/PC/Motors/Crime Lab **Supervisor:** Sgt. C. Sanchez

