



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officer Involved Shooting/Robbery Investigation Update

The Birmingham Police Department reports that detectives have obtained warrants in connection with an officer involved shooting and robbery investigation. The incident occurred on Sunday June 9, 2019 at approximately 7:49 p.m.

Officers from the West Precinct responded to 1305 Tuscaloosa Avenue Southwest (Family Dollar) to investigate a report of a robbery. Upon arrival, officers received information of a suspect that had just fled the location. Responding officers located a suspect matching the description of the suspect in the 1300 block of McMillon Avenue Southwest. The officer and suspect became involved in a physical altercation before the officer discharged his weapon striking the suspect. Birmingham Fire and Rescue reported to the scene and transported the subject to UAB Hospital for treatment. There was no injury to the officer.

The suspect has been identified as:

Eric Blanding, B/M, 45, of Birmingham, Alabama. Two Robbery 1st Degree warrants with **no bond** have been obtained against the suspect. An **Attempted Murder** warrant and **Certain Persons Forbidden to Possess Pistol** warrant have also been obtained against the suspect.

In addition, the suspect has been identified in three additional Family Dollar robberies in Birmingham. A **Robbery 1st Degree** warrant was obtained for the May, 26, 2019 Family Dollar robbery at 3124 Alameda Avenue. **Two Robbery 1st Degree** warrants were obtained for the June 7, 2019 Family Dollar robbery at 925 Dennison Avenue. A **Robbery 1st Degree** warrant was also obtained for the May 29, 2019 Family Dollar robbery at 925 Dennison Avenue.

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The suspect is still in an area hospital receiving treatment for his injuries. Upon release the suspect will be transported to the Jefferson County Jail. A mugshot photo of the suspect is attached.

The officer involved shooting investigation will be conducted by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation.

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