



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

A Florida Accredited **EXCELSIOR AGENCY**

POLICE

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NEWS RELEASE

August 10, 2016

Punta Gorda Police Department Releases Name of Officer Involved in Shooting

The Punta Gorda Police Department is identifying the officer involved in the shoot/don't shoot scenario which took place on August 9, 2016, as Officer Lee Coel. Officer Coel was hired by the Punta Gorda Police Department on March 17, 2014.

Officer Coel is frequently seen throughout our community providing department presentations and tours and specifically role-playing in these shoot/don't shoot scenarios as well as a police presence at youth and neighborhood events.

Officer Coel remains on administrative leave while the investigation into this incident gathers more details into how this tragedy happened. Like the rest of our community, Officer Coel is devastated by what happened and is receiving assistance from our department and the Police Benevolent Association at this time.

Our department will continue to keep our community informed through news releases to the media and on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/pgpdfl. To eliminate duplicate requests for information, please continue to send requests only to Lieutenant Katie Heck at kheck@pgorda.us. Your requests will be addressed as quickly as possible.

The Chief of Police will address the media tomorrow, August 11th, 2016, at 11:00am in our community room at the Public Safety Building located at 1410 Tamiami Trail in Punta Gorda, FL.

Prepared by:

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Release 3/3.