

Mesa police set community meeting on shooting spree



Jim Walsh, The Republic | azcentral.com

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Mesa police scheduled a community meeting Wednesday to discuss a shooting spree in west Mesa on March 18.



(Photo: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office)

Mesa police have scheduled a community meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss their response to the [March 18 slaying and shooting spree \(/story/news/local/mesa/2015/03/18/mesa-shooting-near-light-rail/24961403/\)](#) that left one man dead and five other victims wounded.

Police eventually ended the rampage that morning that terrorized west Mesa by arresting the [suspected gunman, Ryan Giroux \(/story/news/local/mesa/2015/03/18/suspect-mesa-shooting-sprees-long-rap-sheet/24992123/\)](#), at a west Mesa condominium complex.

The meeting is scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Mesa Community College Library, room 145, at 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa. The library is located off Dobson Road, near the school's northwest parking lot.

Detective Steve Flores, a Mesa police spokesman, said police want to answer any questions residents might have and reassure them about the level of safety in west Mesa.

"Obviously, there were some concerns about whether West Mesa is a safe place to be" immediately after the incident, Flores said. "We want reassure people that west Mesa is absolutely safe."

"You had the erratic behavior of one individual on one day. That does not define who we are," Flores said. "We are defined by how we responded."

A police SWAT team spotted Giroux on a balcony and eventually entered the condo, where a Taser was used to bring Giroux into custody. Flores said Giroux resisted arrest.

Photos of Giroux after his arrest showed obvious abrasions on his face, remnants of the struggle with arresting officers.

Flores said he was thinking during the incident that police probably would have to shoot the gunman to stop the bloodshed and he was happy that was unnecessary. Flores said Giroux was still armed when he was arrested and likely saw officers approaching from the second story balcony.

"We are happy he didn't get the opportunity to hurt anyone else. He was trying to get away," Flores said.

The incident began when the first victim, David Williams, 29, was shot to death at about 8:30 a.m. at the Tri-City Inn, at 1504 West Main Street ([/story/news/local/mesa/2015/03/18/mesa-shooting-family-friends-victims/24984511/](#)). Williams had been living at the motel and working as a maintenance man.

Police also found that Lydia Nielson, Williams' mother, had been shot in the leg.

The third shooting victim, Jessica Burgess, was shot in the leg in the motel's parking lot.

Police said Giroux randomly fired shots as he left the parking lot. He eventually approached a culinary student at the East Valley Institute of Technology's Bistro 21 restaurant, where police said he shot Isaac Martinez, 20, after demanding Martinez' car keys, according to investigators.

Giroux is accused of eventually taking the car keys of a culinary instructor at gunpoint and commandeering the man's Honda Accord.

The shooting spree continued when Donovan Worker was shot in the arm at an apartment complex.

Giroux also is accused of shooting another man, Marcus Butler, at another apartment complex.

After police took Giroux into custody, he was booked on a long list of charges, ranging from murder, to aggravated assault, armed robbery and kidnapping.

Giroux has an extensive criminal record and a history of methamphetamine abuse and addiction, according to court records.

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