



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

December 14, 2011

Armed Robbery / Assault with a Deadly Weapon on an Officer / Officer Involved Shooting

**** UPDATE ****

**** Updated information ****

Tulare County Coroner's Office identified the deceased suspect as Robert Sweet, 29 years of age.

Visalia – December 10, 2011 at 1630 hours, the Visalia Police Department received a call for service from Sears Loss Prevention advising a male in a wheelchair had been seen shoplifting merchandise. Loss Prevention advised they contacted the male outside the business when the male brandished a knife, threatening the lives of the Sears employees.

Officers arrived on scene and learned the suspect had entered Marshalls Department Store, Sunnyside Ave / Mooney Blvd. The male suspect exited Marshalls from a rear door and was located by a responding officer on the north side of Marshalls. When the officer contacted the suspect, the suspect stood up and lunged at the officer with a knife. The officer fearing for his life discharged his firearm striking the suspect. The suspect was transported to Kaweah Delta Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased at 1709 hours.

The officer received minor injuries and was treated and released.

Investigators from the Tulare County Sheriff's Office are investigating the officer involved shooting. Detectives from the Visalia Police Department will investigate the armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer.

The officer has been placed on paid administrative leave per department policy.

