

St. Louis Police Department -- (989) 681-5285
108 West Saginaw, Saint Louis, MI 48880

Incident No: 12-001083

Status: Closed

Date Reported: 09/09/2012 Time Reported: 15:46

Officer: VANHALL

Classification: Health and Safety -- (5500-0)

Location: 401 W. STATE

Section / Nbr:

Description: Dog @ large

Clerk: HAM

Original Narrative:

INFORMATION:

While on patrol traveling northbound on Michigan Ave., I had a dog, brownish gold in color run out in front of my patrol car. It appeared to be a Golden Retriever. I had to hit the brakes very hard to avoid hitting the dog. The dog ran into the back yard of a residence on Michigan Ave. and I was unable to locate it. I stopped my patrol car and got out to speak with a Male subject that was standing in the driveway of I asked him if the dog belonged to him and he stated "No, but that lady in the white house has a dog like that."

The male subject pointed to

I made contact at and spoke with a female subject, later identified as and asked her if she owned the Golden Retriever that had just run out of her yard across the street. She stated that she did not own a Golden Retriever but stated there was a green house on State St. near Tachos Mexican Restaurant and she knew they owned a Golden Retriever.

Signed:

Reviewed By:

Date Printed: 09/10/2012

Original Narrative (continued):

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

I drove to the area of Wilson Blvd. and W. State St. and I saw a Golden Retriever dog just a short way down Wilson Blvd. I turned my patrol car around and parked on Wilson Blvd. in front of 401 W. State St. I attempted to whistle at the dog to get it to come to me however the dog would not. A female subject later identified as _____ stated she had tried to get the dog to come to her also but it would not. _____ was in her yard at this time and was holding her dog back. I asked if the Golden Retriever belonged to her because I was attempting to locate the owners and she stated it was not hers.

The Golden Retriever then ran west across Wilson Blvd. into the back yard of what was later identified as 401 W. State St. I was walking between the garage of this residence and the neighbor's house looking for the dog when _____ yelled over to me and said that the dog was "Right over there", pointing to an open wooden gate at 401 W. State St. I could see the dog standing in the yard of the residence about six feet in front of the open gate. As I approached the Golden Retriever it ran into the back yard of the residence. I walked up to the open gate and without entering the back yard looked through the open gate and saw the dog standing on the back deck. At this time, I whistled at the dog and said "Come here pup" and the dog jumped off the deck and ran at me. I began backing away as fast as I could in a backward direction. I immediately noticed the dog was showing its teeth and I could hear the dog growling very loudly. I kicked at the dog in an attempt to put a space between me and the dog and to get it to stop coming at me. I missed my first kick however the dog tried to bite my leg as I kicked at it. I repeated this again kicking at the dog and again the dog tried to bite me. At this point the dog was within three feet of me and I was running in a backwards circular motion so as not to turn my back on the dog. At this time I pulled my service weapon and rapidly fired seven shots while backing away from the dog as quickly as I could. I believe I missed most of my shots, due to shooting while backing away however I did hit the dog at least twice. One shot in the back legs and once possibly in the mouth. The dog was no longer a threat to me and I holstered my weapon. Each shot that was fired was fired in a downward direction toward the dog. All shots had a safe back drop and all went into the dog or the yard of 401 W. State St. Dispatch was immediately notified that I was attacked by a dog and that there were multiple shots fired. I requested a back up unit at this time because a male subject had come out of the residence and was being very aggressive and hostile towards me when he realized I had just shot his dog. He was later identified as BRIAN GOETZINGER, the dog's owner as well as the resident of 401 N. State St.

As I waited for my back up unit to arrive, I went back to my patrol car to get away from Goetzinger who again, was very upset and hostile towards me. His wife HILLARY GOETZINGER then came out of the residence and was screaming at me "You shot my _____ dog, good job mother _____ you did your _____ job!" Hillary then went into the back yard where I could not see her anymore. I could hear her yelling things like, "You shot my dog you mother _____!"

Officer _____ from Alma PD arrived on scene as did Trooper _____. At this time I was on the phone with _____ who requested to speak with Officer _____. _____ requested that Officer _____ and Trooper _____ speak with the Goetzinger's because they would not speak to me. Officer's _____ and _____ went into the residence and spoke with the Goetzinger's long enough to gather their information. Dispatch did contact the Animal Hospital in Ithaca and advised that the Veterinarian had a forty minute estimated time of arrival. The Goetzinger's requested that Trooper _____ and Officer _____ leave the property stating they would transfer the dog to the Animal Hospital.

I spoke with Trooper _____ who advised he provided the names of my supervisor's, _____ and _____

Original Narrative (continued):

for the Goetzinger's upon their request.

I cleared the scene at this time and requested Officer - to meet me at my Police Department.

At the St. Louis Police Department, I spoke with Officer and requested that he make contact at to speak with the female subject that I had made contact with just to verify that I had been there since I did not check out with Dispatch. Officer also made contact with several neighbors in the he area of Wilson Blvd. and W. State St. to take witness statements.

Officer later contacted me and advised he would complete a report and FAX it to the Police Department. See attached report

STATUS:

Closed.