



**Phoenix Police Department**  
**Public Affairs Bureau**  
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



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# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**Date/Time:** August 19, 2025, around 4:04 a.m.  
**Incident:** 2025-1211407  
**Location:** 2000 West Northern Avenue  
**Suspect:** Rocky Joe Ellis, 47-year old, deceased

**UPDATE: August 20, 2025**

The suspect in this incident has been identified as Rocky Joe Ellis.

*Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez*  
*Public Affairs Bureau*

## **Officer Involved Shooting**

(August 19, 2025) Detectives are investigating an officer involved shooting near 2000 West Northern Avenue.

On August 19, 2025, at approximately 4:04 a.m., officers assigned to the Desert Horizon Precinct were responding to a trespassing call near 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Northern Avenue at a local restaurant. As officers were on their way to the call, additional information came in that the man was cutting himself inside the restaurant with employees and customers inside. As officers arrived, they found the adult male outside the establishment holding a hatchet. An officer began to give commands to the man to drop the hatchet, however he began to walk toward officers. One officer used a less lethal tool with limited effect on the man. As the man moved towards officers, the officer involved shooting occurred. There was one officer involved in firing his weapon.

As additional officers arrived on the scene, they moved up and took the man in custody and provided medical aid. The Phoenix Fire Department arrived on the scene and transported the man to a nearby hospital where he later died.

The Department of Public Safety will be investigating the shooting. Phoenix homicide detectives were also on the scene. The area will be shutdown for an extended period of time as the scene is investigated and processed.

*Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez*

