

Al Gordon - \$50,000 Enhanced Reward



Orlando Police Officer Alfred L. Gordon, Sr.

End of Watch: Thursday, October 4, 2007

Orlando Police Officer Alfred Gordon was shot and killed while attempting to take police action during a robbery attempt while he was off duty. He had gone to an ATM at the intersection of Silver Star and North Hiawasse Road, in Orange County, at approximately 1:00 am. As he returned to his car he was approached by two juveniles armed with a handgun. Officer Gordon drew his off duty weapon but was shot twice before being able to fire. He was found in his car with his gun on his lap a short time later by an off duty Orange County Sheriff's Office deputy. His police department identification was found on the ground nearby.

During the initial stages of the investigation the Crimeline (Central Florida Crime Stoppers program) reward was enhanced by local and state law enforcement agencies to a total of up to \$50,000. This reward included the standard homicide reward of up to \$5000 offered by Crimeline. The reward was posted in every media update and included each time the case was discussed publicly urging the public to assist in solving the crime. The call center used by Crimeline was notified to be prepared for a significant increase in tips. During the first 48 hours of the case only 16 tips were received. One tipster began contacting the program on October 5 at approximately 5pm, this tipster called the program a total of 12 different times providing constant updates on the two individuals responsible for the shooting death of Officer Gordon. At approximately 2am on October 6, Det Barb Bergin (Law Enforcement coordinator for Crimeline) located the murder weapon in a trash can at a local McDonalds based on information provided by the tipster. Both juvenile suspects were taken into custody on October 6th at approximately 6am by SWAT teams serving search warrants. One juvenile suspect gave a confession to the shooting death of Officer Al Gordon. One of the juveniles had been released from prison only weeks earlier after serving several years for an armed robbery. Both suspects were convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison August 9, 2009.

Officer Gordon was a veteran of the US Army where he served as an MP for 11 years. He had served with the Orlando Police Department for 18 1/2 years, and was assigned to the Orlando International Airport. He is survived by his son and two daughters.

The anonymous tipster contacted the program the same day of the arrest unaware that the suspects were in custody. During the final conversation with the tipster Det Barb Bergin advised the tipster arrangements would be made to pay the tipster the reward. Initially the tipster stated they did not provide the information to collect a reward, they stated they were born and raised in the area and if a police officer could be shot and killed while withdrawing money it could happen to anyone. Tipster utilized the tip line for anonymity and to help keep their community safe. Det Barb Bergin asked the tipster if they knew the reward amount, tipster stated they had no idea what it was. Det Barb Bergin informed them of the total reward amount.....arrangements were made to pay the reward!