



Armand J.J. Boudreau
Chief of Police

Treasure Island Police Department
180 – 108th Avenue
Treasure Island, Florida 33706
Dispatch: 727-547-4595 / Admin 727-547-4592
Fax: 727-547-4597



For Immediate Release

Date of Release: Friday, May 24, 2019
Classification: Aggravated Battery with a Firearm
Date/Time of Incident: Friday, May 24, 2019, 4:44 pm
Case Number: TI19-8625
Offense Location: 8400 Block Blind Pass Drive, Treasure Island, Florida

On Friday, May 24, 2019, at approximately 4:44 pm, Treasure Island Police Officers were dispatched to a call in the 8400 Block of Blind Pass Drive. A 911 caller reported two men were arguing behind a condominium complex. At approximately 4:47 pm, Treasure Island Police Officers were dispatched to a residence on 81st Avenue, a location not far from the first 911 call. Officers responded to the priority shooting call. Upon arrival, they located a male victim who had been shot in the abdomen.

An investigation revealed the shooting was the result of an altercation between a bicyclist and a motorist. The bicyclist, identified as 57-year-old Richard Ponce of Treasure Island, was riding his bicycle southbound on W. Gulf Blvd. The motorist, identified as 68-year-old Gary Bancroft of Riverview, FL, was driving a pick-up truck southbound on W. Gulf Blvd. It was reported Bancroft came upon Ponce who may have been driving his bike in the middle of the travel lane. Bancroft allegedly honked his horn and passed Ponce.

The bicyclist confronted the motorist who had stopped a short distance away at his residence. A verbal argument escalated into a physical confrontation which resulted in Ponce being shot once by Bancroft. Ponce was treated by Treasure Island Fire Rescue Paramedics and transported to Bayfront Medical Center for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

Additional witnesses were located, evidence has been gathered and the investigation continues.

If you witnessed the incident or if you have any information regarding the altercation, please contact the Treasure Island Police Department by calling 727-547-4595.

No other information is available at this time.