



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



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: April 14, 2022, approximately 10:30 a.m.
Incident: 2022-562563
Location: Cave Creek Road and Beardsley Road
Suspect: 35-year-old Nicholas Cowan – Arrested
33-year-old Nicole Montalbano – MCSO Booking # T772133
Officer: Mazin Toma #8365

Officer Involved Shooting Investigation

On April 14, 2022, at about 10:15 a.m., Phoenix Police responded to a suicidal person call at a gas station near Cave Creek Road and Beardsley Road. Officers contacted the adult female caller who stated she left her home and came to the gas station to call police to avoid a confrontation with her boyfriend. The woman told officers her boyfriend, Nicholas Cowan, had committed several criminal acts, and attempted to commit suicide. She said he also made threats to shoot it out with the police if they were called.

While the officers were speaking to the woman, Cowan arrived at the gas station in a vehicle. As an officer was walking toward Cowan, he fired a handgun from inside the vehicle, striking the officer. A backup officer responded to the threat and returned fire while the suspect continued shooting, now at the backup officer.

Cowan fled the area in his vehicle, which was later located unoccupied. Detectives are actively working to locate and arrest Cowan.

The injured officer was transported to a local hospital where she underwent surgery and is recovering.

No other citizens or officers were injured during this incident.

UPDATE: 4/15

The FBI is assisting with the search for Nicholas Cowan, who is likely injured from the shootout with police. If anyone sees Cowan, call 911 and do NOT approach him.

The total reward for information leading to the arrest of Cowan is up to \$35,000. (\$5,000 Silent Witness, \$5,000 ATF, \$25,000 FBI. Reward monies paid from other agencies will be handled independently and may have different payout criteria)

For phone tips, please call 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or submit them at tips.fbi.gov

UPDATE: 4/17

Search Continues for Man Who Shot Phoenix Cop

The search for 35-year-old Nicholas Cowan remains a 24/7 operation and will continue until he is located. Phoenix police detectives have been working relentlessly to locate and arrest Cowan who is wanted for the attempted murder of a Phoenix police officer. Detectives are utilizing every investigative tool at their disposal and are following up on every lead and every tip received from the public.

Cowan has been on the run since he opened fire on Phoenix police, Thursday around 10:30 in the morning, at a gas station near Cave Creek and Beardsley Roads. He is no longer in the Prius he was driving at the time of the shooting. That vehicle has been located and has been impounded as evidence.

A number of local and federal partners are helping Phoenix investigators with the search and Cowan's information has been disseminated to law enforcement agencies throughout the southwest. Cowan is believed to be injured from the gunfire exchange with police and could need medical attention.

Shortly after the shooting, Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams expressed anger and frustration over the violence directed at law enforcement both locally and nationally.

Williams said on Sunday, "These attacks taking place in our own backyard and across our country show a blatant disregard for human life and law enforcement." She went on to say, "Despite these attacks on our police family, our officers continue to respond to calls for service to assure the safety of our community. We are committed to finding the criminal who attacked one of our own. That commitment extends to all victims of crime."

The officer shot in this incident remains in intensive care in stable condition. She comes from a family of public servants. She and her husband, also a police officer, have dedicated their lives to protecting our community.

If anyone sees Cowan, **call 911**. He is considered armed and dangerous. **DO NOT APPROACH HIM.**

A reward of \$35,000 is being offered in connection with this case. If you have any information, please call 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or submit them at tips.fbi.gov. If you want to remain anonymous call Silent Witness at 480-WITNESS or 480-948-6377.

(Silent Witness, the ATF and the FBI have all posted money toward the reward. Monies paid from the various agencies will be handled independently and may have different payout criteria.)

UPDATE: 4/17

After approximately 80 hours since the investigation began, Nicholas Cowan has been located and arrested. Phoenix Police received a citizen tip that Cowan was staying at a rental property in Scottsdale near 66th Street and Osborn Road. Officers from the Phoenix Police Department Tactical Support Bureau surrounded the property and negotiated with Cowan for several hours to encourage a surrender. Cowan was eventually taken into custody at about 7:45 p.m. inside the residence. He was transported to a local hospital to receive medical treatment for apparent gunshot wounds that he likely sustained during the shootout with police on Thursday morning. Upon release from the hospital, Cowan will be booked on multiple charges.

Investigators believe Cowan was assisted by several people over the last few days and have arrested and booked 33-year-old Nicole Montalbano for her role in aiding him. Multiple search warrants were served at locations across the valley while investigators followed up on leads during the manhunt.

The officer shot by Cowan continues to recover in the hospital.

This investigation is ongoing. An update will be provided when Cowan is booked into jail.

UPDATE: 4/26

Nicholas Cowan was released from the hospital and booked into jail yesterday evening on two counts of attempted first-degree murder, among other charges. His MCSO booking number is T773983.

UPDATE: 4/26

During the booking process at the jail it was determined Cowan needed to return to the hospital for monitoring. He was not officially turned over to MCSO custody before that occurred. When there is additional information about his formal booking we will share it.

UPDATE: 4/28

Caroline Coster – MCSO Booking number T774477

Michael Hankins – MCSO Booking number T774479

On April 27th, 35-year-old Caroline Coster and 41-year-old Michael Hankins were arrested and booked into jail for their role in assisting Nicholas Cowan evade police from April 14th to April 17th.