

OFFICER ESTABLISHES STANDOFF RAPPORT ONLY TO SEE MAN SUDDENLY SHOOT SELF

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, September 23, 1995

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Nothing could prepare Detroit police **officer** Kelvin Patrick for what his Friday shift would bring.

Just a few feet away from the barrel of a .357 Magnum, Patrick pleaded for 2 1/2 hours with a crying, suicidal gunman.

For 2 1/2 hours, their eyes locked through the windshield of Anthony Fields' brown Ford LTD. Then, without warning, the **standoff** ended with a pop and the shattering of the driver's side window.

At the sound of the gunshot, Patrick screamed, then watched in horror as medics rushed Fields' car.

The 12th (Palmer Park) Precinct **officer**, who is in his 30s, collapsed sobbing into the arms of colleagues and was half-carried, half-dragged to a patrol car. He was hospitalized for psychiatric help and released later in the day.

"**Officer** Patrick put himself in extreme danger. But to him the most important thing was trying to save this person," said Commander Broderick Williams, who heads the 12th Precinct.

"We think he's going to be OK but when something like this happens all the macho stuff goes out the window. You could never prepare yourself for being involved in a situation like this."

Watching Patrick's distress, a young woman yelled out, "Damn, cops do care about people."

Williams said Patrick was the second **officer** on the scene as police stopped and cornered Fields, who was attempting to flee in his car. They'd been told Fields had just shot his mother-in-law after a domestic dispute.

The 40-year-old woman died at Grace Hospital.

Williams said, to his knowledge, it was the first time Patrick had served as a negotiator. The designated negotiator, upon arriving at the scene, determined that Patrick was already doing an excellent job.

"He had done everything right. He had established **rapport** and the suspect was showing every sign of giving up," Williams said. "Then it happened. No one knows why."

Williams said he talked extensively with Patrick after he returned to the precinct from the hospital.

"Now he's second-guessing himself and wondering what he should have done differently. But in everyone's opinion who was at the scene, **Officer** Patrick did an excellent job," Williams said.
"We have no way of controlling what another human being will do."

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Record Number: 9501290882

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