

A reported disturbance at a Rainier car audio shop turned deadly yesterday when the responding officer got into a struggle with a suspect, and was killed by gunshot.

Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter responded to the disturbance at 75938 Rockcrest Street in Rainier, the location for Rainier Sound Authority. Chief Painter made contact with the suspect at the store and a struggle ensued. The officer was wounded with a gunshot and later was pronounced dead.

Police agencies from Every Columbia County law enforcement agency responded, as did officers and deputies from the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, Longview Police Department and the Washington State Patrol.

Columbia 911 took the initial call and helped guide the law enforcement response and media frenzy that followed. Tactical dispatchers from Columbia 911 assisted at the scene.

The Sheriff's Office is the Incident Command for the massive public safety response, including the subsequent investigation. Investigators from the Oregon State Police are providing the primary assistance to the investigation through the Columbia County Major Crimes team. The lone Columbia County Sheriff's detective is assigned to the team.