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SECRECY SURROUNDS DEPUTY'S SLAYING - SHERIFF NONCOMMITTAL ON ADDITIONAL SUSPECTS

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Shelby County Sheriff's Department officials kept quiet Saturday about the investigation into the fatal shooting of a sheriff's deputy early Friday morning.

A suspect, Roderick Duane Cobb, remained in custody on an unrelated charge.

It was unclear how the shooting took place. Cobb, who was handcuffed and placed in the back seat of the deputy's patrol car, has denied firing the shots that killed deputy Sherry Goodman, 38.

Authorities would not comment on other possible suspects, including a woman who had been with Cobb minutes before the shooting.

"The sheriff won't allow anyone to discuss elements of an investigation," said sheriff's department spokesman Kay Black.

"He used to be chief of detectives, and he's very by-the-book when it comes to conducting an investigation and not leaking information."

The investigation is being led by the department's detective division, with assistance from the FBI and the Memphis Police Department.

Investigators have conducted several tests, Black said. She would not say if these tests included a test for gunshot residue on the hands of suspects. Such tests can show whether a person has fired a gun recently.

The events that led to the shooting began with a routine traffic stop at 2:18 a.m. Friday in Frayser.

Goodman took Cobb into custody after pulling him over and learning that he was wanted for violating patrol. A female companion was not arrested.

With the help of another deputy, Goodman checked Cobb for weapons and found none. Cobb was handcuffed with his arms behind his back.

The other deputy left, responding to another call. Goodman allowed the woman to use Goodman's personal cellular phone. It is unclear what happened to the woman at that point.

Goodman began driving Cobb to the Criminal Justice Center at 2:59 a.m.

Fifteen minutes later Goodman was found at Thomas and Weakley in North Memphis in the wrecked patrol car. She had bullet wounds to the left side of her head. Cobb was gone.

Goodman's .40-caliber Beretta was missing. A .38-caliber revolver was on the front seat.

Sheriff A. C. Gilles related that information Friday, but did not suggest a possible scenario that would have allowed the handcuffed Cobb to shoot Goodman.

Cobb's sister, Sharron Cobb, said her brother offered an explanation when he talked to her by telephone before he surrendered to Memphis police Friday morning.

Cobb told his sister that the shots were fired from a car that pulled up beside Goodman's patrol car. Gilles would not say whether the car had been shot from the outside.

Sharron Cobb said her brother told her he ducked down during the shooting. When the car crashed, he kicked out a side window, dove through it and ran, she said.

Authorities said Cobb appeared to have kicked out a back window.

Sharron Cobb said her brother told her he didn't take anything from the car.

Investigators were questioning Cobb's companion Friday. Black would not say on Saturday if the woman still was being questioned or if she had been released. Black would not identify the woman, saying a name would be released only if the woman is charged.

Cobb, 25, had been charged in the past two years with vandalism and possession of weapons and drug paraphernalia. He is being held on a warrant of violation of his parole.

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