



**HARRISON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT** *SHERIFF*

TROY J. PETERSON

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

For Immediate Release

On Sunday, February 5, 2018, Sheriff Troy J. Peterson announced details in reference to an officer involved shooting, which occurred in the area of 23rd Ave and 28th Street, Gulfport, MS.

Sheriff Peterson related on February 5, 2018 at approximately 0020 hours, that members of the Harrison County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit along with Agents from the Coastal Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and Gulfport Police Officers traveled to a vacant residence in the 2200 block of 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS after receiving information that a wanted fugitive for Aggravated Assault, Ernie Joseph Lizana Jr., was there. Lizana was wanted by Gulfport Police Department for a shooting that occurred over the weekend.

Upon arrival in the area, Investigators and Agents witnessed Lizana flee from a vacant residence. Lizana fired at Officers and Officers returned fire. Lizana was struck multiple times and was pronounced deceased by Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove on scene.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI) responded to the scene to take over the investigation and members of the Gulfport Crime Scene Unit and the Harrison County District Attorney's Office are also assisting with the investigation.

Investigative Officer: Captain Ryan Hearn

Arresting Officer(s):

Approved For Release: _____

Troy J. Peterson, Sheriff, Harrison County, Mississippi