

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Investigation of Chula Vista Police Department Officer-Involved Shooting

Chula Vista – On Sunday, December 18, 2022, at approximately 8:21 p.m., the Chula Vista Police Department received a radio call in the 1100 block of Broadway in the city of Chula Vista. Multiple callers reported a female screaming for help and a male hitting a female. As Chula Vista Police responded, callers identified the suspect in the radio call as a male wearing a white t-shirt and gray sweatpants, walking with a wheelchair, and hitting cars with his hands and parts from the wheelchair. One caller noted that the male was standing next to a black truck in a shopping center parking lot.

A canine officer arrived at the scene and located the subject of the radio call standing next to a parked pickup truck in the parking lot. As he began to make contact, he noticed the male was holding a knife. He began to give the male commands to drop the knife. The male climbed into the bed of the pickup truck, crouched down, and began hitting the back windows of the truck. It was later determined the pickup truck did not belong to the male.

The male then jumped back out of the truck and began approaching the officer with the knife in his hand. The officer gave the male commands to stop, but he continued to approach the officer. At that point, the canine officer fired his service weapon at the man, striking him multiple times. The male fell to the ground. Officers were able to move the knife away from him and begin life-saving efforts until paramedics arrived. Unfortunately, the male was pronounced deceased at the scene. The pickup truck behind the male was also struck by rounds.

The male has been identified but his identity is not being released at this time. He is described as a 32-year-old white male and a resident of Chula Vista.

The officer involved in this incident has been employed by Chula Vista Police Department for approximately five years. He is currently assigned as a canine handler. No officers were injured during this incident.

Per the Countywide Memorandum of Understanding, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit was called to the scene to conduct the officer-involved-shooting investigation.

The investigation and review process for officer-involved shootings are extremely thorough. When the Homicide Unit completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officers bear any criminal liability for their actions. The Chula Vista Police Department will conduct an administrative investigation into the officers' discharge of their firearm. The Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office will also be monitoring the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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