

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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San Diego Police Launch Internal Investigation into Use-of-Force Incident

San Diego – The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) is currently investigating a use-of-force incident involving a police canine that has caused concern among community members.

The incident occurred at a home on Duluth Ave. in the Valencia Park neighborhood late Thursday, Oct. 24. Just before midnight, officers responded to a 911 call about a man who threatened a woman with a gun. After speaking with the victim and witnesses, the officers put together a plan to contact the 31-year-old suspect, who was described as wearing only loose-fitting shorts.

Officers called for the suspect to come out of the home, and he emerged a short time later. Officers repeatedly ordered the suspect to surrender. He did not, and officers used three less-lethal beanbag rounds and a police canine to take him into custody. The suspect was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest. He was taken to a hospital for treatment. No firearm was found, and he was not booked into jail. A criminal investigation was forwarded to the City Attorney's Office for further review.

Video of this call prompted questions on how the incident was resolved, and a formal complaint was filed. SDPD's Internal Affairs Unit is investigating that complaint, a process that is governed by both state law and department regulations.

Investigators are examining the publicly released footage, body-worn camera video, witness statements, and more as part of the investigative process.

Because this incident involves allegations that force was improperly used, the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) will monitor the investigation. The Department of Justice will also review the case.

The City's independent Commission on Police Practices will review the department's investigation and provide their assessment, as well.

The incident will be further reviewed by SDPD's Training Division to determine if the involved officers followed SDPD- and POST-approved training as well as professional best practices.

STATEMENT FROM POLICE CHIEF SCOTT WAHL:

"As with many uses of force, videos of this nature are very difficult to view. We are already in the process of conducting a thorough review of the incident, and I'm committed to exploring how the situation could have been handled differently. The San Diego Police Department welcomes conversations about our use of force procedures and regularly evaluates those practices to determine if improvements are needed."

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