

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Officer Identified in La Mesa OIS

San Diego – An officer-involved shooting occurred in La Mesa after a man rammed a police vehicle during a pursuit. The man was wanted in relation to a domestic violence incident that occurred earlier in the day.

On May 26, 2025, at about 10:40 a.m., La Mesa Police Department officers responded to a report of a man strangling a female in the area of 7700 Normal Avenue. As officers arrived, they observed the described suspect drive away with a female inside his vehicle. They attempted to pull the car over, at which time the driver failed to yield. The driver did pull over briefly, allowing the female passenger to exit, then took off again. The female is described as a 29-year-old Black female. Her name will not be released at this time. Officers began to pursue the suspect again, but the pursuit was terminated once officers learned two young children, ages 5 and 7, were still inside the vehicle.

A short time later, the suspect returned to the female's location and the kids exited his vehicle. Officers then reinitiated the pursuit. A tire deflation device was deployed, but the driver continued to flee from officers. The driver eventually stopped in the area of 4400 Parks Avenue, then backed into the front of the police vehicle stopped behind him. At the time the police vehicle was struck, the passenger officer was preparing to exit the vehicle to conduct a high-risk vehicle stop. The impact caused the officer to hit his head, injuring him. In response, the officer fired his handgun multiple times in the direction of the suspect vehicle. The vehicle was struck several times, but the suspect himself was not hit.

The suspect fled again, this time leading officers on a lengthy pursuit into the city of San Diego and eventually back into La Mesa. Tire deflation devices were deployed at least twice more, but the driver still refused to stop.

The pursuit finally concluded in the area of 7800 University Avenue, after a relative of the suspect stepped into traffic in front of the suspect's vehicle, forcing him to stop. The suspect exited the vehicle, and a police K9 was deployed, but the bite was not successful. The suspect fled on foot for about two

blocks before being taken into custody by officers from La Mesa, San Diego, and El Cajon. El Cajon officers deployed a Taser and a police K9 to help get the violent suspect into custody.

The suspect, identified as Jahlil Johnson of La Mesa, was transported to a local hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during the arrest. He was not struck by gunfire. He will be booked into county jail for multiple felony charges including domestic violence and child endangerment. He is described as a 29-year-old black male.

The shooting officer is now identified as Officer Taylor Persitza. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment and has since been released. He has been with the La Mesa Police Department for eight years.

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives were called to investigate per the countywide memorandum of understanding regarding officer-involved shootings. La Mesa Police Department will be handling the initial domestic violence investigation.

Officer-involved shooting investigations are extremely thorough, as is the review process. When Homicide completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officer bears any criminal liability for his actions. The La Mesa Police Department will conduct an administrative investigation into the officer's discharge of their firearm. The Federal Bureau of Investigation 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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