

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 26, 2025

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Deputy and Decedent Identified in IB Shooting

San Diego — On Sunday afternoon, a deputy-involved shooting occurred near the Imperial Beach Pier.

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, at approximately 1:38 p.m., two San Diego County Sheriff's deputies and a sergeant were contacted by a male in the area of the Imperial Beach Pier, located at 940 Seacoast Drive.

During the contact, the male stepped away from the deputies and produced a knife. The male made statements consistent with wanting to be shot by the deputies, then advanced toward them holding the knife in his hand. Deputy Maxwell Hammond fired multiple shots toward the man, striking him at least once. The man was transported to a local hospital, but he did not survive his injuries. He is now identified as 51-year-old Gary Gates. Gates is from Evansville, Indiana, and had been in the San Diego area for about two years. Deputy Hammond has worked with the San Diego County Sheriff's Office for approximately three years and is currently assigned to the Imperial Beach Substation.

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives were called to investigate per the countywide memorandum of understanding regarding officer-involved shootings. Officer-involved shooting investigations are extremely thorough, as is the review process. When SDPD Homicide completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the deputy bears any criminal liability for his actions. The San Diego County Sheriff's Office will review the investigation for any violations of policy. 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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