

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Arrests at Chicano Park on June 27, 2019**

**San Diego** – Anytime force is used, we take it extremely seriously. We have initiated an internal investigation into the force that was used last night.

The incident started with a traffic stop being conducted by an officer and a sergeant. Georgina Mercado (35yrs old) was uninvolved with the traffic stop but interfered with the officers who were attempting to conduct their traffic enforcement. Mercado was placed under arrest. She had her three children with her, ages eight, seven and four. The officers attempted to determine the safest and best possible resolution for the three children.

Eddie Alvarez (22yrs old) arrived on scene along with another female who stated they would take custody of the three children. Alvarez wore a bandana covering his face and refused to identify himself to the officers. The officers could not release the children to Alvarez without knowing who he was. This contact with Alvarez escalated to the point that the officers arrested Alvarez for interfering. During the arrest, Alvarez would not place his hands behind his back and a struggle ensued. Officers used strikes while they forcefully moved his arms behind his back. Using these tactics they were able to handcuff him and take him to jail.

The internal investigation will determine if the force used was appropriate and whether or not policies and procedures were followed. Investigators will examine all available evidence including video footage and witness statements.

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