

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update On Officer-Involved Shooting in El Cerrito

San Diego - On August 24, 2019, around 7:47 p.m., a 70-year-old woman called 911 saying that her 52-year-old nephew had thrown a brick at her. When officers arrived in the 5800 block of Adelaide Avenue in the El Cerrito neighborhood, they encountered the 52-year-old male and an officer involved shooting occurred. The man was struck at least one time by gunfire. Officers rendered first aid and called for medics. Despite the efforts of the officers and San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel, the man did not survive his injuries.

Investigators from the San Diego Police Homicide Unit were called to the scene to handle the investigation. Although it is still early in the investigation, detectives have been able to establish the following sequence of events: Officers were called to the scene by the 70 year-old aunt of the man who was shot. She told the officers the man had psychiatric issues and was not taking his medication. The woman also told officers that he hadn't been caring for himself, and when she asked him to clean up he became angry and threw a brick like object at her. She told the officers she was struck by the brick, but was not injured. She asked the officers to check on her nephew and make sure he was taking his medication. According to the aunt, officers have contacted the man in the past, and he had never been combative.

Believing the incident involved a person possibly having psychiatric issues, the officers called for the assistance of the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT). PERT Clinicians ride with police officers to provide additional resources to people suffering from mental health issues. It is important to understand PERT Clinicians are not police officers, and will not have contact with individuals until the situation has been stabilized. As the officers entered the backyard area to determine the location of the man, he quickly emerged from an outbuilding, holding a shovel. The officers gave the man verbal commands to drop the shovel. One of the officers drew his Taser at that point. The man did not cooperate with the officers' commands and began to rapidly advance on the officers as he swung the shovel. One officer fired the Taser, which did not have any effect on him. The man continued to advance, prompting the other officer to fire his service weapon. The officers provided aid to the man until paramedics

arrived. The situation evolved rapidly, lasting approximately three seconds from the time the man emerged from the outbuilding until shots were fired.

The 52 year-old man has been identified as Dennis Carolino, of San Diego.

The officers involved in this incident are assigned to Mid-City Division. The officer who fired the Taser is Officer Jose Mendez, a sixteen-year veteran of the department. The officer who fired his service weapon is Officer Brad Keyes, a four-year veteran of the department.

As with any officer-involved shooting, the investigation completed by the Homicide Unit will be turned over to the San Diego County District Attorney's Office for review. The Federal Bureau of Investigations and United States Attorney's Office will also monitor the investigation. The investigation will also be reviewed by the Internal Affairs Unit of the San Diego Police Department to determine if the officers' actions were within department policy. The San Diego Police Department is committed to the preservation and protection of all lives. As with all tragic incidents, a review of the training and tactics provided to our officers will be conducted.

Assembly Bill 748 requires agencies to release body camera footage within 45 days of an incident. The San Diego Police Department will meet that timeline. While we are still in the beginning stages of this investigation, the department has been able to compile all of the above listed information.

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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