

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officer-Involved Shooting in Teralta East Neighborhood

San Diego – At approximately 3:50 p.m., on July 9, 2020, the San Diego Police Communications Center received a 911 call regarding a man brandishing a gun in what was originally described as the 4300 block of Menlo Avenue. Two women were driving in the area when they were confronted by a man with a handgun. The man manipulated the slide of the gun as if he were loading it and pointed the gun towards the women. Fearing for their safety, the women drove away and called 911. When officers arrived, the women directed them to a male that was mid-block in the 4200 block of Menlo Avenue. When the officers attempted to detain the subject, an officer-involved shooting ensued. Unfortunately, the man did not survive his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. There were no other injuries associated with this incident. A weapon was recovered however, it has not yet been determined if the weapon was real or operational.

Investigators from the San Diego Police Homicide Unit were called to the scene to investigate the incident. It is still very early in the investigation, but based on several civilian witness interviews and the initial public safety statements from the officers, we have learned the following information. As the officers approached the man, they took positions of cover to allow them time and distance while they began giving the man directions. The officers requested air support, canine and non-lethal bean bags. The officers could see the man had a gun and when he raised his hands, a gun fell to the ground. The officers gave the man directions to move away from the gun to reduce the immediacy of the threat, but he refused. A canine unit was already en route to the call, but the officers asked for them to expedite their response due to the man being uncooperative and still in close proximity to the gun.

While the officers were waiting for the canine unit, they continued giving the male directions, which he refused to comply with. At one point, the man picked up the gun and began to point it at officers, prompting several officers to discharge their service

weapons. The man was struck at least once and fell to the ground. The man was still moving and was in control of the weapon and had it pointed in the officers' direction, prompting a second volley of shots. The officers continued trying to get him to move away from the weapon. When they got no response, they developed a plan to use a combination of non-lethal options, including a bean bag round and canine, to safely take him into custody.

Once the man was separated from the gun, the officers immediately began life-saving efforts. The officers were eventually relieved by San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel. Despite their efforts, the man succumbed to his wounds and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The man's identity has not been determined at this time, but he was described by witnesses as either a Hispanic or light-skinned Black male in his thirties or forties.

Seven San Diego Police Officers discharged their service weapons in this incident. They are not being identified at this time, but all were assigned to Mid-City Division. As with all officer-involved shootings, the officers will be placed on administrative duty.

The investigation and review process for an officer-involved shooting is extremely thorough. When the Homicide Unit completes their investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officers bear any criminal liability for their actions. The Internal Affairs Unit will conduct an investigation to determine if there were any policy violations, and the Shooting Review Board will evaluate the tactics used by the officers. The Community Review Board on Police Practices will conduct a review of the incident and provide any appropriate recommendations. 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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