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February 25, 2020
For Immediate Release

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District Attorney Releases Reviews of Three, Non-Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office today released its detailed reviews of three non-fatal officer-involved shooting incidents. There is no body-worn camera or other video evidence in two of the three the incidents.

Suspect Holding Man Hostage Shot During Standoff

On December 3, 2016, San Diego County Sheriff Deputies were dispatched to a disturbance in the 6000 block of Paseo Delicias in Rancho Santa Fe. Deputies responded and found Edward Nett, 50, in a nearby apartment stairwell. Deputies fired pepper-ball rounds and released a sheriff's canine in an effort to take Nett into custody. Nett stabbed the canine with a knife and kicked in the front door of an apartment occupied by a 25-year-old man. Nett took the resident hostage, held a knife to his throat, and threatened to kill him. Two Deputies spotted Nett through the broken front door. Recognizing the risk to the hostage and others, one of the Deputies fired, striking Nett. Deputies entered and freed the hostage, who was unharmed. Nett was transported to the hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening gunshot wounds.

The District Attorney's review determined Deputies took appropriate steps to avoid the use of deadly force after verbal engagement was unsuccessful. Multiple pepper-ball deployments and the use of a canine were ineffective at incapacitating Nett. Nett further escalated the situation by informing deputies he was going to kill his hostage. The Deputy could see Nett armed with the knife inside the apartment and recognized the danger Nett presented. Fearing Nett would carry out his threat to kill the hostage, the Deputy fired his handgun until he saw Nett drop the knife and fall to the floor. The circumstances of the present case demonstrate the deputy's use of deadly force was reasonable. As a result, he bears no state criminal liability for his actions.

The District Attorney's detailed analysis, which was signed by former District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis in 2017, [can be found here](#). The letter has been withheld for public release pending the conclusion of criminal proceedings against Nett, who was convicted of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment and animal cruelty. Nett was sentenced to 21 years, 8 months in state prison in 2019.

Police Who Were Fired on by Murder Suspect Return Fire

On April 18, 2015, San Diego Police Department detectives received information that Ahmed Mumin, 30, a murder suspect, was armed and staying in an apartment complex on Winona Avenue in the Fox Canyon neighborhood. Detectives and uniformed patrol officers began searching the complex for Mumin. Detectives checked the doors to a community room located in the center of the complex. One detective began to turn the community-room door handle and was immediately fired upon by Mumin, who was hiding inside. Two officers returned fire striking Mumin once who was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Hospital toxicology reports showed Mumin tested positive for methamphetamine and benzodiazepines.

When Mumin fired through the closed community-room door, the detectives reasonably feared for their lives and returned fire. Based on these circumstances, the District Attorney determined the Deputies fired in self-defense and therefore bear no state criminal liability for their actions. The District Attorney's detailed analysis, which was signed by former District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis in 2016, [can be found here](#). The letter has been withheld for public release pending the conclusion of criminal proceedings against Mumin, who was convicted of murder and 13 other felony crimes. Mumin was sentenced to life in state prison in 2019.

Man Shot after Attacking Deputy Sheriff's Car with Metal Baseball Bat

On December 21, 2018 at 3:34 a.m., two San Diego County Sheriff's Deputies were conducting surveillance in the area near Reche Road and Ranger Road in the city of Fallbrook due to two separate assaults which occurred earlier that same evening. An unknown male had approached two vehicles at different times and assaulted two individuals stopped at that location. The first victim said the suspect struck his car four times with an object similar to a baseball bat and shattered his passenger side window. The second assault occurred just over two hours later. The suspect assaulted that victim with a baseball bat, causing multiple bruises, cuts to the victim's right temple and face, and leg contusions. A deputy located a black Honda Civic concealed in the area of the attacks. The car belonged to Jesus Rodriguez, 30, whom deputies learned suffered from mental illness, was homeless and living out of the car.

Deputies began surveillance on Rodriguez. During the operation, one Deputy was seated in an unmarked vehicle wearing a plainclothes over his uniform. A second Deputy was in uniform and in his patrol car but parked in a concealed location. At approximately 4:20 a.m., Rodriguez approached the first Deputy's vehicle from the rear and smashed the driver's side front window with a baseball bat. Rodriguez attempted to swing the bat again, but the Deputy shot him several times. Rodriguez ran away holding the bat in his hand. The Deputy ran after him, identified himself as a Deputy Sheriff and ordered Rodriguez to stop. Rodriguez did not comply and continued running. Rodriguez abruptly stopped and turned to face the Deputy with the bat raised above his head as if preparing to attack. The Deputy shot Rodriguez. Paramedics arrived and transported Rodriguez to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

In light of the danger presented to him and the community, the Sheriff's Deputy lawfully fired his weapon in self-defense. Deputy Cortez bears no state criminal liability for his actions in this incident. The District Attorney's detailed analysis [can be found here](#). The letter has been withheld for public release pending the conclusion of criminal proceedings against Rodriguez, who convicted of assault with a deadly weapon. Rodriguez was sentenced to five years formal probation and ordered into a residential mental health treatment program on February 24, 2020.