

## District Attorney Releases Detailed Reviews of Five Officer-Involved Shootings

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office today released its review of five officer-involved shootings and decisions regarding criminal liability for the police and Sheriff's deputies involved. In all five incidents the individuals involved had methamphetamine in their system. Summaries of each incident are below, along with links to letters detailing the DA's review, as well as civilian and law enforcement witness statements.

### Man Points Pistol at Officers in City Heights

On the afternoon of July 9, 2020, a person called 911 and reported a man pointed a gun at her and her companion. She said he was carrying a black handgun in his right front pocket. San Diego Police officers responded. The reporting party directed officers to Richard Price, 49, who was on Menlo Avenue holding what appeared to be a handgun. Price was not compliant with officers' commands and dropped what officers believed was a handgun near his feet. Officers ordered Price to step away from the gun, but Price picked it up and pointed it at the officers. Seven officers discharged their firearms, striking Price multiple times. Price was transported by medics to UCSD Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The handgun Price used was later determined to be an airsoft pistol that resembled a firearm.



Airsoft Pistol like the one involved in the shooting of Richard Price.

Toxicology testing from Price detected amphetamine, methamphetamine and phencyclidine (PCP) in his system.

The District Attorney's review found the officers had reason to believe there was an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm either to themselves, other officers, or residents in the neighborhood. Under the totality of circumstances, the officers involved bear no state criminal liability for their actions.

*The San Diego Police Department has released video evidence of the incident previously. The DA's detailed review can be found [here](#).*

## **Man Slips Handcuffs, Takes Officer's Gun and Fires at Officers**

On July 5, 2020 San Diego Police officers responded to the Westgate Hotel after receiving a report of a man causing a disturbance in the lobby. Officers arrested Keith Bergman, 25, for being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. Bergman was transported to the sally port at SDPD headquarters. Officers began the booking process while Bergman sat in the back of the patrol unit. Bergman slipped out of his handcuffs, pulled back a divider which separated the trunk, and removed an officer's backpack where a loaded gun was kept. When an officer went to check on him, Bergman tried to push the door open. Other officers went to assist. An officer saw Bergman holding a firearm and Bergman was ordered to drop the weapon and show his hands, but he refused.

Bergman fired one round which went through the rear window of the patrol vehicle toward an area where an officer was standing. Officers fired back and one of the rounds shattered the rear driver's side door window. Bergman reached through the shattered glass, opened the door from the outside and exited the patrol vehicle with the firearm protruding from his waistband. With one handcuff still connected to his right wrist, Bergman walked to the rear of the police vehicle and tried to open the hatch but wasn't able to. He walked to the driver's door and reached into the compartment through an open window. An officer fired three rifle shots at Bergman, who fell to the ground but attempted to stand back up at the driver's door. The officer fired an additional shot and Bergman fell to the ground. He was taken into custody with the assistance of a police dog and transported to the hospital. Toxicology testing showed Bergman had amphetamines, methamphetamines, pseudoephedrine, benzodiazepines and cannabinoids in his system.

Bergman pled guilty on January 21, 2021 to assault on a peace officer with a firearm and possession of a firearm by a felon. He was sentenced in February to ten years in state prison.

The District Attorney's review found that officers reasonably feared for their safety and the safety of others in the sallyport and as a result, bear no state liability for their actions.

*The San Diego Police Department has released video evidence of the incident previously. The DA's detailed review can be found [here](#).*

## **High-Speed Chase Across Two Counties Ends in Shooting**

On October 3, 2020, officers from the Santa Ana Police Department attempted to initiate a traffic stop after observing multiple Vehicle Code violations and suspecting the driver of being under the influence. The driver, Christopher Ulmer, 30, failed to yield. A high-speed pursuit ensued and Ulmer drove into San Diego County, ultimately stopping on Interstate 805 near Olympic Parkway. Ulmer attempted to flee again, but officers safely executed a PIT maneuver (pursuit intervention technique), blocking in Ulmer's car.

Officers did not advance on Ulmer and used less lethal options, while repeatedly telling him to exit the vehicle with his hands up and threatening to release a police dog. Ulmer opened his driver-side door but remained in the driver seat and did not follow commands. After several minutes of ignoring the officers' commands, Ulmer abruptly stood up outside of the vehicle, adopted a shooting stance and pointed a black item toward the officers. Multiple officers discharged their firearms at Ulmer. Ulmer fell, then quickly stood up, and again pointed his outstretched right arm toward the officers. Officers fired again and Ulmer fell to the ground. Paramedics transported Ulmer to UCSD Hospital, where he was

pronounced dead. An autopsy detected methamphetamine and metabolite amphetamine in Ulmer's system. Immediately following the shooting officers found a black toothbrush case under Ulmer's torso. No firearm was located.

The District Attorney's review found that officers did not apply deadly force until Ulmer took deliberate actions to convince the officers he would shoot them. All officers reasonably perceived Ulmer as an imminent threat who intended to inflict death or great bodily injury and under the totality of the circumstances, the officers bear no state criminal liability for their actions.

*The San Diego Police Department has released video evidence of the incident previously. The DA's detailed review can be found [here](#).*

## **Attempted Murder Suspect Shot after Firing on Police**

David Angulo, 33, was a suspect in three shootings and had three active felony warrants for his arrest. The arrest warrants were for assault with a deadly weapon, attempt murder and a probation violation. Angulo was also identified as a suspect in three separate shootings which occurred in June 2020. On July 20, 2020, the Chula Vista Police Department received information on Angulo's possible location.

Angulo was believed to be in possession of two firearms. He was located standing next to a blue Ford F-150 and arguing with a man. A Task Force officer got out of his vehicle and identified himself as a law enforcement officer. He pointed his handgun at Angulo who in turn pointed a handgun back at the officer. Angulo took the man's Ford F-150 and drove away.

A Sheriff's helicopter provided the location of the vehicle to the surveillance team. An officer located Angulo and attempted to conduct a traffic stop but Angulo continued to flee. He drove through a red light and collided with another vehicle. Angulo exited the truck and ran toward the front door of a residence. Angulo asked one of the residents to let him inside. The resident shut the door before Angulo could enter. Angulo pointed a handgun at the officer and fired once. He continued to point his firearm in the direction of the officer and other responding officers. The officers fired upon Angulo, killing him.

An autopsy determined Angulo had methamphetamine in his system at the time of his death. Two handguns that belonged to Angulo were recovered at the scene.

In reviewing the totality of the circumstances, the officers' actions at the time of the shooting were reasonable based on the circumstances known and perceived by them at the time.

*While video evidence exists that corroborates the officers' account of the incident, it is not been released publicly in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Angulo's family. The DA's detailed review can be found [here](#).*

## **Man Runs Out of House Screaming, Charges at Officers**

On October 19, 2020, San Diego Police received a call from a woman reporting her roommate, Alfredo Castro, 39, was using a metal curtain rod to break out windows in their home. The caller believed Castro was under the influence of drugs and stated Castro tried to hit her with the curtain rod. Six SDPD officers were dispatched to the incident. They arrived and formulated a plan to contact Castro. The plan involved having less lethal options available, which included a canine unit, a Taser and a beanbag shotgun should the circumstances necessitate it.

While the officers were on the sidewalk approaching the property, Castro ran out of the house screaming while holding a metal rod raised over his head and ran directly at the approaching officers. One officer fired a beanbag round, one officer fired a Taser and one officer fired his handgun, striking Castro in the upper body. Castro fell to the ground and dropped the metal rod. Life saving measures were attempted and Castro was transported to the hospital where he later died. Toxicology tests showed Castro had amphetamine and methamphetamine in his system.

All the officers fired nearly simultaneously believing they were defending themselves or the other officers from imminent threat of serious bodily injury. Based on these circumstances, Officer Castillo acted reasonably and bears no state criminal liability.

*The San Diego Police Department has released video evidence of the incident previously. The DA's detailed review can be found [here](#).*

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