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District Attorney's Office Releases Reviews of Five Officer-Involved Shootings

The San Diego County District Attorney has completed reviews of five officer-involved shooting incidents, all fatal, and three in-custody deaths. In the shooting incidents, four suspects were armed and one used a vehicle as a deadly weapon.

Officer-involved shootings are reviewed by the District Attorney's Office's Special Operations Division for violations of state law, including murder and manslaughter. The loss of life, no matter the circumstances, is always serious and somber. The Special Operations Division consists of prosecutors and investigators experienced in evaluating these complex cases. The results of the review are documented in a detailed public letter that is provided to the law enforcement agencies and transparently posted on the DA's website. Substantial efforts are made to share the results of the review with families of the deceased and to answer their questions.

The letters generally include a summary of the incident, names of persons involved, civilian witness and law enforcement statements, an overview of the investigation, the Medical Examiner's findings (including toxicology reports), a discussion of the legal standard used when evaluating these incidents for potential criminal liability, and the DA's conclusion.

After a thorough review of the facts and evidence, it has been determined that the law enforcement officers involved in the eight incidents bear no criminal liability for their actions.

The DA's release includes its review of the following incidents:

- **Andrew Engel's** roommate and friends were planning to persuade Engel to turn himself in to police after seeing Engel's phone contained what appeared to be surreptitious recordings of people in the bathroom and images of naked children. When the group attempted to contact Engel in his apartment bedroom, they found he was in the bathtub and had slit his wrists. Police were called. Officers arrived at the apartment and called out for Engel. Engel emerged holding a knife in his raised hand and advanced toward an officer. The officer identified himself and ordered Engel to stop, but Engel continued to advance. As Engel neared, the officer fired his handgun. A second officer saw Engel

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charging forward and also fired. The officers provided aid to Engel. Engel was transported to the hospital and later pronounced deceased.

- An off-duty San Diego Community College police officer dressed in civilian clothing arrived at Fiesta Island to walk his dogs. As he was unloading his dogs, the officer heard shouting and saw **Brian Maloney** quickly advancing toward him on foot. Maloney was angrily shouting at the officer, so the officer removed his police badge from his pocket and identified himself as a police officer while showing his badge to Maloney. Maloney made statements about being harassed by police and the officer told him he was going to call police. Maloney attacked the officer with a knife, repeatedly stabbing him in the neck and upper torso. The officer removed a handgun he carried in his pocket and fired one round, fatally striking Maloney.
- **Andrea Grube** drove a Toyota Tundra truck into the front parking lot of the El Cajon Police Department and parked facing the police headquarters. A lieutenant with the police department exited the building onto the sidewalk and walked past Grube's truck. Another officer exited the building to join the lieutenant on the sidewalk. Grube backed the truck out of the parking stall, turned the vehicle toward the officers, and stopped. The officers separated and Grube suddenly accelerated over the curb toward them. Grube steered the truck toward one of the officers and struck him from behind, causing the officer's face to strike the ground. The lieutenant broadcasted a call for help and a third officer rushed out of the building to assist. The officers shouted at Grube to stop and get out. Grube reversed and again drove toward one of them. That officer pointed his weapon at the windshield and shot. The third officer, seeing his colleague in the truck's path, drew his weapon and fired at the vehicle. Grube's truck continued to accelerate and crashed into a tree. Grube continued to move around inside the truck and the third officer again fired his weapon. Grube suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was later pronounced deceased at the hospital.
- A deputy working in an undercover capacity as part of a drug enforcement action in National City observed a vehicle occupied by three adults driving slowly through the parking lot of a shopping center. The deputy radioed his observations to the team's nearby uniformed patrol deputy, who initiated a traffic stop based on a vehicle code violation. The vehicle stopped and occupant **Gene Stewart** got out and ran. The undercover deputy, who was now wearing a vest identifying him as law enforcement, was flagged down by a passerby, who said Stewart had gotten into an unlocked tow truck in a nearby parking lot. A second uniformed law enforcement officer arrived and together the two officers approached the cab of the tow truck with their guns drawn. Stewart could be seen crouching down inside the cab of the truck. The first deputy called out identifying himself as law enforcement and ordered Stewart to show his hands. Stewart, armed with a gun, shot at the deputy through the closed passenger window, spraying shattered glass into the deputy's face. The deputy returned fire and backed away as Stewart quickly exited the truck and turned toward the deputy, who believed Stewart would continue to shoot at him. The deputy fired again, striking Stewart. Stewart succumbed to his injuries, and a firearm was recovered on the ground next to him.

- San Diego Police responded to a 911 call of a robbery at the Morena Market. The owner of the store reported that a man, later identified as **Nicholas Trammell**, took chips and soda without paying. When the store owner demanded payment, Trammell displayed a knife at her and left, fleeing on foot. Another officer located Trammell less than a quarter mile away in the parking lot of an apartment complex next to the trolley station. Uniformed officers attempted to contact and detain him. Trammell had a kitchen knife in his right and a pair of scissors in his left hand. Officers commanded him to stop and he did not comply. Officers deployed tasers twice, but they did not make contact. Trammell fled down an embankment and officers pursued him on foot. Trammell grabbed an uninvolved adult man from behind and put a knife to the man's neck. Officers approached as Trammell held the man hostage with the knife against the man's neck. Three officers fired at Trammell, striking him and causing him to release the man. Trammell died as a result of the gunshot injuries he sustained.

The DA's detailed review letters regarding the above incidents, as well as the in-custody death letters of Angela Camacho, Emmanuel Avilez-Acosta and Gabriel Garza can be found on the District Attorney's [public website here](#).

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.