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For Immediate Release

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District Attorney Completes and Releases Reviews of 10 Officer-Involved Shootings

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office released its completed reviews of 10 officer-involved shootings, seven of which were fatal and three of which were non-fatal interactions.

- Three incidents involved a 'suicide by cop' scenario.
- Ten of the individuals who were shot had toxicology results indicating illegal substances in their body with methamphetamine being the most common drug.
- Three incidents involved high-speed chases with the suspects driving more than 100 miles per hour.
- Peace officers were threatened or shot at by handguns in most of the incidents. Other incidents involved a crowbar, moving vehicles and a machete.
- Several of the incidents involved law enforcement confronting a suspect that had committed murder, robbery, felony assault or other violent crime.

Video evidence of all 10 incidents has been released previously by the law enforcement agencies involved.

Shooting Suspect Points Semi-Automatic Handgun at Police

On May 29, 2020, a 911 caller reported hearing gunshots and seeing a man on the ground. Responding officers provided first aid and determined the victim had at least five gunshot wounds to his torso. The victim, 62-year-old, Juan Gudino Lopez, was transported to the hospital, but soon after was pronounced dead. A witness told San Diego Police officers his neighbor, "Ronnie" Kong, 32, was involved in the shooting and provided additional information about what he had witnessed. Officers set a perimeter around the location and attempted to make contact, but there was no response from inside Kong's apartment. As SWAT was getting into position, Kong came out from his second-floor apartment. SWAT officers attempted to negotiate with him, but he retreated into his apartment and then came back out. While on the stairs, Kong produced a semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and raised it toward the officers. Three officers opened fire. Officers approached Kong and carried him down to paramedics, who provided first aid. Kong was pronounced dead at the scene. Based on the totality of the circumstances, all three officers believed Kong intended to shoot at them and the other officers on the scene. There was concern stated by one of the officers for civilians who were standing

nearby as well. The District Attorney's review found that the officers' beliefs were reasonable, and they bear no state criminal liability for their actions.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Man Threatens Officer with Crowbar During 'Suicide by Cop' Scenario

On June 19, 2020, Rosendo Quezada, 44, violated a temporary restraining order obtained days earlier by his estranged wife by going to her residence. A call was made to 911 to report the violation. The reporting party described Quezada driving away in a white Camry. An Escondido police officer responded to the call and located Quezada's vehicle. The officer confirmed the registered owner of the vehicle was subject to the restraining order and initiated a traffic stop. Quezada abruptly stopped his vehicle in a traffic lane and exited his car. The officer exited his police vehicle. Quezada quickly advanced toward the officer brandishing a three-foot-long metal crowbar at chest level, while yelling statements about dying. The officer backed away, ordering Quezada to stop, but Quezada ignored all commands and continued to advance. The officer drew his firearm and fired one round. Quezada continued to advance, brandishing the raised crowbar. The officer continued retreating and attempted to fire his weapon again, but the firearm malfunctioned. The officer was able to make his weapon operational again while continuing to back away from Quezada and ordering him to stop. Quezada continued to ignore the officer's orders and the officer fired three more times, striking Quezada. Quezada fell to the ground and dropped the crowbar. Quezada was transported to the hospital for treatment of two gunshot wounds. He survived his injuries. Based on these circumstances it was determined the officer reasonably feared he would be seriously injured or killed and would bear no state criminal liability for his actions. During interviews with detectives, Quezada stated he had been upset over his failed relationship with his wife and wanted the officer to kill him. Quezada was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer and attempted burglary, receiving a sentence of 3 years, 8 months. Toxicology testing performed on Quezada detected the presence of methamphetamine at the time of the incident.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Robbery Suspect Points Gun at Police Officer

On June 27, 2020, two San Diego police officers attempted to locate a wanted subject in a street robbery which occurred six days earlier. One of the wanted subjects in the robbery was identified by the assigned detective as Leonardo Ibarra, 25. The officers located Ibarra on Sixth Avenue downtown where Ibarra was walking northbound after exiting a building. The uniformed officers exited their patrol vehicle and approached from different locations to contact and arrest Ibarra. One officer identified himself as a San Diego Police Officer and both officers told Ibarra to stop several times as they walked toward him. Ibarra turned around and began walking away from the officers, but then turned towards one of the officers and began reaching into the front portion of his waistband. Ibarra produced a firearm wrapped in a camouflage-patterned bandana. Ibarra pointed the firearm wrapped in the bandana at one of the officers. In response, both officers fired

their weapons striking Ibarra multiple times. An officer began CPR on Ibarra until assisting officers and medics responded to the scene. Medics transported Ibarra to UCSD hospital where he died two days later. Toxicology reports showed Ibarra was suffering from acute methamphetamine toxicity at the time of the incident which the Medical Examiner listed as a contributing factor to his death. Under the totality of circumstances, the officers bear no criminal liability for their actions.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Man Takes Officer's Gun, Fires on Officers at Police Headquarters

On July 5, 2020, San Diego police officers responded to the Westgate Hotel after receiving a report of a male causing a disturbance in the lobby. Officers arrested Keith Bergman, 25, for being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of stolen credit cards. Bergman was transported to the San Diego Police headquarters downtown. Officers began the booking process while Bergman sat in the back of the patrol unit in the sallyport. Bergman slipped out of his handcuffs, pulled back a panel which separated the trunk from the rear passenger compartment, 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. 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 passenger window on the driver's side. Bergman reached through and opened the door using the outside door handle 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 trunk but was unable to. He walked to the driver's door and reached into the compartment through an open window. An officer fired three 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 canine and transported to the hospital. Toxicology testing of Bergman showed he had amphetamines, methamphetamines, pseudoephedrine/ephedrine, benzodiazepines and cannabinoids in his system at the time. 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 to 10 years in state prison. The District Attorney's review found that the officers reasonably feared for their safety and the safety of others in the sallyport when they fired upon Bergman. As a result, they bear no criminal liability for their actions.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Man Threatens 'Suicide by Cop' and Pulls Gun on Officers

On October 14, 2020, a 911 caller stated her husband had been drinking and refused to leave their bedroom. While SDPD dispatch was on the phone with the caller, a male, Richard Young,

63, could be heard in the background yelling that he had a gun in the house and would commit "suicide by cop." Officers approached the residence and saw Young sitting in a chair on the residence's porch with Young's wife standing next to Young. Young's wife sat on his lap and requested officers come to them. Officers approached and escorted the woman away from Young. Other officers grabbed Young and helped him stand up. They attempted to place his hands behind his back to be handcuffed but Young resisted. Young removed a black revolver from the rear of his waistband and brought it around to the front of his body. He fumbled with it and then pointed it at two of the officers. One officer yelled "gun" and fired one round into Young's torso, causing him to drop the revolver. Young was transported to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla for further medical treatment. Toxicological analysis of Young's blood revealed he had a .26 % blood alcohol level at the time of the incident. Young was charged with exhibiting a firearm in the presence of an officer. Ultimately, the case resolved and Young entered into a mental health diversion program. Based on the totality of the circumstances, the officer who fired reasonably believed Young posed an imminent threat and intended to cause serious bodily harm or death by shooting him or the other officers on the front porch. The officer's firing of one shot at Young was necessary to stop the threat. Less lethal alternatives were not feasible or safe against the immediate, lethal threat posed by Young. Therefore, the District Attorney's review found the officer bears no criminal liability for his actions.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Shooting Suspect Leads Officers on High-Speed Chase and Opens Fire

Christopher Marquez, 36, was wanted for the March 15, 2021 shooting and wounding of a bounty hunter. On April 5, 2021, during an attempt to arrest him, Marquez shot at National City Police officers and escaped. On April 12, 2021, National City Police detectives obtained credible information on Marquez' location and two officers attempted to stop a vehicle in which Marquez was a passenger. Marquez' girlfriend was driving the vehicle. She and Marquez led officers on a high-speed pursuit, reaching up to 100 miles per hour, during which Marquez fired multiple rounds on three separate occasions at pursuing officers. One officer fired a single round in response. The pursuit ended at San Diego High School where Marquez and his girlfriend hid in a dumpster for approximately 11 hours. The San Diego Police Department's SWAT and the San Diego Police Emergency Negotiation Team (ENT) were called in to assist. Based on Marquez' statements and increasingly agitated behavior during the ongoing negotiations, officers believed Marquez was going to shoot his girlfriend and then engage with other officers on scene. Two officers simultaneously fired one round each at Marquez, striking him. Marquez was pronounced dead at the scene. A loaded AR-15 rifle was recovered next to Marquez's body. Toxicology testing determined that Marquez's blood contained 0.48 mg/L of amphetamine and 3.9 mg/L of methamphetamine. The District Attorney's review determined that all three officers who fired at Marquez during this incident feared for either their own lives or the lives of other officers or civilians. Therefore, they bear no state liability for their actions.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Shooting Suspect Leads Officers on High-Speed Chase

On September 17, 2021, at approximately 5:00 p.m., the Escondido Police Department received an emergency call from an individual who reported his companion had been shot by a man driving a Mercedes Benz SUV. The caller provided the suspect's license plate number and the general area of the shooting. Officers responded to the scene and located two 9mm shell casings. The Mercedes Benz was registered to Jonathan Carroll, 38. As officers headed toward Carroll's home, Carroll drove past them in the opposite direction. An officer who was driving a marked patrol car made a U-turn and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. Carroll failed to yield and fled at high speed. The officer and additional units pursued Carroll. While the other patrol units lost sight of Carroll, the initial officer continued to pursue him. The pursuit reached speeds of 110 miles per hour. Carroll tried to negotiate a turn from Bear Valley Parkway onto Encino Drive but hit a raised median and stopped on Encino Drive. The officer hit the same median and stopped on Encino Drive, getting out of his patrol car and moving to the front of his vehicle. Carroll emerged from his vehicle holding a handgun and turned toward the officer. The officer believed Carroll was involved in the earlier shooting and fearing for his safety, fired 12 rounds at Carroll, striking him three times. Carroll also fired his weapon but struck his own vehicle. Carroll was transported to Palomar Medical Center by paramedics where he was pronounced deceased. Toxicology results showed Carroll tested positive for methamphetamine and alprazolam. Under the totality of circumstances, the District Attorney's review found the officer reasonably believed Carroll intended to shoot him and bears no criminal liability.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Murder Suspect Fires at Officers, Striking One of Them

On December 26, 2021, at approximately 8:17 p.m., the San Diego Sheriff's Department disseminated a Special Bulletin/Person of Interest notice and a "Be on the Lookout" (BOL) for Roberto Cazares, 39, in relation to a homicide that had been committed earlier that afternoon in Vista. Cazares' vehicle had been seen fleeing from his girlfriend's parents' house in Vista at approximately 5:00 p.m., after a family member there was fatally shot in the chest. Cazares drove to his cousin's residence in Escondido. According to the cousin, Cazares was very intoxicated and began yelling. He pulled out a handgun and began aiming it at people at the residence. The cousin talked Cazares into leaving the residence and she walked him to his truck. Cazares told her to get in his truck and she complied. Cazares drove to a parking lot located in Escondido and parked. Escondido patrol officers located and approached Cazares' parked vehicle. As one of the patrol vehicles approached with its emergency lights activated, Cazares drove toward it, forcing the officer to reverse to avoid being struck. Multiple units gave chase. Cazares led the pursuing officers onto State Route 78 through Vista to Oceanside. During the pursuit, Cazares reached speeds of 130 miles per hour, ran red lights, and disregarded stop signs. Officers deployed a spike strip which Cazares ran over. Both passenger tires were punctured, and the pursuit continued at a slower pace. During the pursuit, the passenger text messaged her sister for help. The sister called police and relayed information. She confirmed Cazares was in possession of a handgun. She also told dispatchers Cazares had stated he was not going to stop, he was not going to turn himself in, and the police were going to have to kill him. The pursuit

continued at a slow speed for approximately two hours. The pursuit reentered Escondido and negotiations between Cazares, his cousin in the vehicle, and the police dispatcher continued. Pursuing officers observed Cazares' driving becoming more erratic. Just before 3:00 a.m. OnStar remotely disabled Cazares' vehicle causing it to come to a slow stop. As Cazares' vehicle stopped, he exited the driver's door, extended his hand towards the officers while holding a handgun. He began shooting and one officer fired at Cazares from the roof hatch of an armored vehicle. Another officer came around from the rear of the police vehicle and fired at Cazares. The officer was struck by a round which penetrated his ballistic vest and slightly penetrated his chest.

Cazares was struck and fell to the ground, dropping the handgun he had been holding. Officers began providing medical aid. Cazares later died of his injuries. The District Attorney's review found that the officers reasonably believed that Cazares posed an imminent threat and intended to cause serious bodily harm or death when he raised a handgun and fired at officers. Therefore, the officers bear no criminal liability for their actions and acted in self-defense and defense of others.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Man Asks Officers to Shoot Him, Aims Gun at Them

Andrew Farnham, 60, lived with his elderly parents. He had been unemployed due to several ministrokes, which caused mobility issues. He had been depressed over the death of a former girlfriend and the loss of his teeth and had expressed to his parents he did not want to live. He had told them he would like to get shot by the police and that he was going to do that someday. On the morning of March 30, 2022, Farnham purchased a BB pistol that had the appearance of a semi-automatic handgun. That afternoon, Farnham called 911 and told the dispatcher that 'his son' was waving a gun around and was threatening him and his wife. Farnham told the dispatcher the pistol 'his son' had was loaded and 'his son' wanted to commit suicide. During Farnham's conversation with the dispatcher, Farnham's father joined the conversation. The dispatcher asked that the gun be put away, but Farnham refused. Farnham's father told the dispatcher Farnham still had the gun in his possession and Farnham had told him he wanted to commit suicide.

When San Diego Police officers arrived, Farnham walked into the garage holding what appeared to be a black gun. Officers outside the open garage pointed their firearms at Farnham. An officer yelled at Farnham to drop the gun several times. One officer yelled at Farnham to drop the gun, or he would be shot. Farnham waved the gun around, pointed it at his own head and in the direction of the officers while yelling, "Shoot me, shoot me." Farnham raised the gun and pointed it directly at the officers. One officer fired three rounds at Farnham who was transported to Sharp Memorial Hospital. The next day he was declared brain dead. Amphetamine and methamphetamine were detected in Farnham's blood. The District Attorney's review determined that Farnham continued to refuse commands to drop his gun and started to advance toward the officers while pointing the gun in their direction. It was reasonable for the officer to believe the gun that Farnham was pointing at them was loaded, real, and capable of causing serious bodily injury or death. Based on the totality of circumstances the officer's actions in shooting Mr. Farnham do not meet the standard for criminal liability.

Read the DA's detailed review [here](#).

Sheriff's Deputies Dragged by Moving Car Driven by Car Theft Suspect

On February 19, 2022, San Diego Sheriff's Deputies were involved in a border operation in Otay Mesa. Two deputies were working in plain clothes in an unmarked San Diego Sheriff's Department vehicle equipped with a license plate reader. The deputies were driving through a strip mall parking lot when the reader alerted on a stolen vehicle, a white Mercedes. The vehicle was parked in a parking stall and was facing northeast. The deputies confirmed the license plate number, and that the vehicle was in the system as stolen. The deputies parked their vehicle nearby and called for a marked Sheriff's unit to assist. Three deputies responded to the call for assistance driving a marked SDSD vehicle and wearing SDSD patrol uniforms. The stolen Mercedes was occupied by three individuals, later identified as Mizaël Corrales, 31, and two other individuals. The deputies approached the vehicle and gave commands for the occupants to exit the vehicle.

One individual exited the vehicle and got on the ground pursuant to the deputy's direction. Deputies then forcibly removed a second individual and held him on the ground. The driver, Corrales, was uncooperative and refused to exit the vehicle. The deputies opened the driver's door and attempted to remove Corrales. Corrales rapidly backed up the car while deputies were at the open driver's door. The open door of the vehicle knocked the deputies to the ground and dragged them. The Mercedes eventually collided with two parked vehicles. The car then accelerated forward and as it moved forward, one deputy fired his weapon. The vehicle continued moving forward, ramming two of the sheriff's vehicles. Corrales was fatally struck with gunfire. Toxicological analysis of Corrales' blood revealed the presence of amphetamine, methamphetamine and cannabinoids. Reviewing the evidence and considering the totality of circumstances, the deputy reasonably believed that Corrales, in his attempt to flee, posed an imminent threat and intended to cause serious bodily harm or death to the deputy, other deputies and bystanders. Less lethal alternatives were not feasible or safe against the immediate and lethal threat posed by Corrales. Therefore, the Sheriff's deputy bears no criminal liability for his actions.

Read the DA's detailed review [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.