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For Immediate Release

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

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office released its completed reviews of two officer-involved shootings, one of which was fatal. Video evidence of both incidents has been released previously by the law enforcement agencies involved.

A peace officer's use of force is a serious responsibility that must be carried out legally and with a respect for the sanctity of every person's life. The law places the duty and responsibility on the District Attorney's Office to determine if there is criminal liability and to make a fair and just decision under the law. Our office takes great care to make sure our analysis follows the law, is independent, objective, and thorough. The loss of life in this context is always somber and serious, leaving an impact on many in the community.

Robbery Suspect Shot After Pointing Gun at Officers

On January 10, 2022, Isaac Andrade, 21, brandished a large knife to a clerk at Mullens Liquor Store in San Diego and demanded money from the cash register. The clerk handed Andrade about \$600 from the register. Andrade left the store and walked down the south alley of 3000 Imperial Avenue. A witness called 911 and provided a description of Andrade and the direction he went. Minutes later, two San Diego Police Officers advised they had a possible suspect in the alley and two more officers responded to the location. Andrade produced a gun and pointed it at one of the officers, who believed Andrade started shooting at him. The officer and two other officers fired at Andrade who sustained multiple gunshot wounds and collapsed. One of the officers radioed, "Shots fired, OIS" and "I think I am hit." When officers approached, a black Airsoft gun and a twelve-inch Bowie-type knife were located next to Andrade. Officers provided medical aid until medics arrived, but Andrade was pronounced dead at the scene. Toxicological analysis of Andrade's blood revealed the presence of methamphetamines, amphetamines, marijuana, and a blood alcohol level of 0.15%. In viewing the incident from the perspective of an objectively reasonable police officer, Andrade's possession of what appeared to be an operable firearm, taking a shooting stance, and pointing the gun directly at an officer, the officers had reason to believe Andrade posed an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to them. The officers did not have time to consider less lethal options as Andrade produced what they reasonably believed was a handgun as soon as officers started to approach him. Given

the totality of circumstances, the officers reasonably believed Andrade posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury and bear no state criminal liability for their actions.

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

Deputies Shoot Auto Theft Suspect Who Brandished a Weapon

On February 16, 2022, at about 10:15 p.m., two San Diego County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a request for assistance from members of the Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT). As part of an ongoing investigation, RATT detectives had tracked a stolen "bait trailer" (a trailer equipped with a Global Positioning System) to the area of 1100 Decker Street in El Cajon, where they observed the trailer being towed by a white van driven by 31-year-old Erik Talavera. When the Sheriff's deputies turned onto Decker Street, Talavera immediately exited the van. The deputies gave Talavera multiple commands to get on the ground. Talavera did not comply, was moving erratically, and yelled, "Just shoot me." Talavera reached into his waistband and produced a black metallic object which the deputies believed was a small firearm. Both deputies fired and Talavera was struck several times, fell to the ground, and dropped the black object. Deputies ordered Talavera not to reach for the object, but Talavera grabbed the object and pulled it into his chest area. A deputy fired two additional rounds toward Talavera. Talavera rolled onto his right side and tossed the object into the roadway. The object was then identified as a knife. Talavera was taken into custody and was transported to a hospital for treatment. Tests showed Talavera had amphetamines, benzodiazepines, and fentanyl in his system at the time of the incident. Talavera was charged with three felony crimes and one misdemeanor. He pleaded guilty in October 2022 to unlawfully taking a vehicle and brandishing a weapon. The District Attorney's review found that Talavera created a deadly force situation by pulling a metallic black object from his waistband, an item both deputies believed could have been a small firearm. Under the totality of circumstances, the deputies' actions do not meet the standard for state criminal liability.

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.