

HALL OF JUSTICE  
330 WEST BROADWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
(619) 531-4040  
SanDiegoDA.com

OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

DWAIN D. WOODLEY  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUMMER STEPHAN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 11, 2025

Sheriff Kelly Martinez  
San Diego Sheriff's Office  
9621 Ridgehaven Court  
San Diego, CA 92123

Chief Scott Wahl  
San Diego Police Department  
1401 Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Fatal shooting of Mr. Victor Rendon Jr. by San Diego Sheriff's Office Deputies Evan Carey, Thomas Cook, Chalit Caranto, Darryl Patmon, Frank Spinelli, Manuel Zamora, and Derek Trumbo on November 15, 2024; San Diego Sheriff's Office Case No. 24-146365; San Diego Police Department Case No. 24-618392; DA Special Operations Case No. 24-159PS; Deputy District Attorney assigned: Vincent Chen**

Dear Sheriff Martinez and Chief Wahl:

We have reviewed the reports and materials compiled by the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit and San Diego Sheriff's Office concerning the fatal shooting of Victor Rendon Jr. by San Diego Sheriff's Office Deputies Evan Carey, Thomas Cook, Chalit Caranto, Darryl Patmon, Frank Spinelli, Manuel Zamora, and Derek Trumbo. A District Attorney Investigator responded to the scene and was briefed on the incident. This case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review on January 22, 2025. Additional crime scene reports were received by this office on April 8, 2025. The Medical Examiner's report was received on May 14, 2025.

**Summary:**

On November 15, 2024, at approximately 3:18 p.m., a civilian witness, CW1, reported that her ex-boyfriend, Victor Rendon Jr., had trespassed into her house in Spring Valley. CW1 went outside of the house to contact 911 while her four children remained inside. She reported that Rendon was armed with a firearm, acting erratically, and was possibly under the influence. Multiple Sheriff's deputies responded and met with CW1 who confirmed Rendon was armed and still in the house and that her children were also inside. Deputies were familiar with the location and Rendon based on prior contacts.

San Diego Police Department's helicopter and San Diego Sheriff's Office's helicopter were both on scene to assist from the air. Deputies established a perimeter on the street directly in front of the house and the helicopters advised deputies of Rendon's location and movements on the property. Deputies entered the home and successfully evacuated the children.

Deputies made multiple attempts to get Rendon to surrender, including ordering him to exit with his hands up and broadcasting the same from the helicopter speakers. Rendon did not comply. The helicopters continued to provide surveillance from the air and Rendon was observed entering and exiting the house from the backyard while armed with a handgun. At one point, helicopter personnel observed Rendon in the backyard ingesting what appeared to be narcotics.

Deputies re-entered the house to take Rendon into custody. While inside the house, deputies heard a firearm discharge. A minute later, two additional shots were heard. Deputies pulled back from the house to take cover on the perimeter, believing Rendon to be the origin of the shots.

After retreating, deputies continued to attempt communication with Rendon to get him to surrender. As the standoff continued, Rendon entered and exited the front door of the house multiple times, yelling expletives at deputies and throwing items into the front yard. When Rendon came outside, deputies could see him waving a handgun in his hand as he persisted in his refusal to surrender. At approximately 4:55 p.m., Rendon started to walk outside while lifting the handgun to point toward the deputies on the perimeter facing him. Deputies Evan Carey, Thomas Cook, Chalit Caranto, Darryl Patmon, Frank Spinelli, Manuel Zamora, and Derek Trumbo fired at Rendon from positions of cover behind Sheriff's vehicles. Rendon was struck several times as he fell to the ground. Deputies ceased fire when Rendon no longer presented as a threat.

Deputies approached Rendon and located a loaded handgun near where he had fallen. They rendered medical aid until paramedics arrived. However, lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful, and Rendon was pronounced deceased by paramedics at 5:00 p.m. In the subsequent autopsy, the Medical Examiner determined Rendon's manner of death as homicide with the cause of death being multiple gunshot wounds. Toxicological analysis of Rendon's blood revealed the presence of alcohol, amphetamine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl.

#### **Persons Involved**

At the time of the incident, Rendon was a 34-year-old resident of San Diego County. Trumbo had been employed as a peace officer by San Diego County for one year, eleven months, Zamora for two years, Carey and Caranto for four years, Cook and Spinelli for six years, and Patmon for eleven years.

#### **Statement of Civilian Witness One (CW1)**

Rendon and CW1 had been in a dating relationship but broke up due to Rendon's drug use and increasingly erratic behavior. Even after the relationship ended, Rendon continued to show up at CW1's house unannounced, including on the day of the incident. In the two months preceding, CW1 called police five times to assist with Rendon and because she did not want him in her home.

Rendon arrived in the afternoon armed with a gun but was acting somewhat normal. As the day progressed, Rendon grew more erratic to the point that CW1 wanted him to leave. Around 3:00 p.m., CW1 told Rendon to grab his belongings so she could take him home. Rendon refused and became even more agitated. CW1 sent her children to their rooms and when Rendon went outside, CW1 locked him out. He tried to break back in, so CW1 let him back inside. Once inside, Rendon tucked his gun in his shorts and appeared to talk to voices in his head. CW1 then left to call 911 outside of Rendon's presence.

When deputies arrived, CW1 was instructed to stay outside during the evacuation of the children. Once her children had been rescued, CW1 and the children were directed away from the house. CW1 heard a gunshot and then two more. Deputies told her the gunshots were not from them. Then, CW1 heard approximately ten more gunshots. CW1 did not hear the deputies' commands but did hear the helicopter ordering Rendon to come out. During the standoff, CW1 asked the deputies if she could use a loudspeaker to calm Rendon down but they did not let her.

#### **Other Civilian Witnesses**

Due to the prolonged duration and commotion of the incident, a crowd formed outside the police perimeter during the standoff. The vantage point from beyond the perimeter was limited. No statements were provided from the civilians that were present.

#### **Statement of Law Enforcement Officer One (LE1)**

LE1 responded to the break-in call and contacted CW1, who reported Rendon was armed and still inside the house with her four children. LE1 recalled having responded to a prior call at this house and having dealt with CW1 before. LE1 updated the team and positioned herself in a neighboring yard to maintain a view of the house. LE1 received information from the radio that Rendon was in the backyard. A team was formed to help extract the children.

Later, LE1 got close to the back door. She heard a gunshot from inside the house. She retreated to the side of the house where she and other deputies heard a second gunshot. All of the deputies retreated to the vehicles for cover. LE1 maintained visual on the house and heard a third gunshot from inside. LE1 heard deputies giving clear commands to Rendon. She heard over the radio that Rendon was going in and out of the front door. Rendon shouted, "Fuck you," when deputies gave commands to surrender. Later, LE1 saw Rendon toss items from the front door.

For several minutes, deputies tried to verbally de-escalate the situation. Suddenly, LE1 heard gunshots. When LE1 heard Rendon was down, she went in to assist. She observed Rendon down with a firearm on the ground to his left. Deputies checked Rendon for signs of life and noted a light pulse. Rendon was handcuffed and LE1 cut Rendon's clothing off while deputies administered first aid. When medics arrived, they pronounced Rendon deceased at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Statement of Law Enforcement Officer Two (LE2):**

LE2 responded to the call. He was familiar with Rendon from prior contacts. Rendon once told LE2 he was part of the Mexican Diablos gang. LE2 had responded to this location multiple times for service and disturbance calls.

LE2 was part of the team that entered and evacuated the children out of the house. After the children were out of the house, LE2 reentered with other deputies. While inside, LE2 heard deputies order Rendon to come out with his hands up. LE2 heard a gunshot but did not know where it came from. LE2 exited the house and took cover behind a patrol vehicle on the street.

From a position of cover, LE2 could see Rendon inside the house walking back and forth for around 15 minutes. When Rendon opened the front door, LE2 heard other deputies give commands for Rendon to show his hands. Rendon continued going in and out of the house and LE2 spotted a handgun in Rendon's hand when Rendon exited the house. LE2 shifted his position to the back of the patrol vehicles. He saw Rendon wave the handgun in different directions and go back inside the house twice. Rendon then came out again and LE2 heard gunshots. However, LE2's vantage point did not allow him to see if Rendon fired or not. After shots were fired, deputies moved in and LE2 saw Rendon on the ground.

#### **Statement of Law Enforcement Officer Three (LE3)**

LE3 arrived after other deputies were already on scene. After the children were evacuated, LE3 went to a neighboring house to the south to try to get a visual of Rendon. There, LE3 spoke out to Rendon as Rendon went in and out of the house into the backyard. LE3 tried to convince Rendon to step out with his hands up. Rendon responded, but LE3 could not hear most of it because of the police helicopters and radio traffic. LE3 did, however, hear Rendon tell them to "fuck off," stay off his property, and that he was not coming out.

When LE3 heard a gunshot, he took cover, unsure of where the shot was directed. LE3 repositioned himself and heard a door open and close and then another gunshot. Over the radio, LE3 kept hearing that Rendon was coming in and out of the house and not complying with deputies' commands. LE3 also heard it broadcast that Rendon had a firearm. Another 10 minutes elapsed. LE3 heard gunfire, and then through the radio, that shots were fired, and Rendon was down. LE3 left his position to join the other deputies.

#### **Other Law Enforcement Witnesses**

Multiple deputies not directly involved in the shooting were on scene. Of the deputies who were able to perceive the events, all were generally consistent in that: Rendon refused to comply with deputies' commands to come out and surrender; during the standoff, Rendon fired gunshots; and Rendon appeared to be armed with a handgun.

#### **Statement of Deputy Evan Carey**

Carey responded to the call. He took a position near the back of the property and later redeployed to the front of the house. There, he heard one gunshot and was advised that the suspect had fired the shot. Carey returned to his patrol vehicle, retrieved his rifle, and went back to the front of the house, where he took cover behind a patrol vehicle. Carey heard two more gunshots come from the house. Throughout the entire standoff, deputies were trying to get Rendon to come out of the house unarmed, but Rendon ignored those commands.

From his position outside the house, Carey sometimes saw Rendon in the living room waving the handgun around. Other times, Rendon was sitting in the kitchen with the handgun, pointing the

handgun in the air in the direction of Carey. About six times during the standoff, Rendon walked out of the house while holding the handgun. There was a point where Rendon started throwing items out the front door of the residence and told the deputies, "Fuck you guys."

Carey heard Caranlo shout, "Don't raise it," as Rendon came out the front door holding the handgun. When Rendon pointed the handgun at the deputies in the front of the house, Carey fired six to eight times from his rifle at Rendon. Carey recalled that Spinelli, who was to Carey's left, was also firing. Carey stopped firing when Rendon fell at the front door of the house. Carey then approached and observed the handgun on the ground at Rendon's left side. Carey grabbed the handgun and passed it to another deputy, who secured it. Rendon was rolled onto his stomach and Carey placed handcuffs on him. A deputy then began CPR on Rendon.

Carey explained that less-than-lethal force options were not used because Rendon pointed a firearm at the deputies, and they were not trained to match deadly resistance with less-than-lethal force. Carey believed Rendon was going to kill him or another deputy when he pointed the firearm at them. Rendon could have shot him or his partners if Carey had not shot at Rendon. Carey believed Rendon was under the influence of narcotics based on him acting erratically, rambling incoherently, and because the police helicopter observed the suspect using narcotics in the backyard.

#### **Statement of Deputy Thomas Cook**

Dispatch requested Cook respond to the call because he was an on-duty SWAT deputy. Upon arrival, Cook donned his ballistic helmet, got his rifle, and joined the other deputies behind vehicle cover at the perimeter in front of the residence. Deputies were giving Rendon commands to drop the weapon, show his hands, and exit the residence.

Cook saw Rendon go in and out of the front door of the residence several times. At one point, Rendon raised the gun toward his own head and then went back into the house. Rendon was also moving his arms about like he was "dancing." Based on his training, Cook believed Rendon was under the influence as he was not listening to commands and had chaotic movements.

While Rendon was in the house, it was difficult to communicate with him. Deputies used a public address (PA) system to tell him to come out with nothing in his hands. Rendon exited with the handgun in hand and quickly ducked back inside, slamming the door. Approximately 30 seconds later, Rendon came back outside with the handgun in his left hand and looked in Cook's direction. Rendon raised the handgun toward Cook and the other deputies. Cook responded by shooting at Rendon approximately three to four times. Cook stopped firing when Rendon fell to the ground. After the shooting ceased, deputies gave Rendon commands to move away from his handgun. Deputies moved up to Rendon after he appeared not to be moving. Cook believed there was no time to attempt de-escalation due to how quickly Rendon had exited the house and raised the handgun toward the deputies.

Cook believed Rendon would have fired at him or the other deputies if they had not shot at him. Rendon had fired shots earlier in the standoff and he never complied with any of the commands.

**Statement of Deputy Chalif Caranto**

Caranto was dispatched for a SWAT assist call regarding a trespass incident involving an armed individual. Upon arrival, Caranto observed Rendon from a position in the driveway of the house. Rendon would come outside again and again while deputies gave him commands to surrender. Rendon would also slam the front door, walk back and forth, and yell at the deputies. Caranto attempted to speak with Rendon several times, telling him to surrender, to calm down, and that they did not want this to escalate. Though Caranto tried to build rapport with Rendon, Rendon would just yell back things Caranto did not understand and twirl his handgun around. Caranto believed Rendon appeared to be under the influence of something.

Rendon came out of the front door with the handgun in his left hand, raised it, and pointed it toward the deputies. Caranto responded by firing his rifle three to four times at Rendon. Caranto believed if he had not fired, Rendon could have fired at the deputies, bystanders, or at the nearby school. Caranto stopped firing because his line of sight became blocked while he was moving, resulting in rounds impacting the back of a vehicle. After Rendon fell, deputies approached and began rendering aid. Caranto proceeded to clear the house with another deputy.

**Statement of Deputy Darryl Patmon**

Upon arrival, Patmon met with other deputies to develop a plan to get the children out of the house and prevent a potential hostage situation. Because Rendon was armed, waving the gun around, and acting erratic, deputies believed the children were in danger. One of the children was wheelchair bound and could not get out on their own.

Patmon entered with a team of deputies and successfully got all the children out. Afterwards, deputies developed a plan to take Rendon into custody. Rendon was given commands to surrender unarmed. Some of the commands were given through the police helicopter. Rendon never complied. A team of deputies decided to make entry into the backyard of the residence and attempt to contact Rendon to have him surrender. They entered the backyard, took cover, and made announcements to Rendon. Rendon asked what they wanted, and Patmon replied they wanted this to end peacefully and for Rendon to come out. Rendon told Patmon, "Fuck you." Patmon then heard items being thrown.

Another deputy on the side of the house began communicating with Rendon and a recon robot was deployed to get a view of Rendon. With the robot's camera, deputies were able to see Rendon going in and out of the patio door holding something in his hand, but they could not make out what the item was. They considered using a chemical agent if Rendon went back inside or a canine to get Rendon into custody if he remained outside. Deputies approached the patio area with the canine, but Rendon went back inside. Patmon moved near a bedroom in the back of the house to punch out a window to get a canine or chemical agent inside. As he neared the window, Patmon heard a gunshot come from the patio area and believed Rendon was shooting.

Patmon pulled back and heard another gunshot. All deputies retreated to the front of the house and Patmon went to his patrol vehicle and retrieved his rifle and armor. Patmon took a position behind a vehicle in the middle of the street along with another deputy. Patmon could see into the house and saw Rendon enter the kitchen multiple times. Rendon closed the kitchen window

blinds, blocking Patmon's view. Deputies then directed their vehicle spotlights to illuminate the front door of the house to prevent Rendon from being able to see out.

As the standoff continued, Rendon came out of the front door, yelled at deputies, and threw some luggage into the yard. Rendon went in and out of the house multiple times. Caranto attempted to establish communication with Rendon by telling him to come out and that he didn't want to do this. A new plan was formulated to use a bean bag or canine on Rendon if he came back into the front yard.

Rendon then came out the front door holding a handgun in his left hand. Rendon raised the handgun in Patmon's direction. Patmon said, "Gun," and fired three to four shots at Rendon. After seeing Rendon fall, Patmon stopped shooting and yelled, "Hold." Patmon believed Rendon was trying to kill the deputies when Rendon raised the handgun toward the deputies.

#### **Statement of Deputy Frank Spinelli**

Spinelli was dispatched to a radio call of an armed trespasser. Spinelli had been to this location on a prior occasion when Rendon went into CW1's house unannounced and was acting erratically. In that prior call, Rendon left before Spinelli could speak to him.

A team of deputies successfully entered the residence and evacuated the children. During a second entry into the house, Spinelli heard a gunshot. Moments later, he heard another. Spinelli got out of the residence and heard another deputy say the suspect had fired the gunshots. Retreating to the front yard, Spinelli heard a third gunshot and took cover behind a vehicle in the driveway. Spinelli repositioned behind his own patrol vehicle. From there, he had a good view into the kitchen, where he could see there was a door to the garage. Rendon opened and closed the garage door several times and was giving the deputies the middle finger.

When Rendon started coming out the front door of the residence, he had an object in his hand that Spinelli believed to be a firearm. Rendon came out multiple times with the handgun in hand and at times would flail his body about and tell the deputies to "fuck off." When Rendon began to talk, he would wave the firearm around. Spinelli did not believe Rendon was going to fire during the flailing, because the gun was quickly pointed in his direction and then away from him. There was no good time to use less-than-lethal force on Rendon, as he would come outside and just as quickly go back inside. Additionally, a bean bag shotgun would have just agitated Rendon more if he had been shot with it.

While Rendon was going in and out, Spinelli tried to establish communication from his position approximately 30 yards away. Another deputy took over communications so Spinelli would have the best line of sight whenever Rendon emerged. Ultimately, Rendon came out and swung his handgun upward toward the deputies on Spinelli's left. Rendon had his body canted toward those deputies when he swung the handgun in their direction, and it looked like he was getting into a firing stance.

Spinelli heard a gunshot. At that point, the deputies, including Spinelli, started firing at Rendon. Spinelli fired because he thought Rendon might shoot at the deputies and he wanted to stop that

threat. Spinelli shot about six rounds. He stopped when Rendon was on the ground and no longer appeared to be a threat. Other deputies approached Rendon while Spinelli stayed at the fence line to provide cover. Deputies rendered first aid and Spinelli advised paramedics it was clear for them to treat Rendon.

**Statement of Deputy Manuel Zamora**

While listening to a radio call of the trespass, Zamora decided to respond after learning a gun had been discharged at the location. Upon arrival, Zamora took cover behind a patrol vehicle parked in the street in front of the house. Zamora remained at the vehicle for the duration of the incident.

From his position, Zamora observed Rendon go in and out of the garage and then walk around the inside of the house while deputies were giving Rendon commands to drop the gun. Rendon then started coming in and out of the front door of the house, at times with a handgun in his hand. At first, Zamora did not perceive Rendon as an immediate and imminent threat when he saw him with the handgun.

However, when Rendon came out again and raised the gun toward the deputies, Zamora thought Rendon was going to shoot and hurt the deputies. Zamora then viewed Rendon as an imminent threat. Zamora shot his handgun one time at Rendon and then heard someone call to cease fire. Zamora saw Rendon on the ground but kept his handgun pointed at Rendon while Rendon's firearm was unaccounted for. A contact team and Zamora eventually approached.

**Statement of Deputy Derek Trumbo**

Trumbo was enroute to the call when he heard deputies call out that Rendon had fired shots. Trumbo arrived, got out his helmet and rifle, and took a position at a patrol vehicle in the street in front of the house with his rifle pointed at the front of the house. Other deputies were giving Rendon verbal commands, including through the PA system, to come out of the house with his hands up. However, while responsive to some degree, Rendon did not appear compliant to the commands. Trumbo could not understand what Rendon was trying to say.

Trumbo did not remember the exact pattern of Rendon coming in and out of the front door of the house but did recall Rendon coming out several times armed with a handgun in his hand. Initially Rendon was holding the handgun by his side when he came outside. Rendon's movements seemed uncoordinated. He was acting very erratic and moving non-stop, which led Trumbo to believe he was under the influence.

Rendon began raising the handgun upward and twirling it in a circular motion when he came out, which Trumbo found dangerous. At times, it seemed like Rendon was briefly pointing the handgun at deputies when he was moving the handgun about. There were also bystanders near the police tape, which seemed a little too close to the scene. Trumbo believed Rendon was going to kill somebody. He was relieved whenever Rendon went back into the house.

Rendon came back out and raised the gun towards the deputies who were in the driveway. Trumbo knew there were bystanders in the back in addition to the deputies. Trumbo fired five to six shots at Rendon when Rendon pointed the gun at the deputies. Trumbo felt if he did not



shoot, Rendon would have killed someone. Under the circumstances, Trumbo did not believe he had the time or distance to use less-than-lethal force. Rendon was too far away to use a baton or taser and there was the immediate threat of Rendon pointing a gun at deputies and bystanders.

Trumbo stopped firing when Rendon fell to the ground and was no longer able to point the gun at deputies or bystanders. Once Rendon was down, a contact team was formed, and Trumbo moved up to the front of the house and cleared the backyard of the residence. As Trumbo came back out to the front, he could see deputies performing CPR on Rendon.

### Investigation

The scene was secured, photographed, and investigated by the San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit. All reports, recorded witness interviews, body worn camera, police helicopter camera footage, the Medical Examiner's report, and all other submitted items were reviewed. All these items were found to provide evidence generally consistent with the deputies' statements.

During this incident, Carey utilized a Colt CR6930 5.56 caliber rifle. Per manufacturer specifications, the rifle with a seated magazine has a maximum capacity of 30+1 rounds. Following the shooting, Carey's rifle and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 20 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber for a total of 21 rounds. Carey fired an estimated seven to eight rounds during the incident, based upon him estimating having 28 to 29 rounds in his magazine and an unchambered rifle beforehand.

Cook utilized a Colt M4 Commando 5.56 caliber rifle. Per manufacturer specifications, the rifle with a seated magazine has a maximum capacity of 30+1 rounds. Following the shooting, Cook's rifle and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 19 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber for a total of 20 rounds. Cook fired an estimated eight rounds during the incident based upon him estimating having 28 rounds in his magazine and an unchambered rifle beforehand.

Caranto utilized a Colt M4 Commando 5.56 caliber rifle. Per manufacturer specifications, the rifle with a seated magazine has a maximum capacity of 30+1 rounds. Following the shooting, Caranto's rifle and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 23 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber of the rifle for a total of 24 rounds. Caranto fired an estimated six rounds during the incident based upon him estimating having 30 rounds in his magazine and an unchambered rifle beforehand.

Patmon utilized a Colt M4 Carbine 5.56 caliber rifle. Per manufacturer specifications, the rifle with a seated magazine has a maximum capacity of 30+1 rounds. Following the shooting, Patmon's rifle and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 21 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber for a total of 22 rounds. Patmon fired an estimated six rounds during the incident based upon him estimating having 28 rounds in his magazine and an unchambered rifle beforehand.

Spinelli utilized a Colt M4 Carbine 5.56 caliber rifle. Per manufacturer specifications, the rifle with a seated magazine has a maximum capacity of 30+1 rounds. Following the shooting,

Spinelli's rifle and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 13 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber of the rifle for a total of 14 rounds. Spinelli fired an estimated 16 rounds during the incident based upon him estimating having 30 rounds in his magazine and an unchambered rifle beforehand.

Zamora utilized a Glock 17 9mm handgun. Per manufacturer specifications, the handgun with a seated magazine has a maximum capacity of 17+1 rounds. Following the shooting, Zamora's handgun and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 16 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber of the handgun for a total of 17 rounds. Zamora fired an estimated one round during the incident based upon him estimating having 17 rounds in his magazine and a chambered handgun beforehand.

Trumbo utilized a Colt AR-15 A2 5.56 caliber rifle. Per manufacturer specifications, the rifle with a seated magazine had a maximum capacity of 30+1 rounds. Following the shooting, Trumbo's rifle and magazine were collected for analysis. The magazine contained 22 rounds, with one additional round in the chamber of the rifle for a total of 23 rounds. Trumbo fired an estimated seven rounds during the incident based upon him estimating having 30 rounds in his magazine and an unchambered rifle beforehand.

The firearm recovered from Rendon was a Hi-Point 40S&W caliber handgun with an obliterated serial number. Per manufacturer specifications, the handgun with a seated magazine had a maximum capacity of 10+1 rounds. Following the shooting, the handgun was examined and had a seated magazine which contained six rounds and one additional round in the chamber of the handgun for a total of 7 40S&W rounds. During a subsequent search of CW1's residence, multiple 40S&W cartridge casings were located. One was collected in the exterior entrance to the southeast bedroom, another was collected from inside the southeast bedroom, and a third was collected from underneath the bed in the southeast bedroom.

Sheriff's marked vehicle 20224 was parked in the street northeast of the residence. Eleven 5.56 cartridge casings were found on the ground northwest of the patrol vehicle. Fourteen 223 REM and one 9mm cartridge casings were found on the asphalt east of the patrol vehicle. Eight 223 REM cartridge casings were found under the vehicle. Three 223 REM cartridge casings were found on the asphalt west of the vehicle. Four 223 REM cartridge casings were found on the asphalt southeast of the vehicle. Six 223 REM cartridge casings were found inside and on the windshield of the vehicle.

Sheriff's marked vehicle 20896 was parked at the intersection near the house facing west. One 223 REM cartridge casing was found underneath the vehicle. Six 5.56 cartridge casings were found in the asphalt east of the driveway to the house. 223 REM caliber cartridges can be used in the 5.56 caliber rifles utilized by the involved deputies.

Multiple bullet impacts were located on the exterior front of CW1's house along with inside the kitchen and dining areas consistent with the direction of fire from deputies. A white vehicle parked in the driveway of the house had multiple bullet impacts to the rear and passenger sides also consistent with the direction of fire from deputies. Two duffle bags and a pair of white shoes

were found in the front yard of the house. There was a Ring camera affixed to the front of the home, however, subsequent warrants executed with Ring returned no data.

### **Body Worn Camera Evidence**

Several responding deputies were equipped with body worn cameras that were activated during the events. While all footage was reviewed, only footage from deputies directly involved in the shooting is described below. The footage from other deputies was duplicative or did not capture the events as clearly as the footage from the deputies involved.

Carey's footage begins when Carey is to the rear of the backyard of the house and armed with a less-than-lethal pepper ball gun. Carey goes to his patrol vehicle and drives to the north side and meets with other deputies deployed around the house. Carey then takes position in the driveway when a gunshot is heard. Carey runs to front door of the house and watches the door leading from the kitchen to the garage from the house exterior. A second gunshot can be heard and deputies, including Carey, pull back from the house. Carey runs back to his patrol vehicle to retrieve his helmet and rifle. As he runs, Carey tells bystanders near the police tape perimeter to stay back. Carey takes a perimeter position at the back of a patrol vehicle in the street just north of the house. Deputies advise that Rendon is armed with a gun. Carey then moves to the patrol vehicle directly in front of the front door of the house with his rifle pointed at the house. From this position, and through the shooting, Carey's body worn camera is mostly blocked by the vehicle he has taken cover behind. Deputies can be heard shouting at Rendon to come out and surrender. Carey and another deputy discuss less-than-lethal force options but are concerned that would anger Rendon because he seems to be under the influence. Later, Caranto can be heard telling Rendon not to point. Rendon is partially visible coming out of the front door. Rendon raises his arm. Carey and other deputies fire multiple shots at Rendon. Once Rendon is down, Carey moves up with deputies and grabs a handgun on the ground by the front door. Another deputy gives commands to check Rendon for vitals. Carey assists other deputies with rolling Rendon over to handcuff him. Deputies with Rendon announce they detect a light pulse. Carey then goes into and clears the house as other deputies perform CPR on Rendon.

Cook's camera footage begins as he is driving to the scene. After he parks and equips himself, Cook walks toward the patrol vehicles in front of the house. Cook's footage then ceases. When later questioned about why the recording ended, Cook explained that his rifle sling snagged onto his body worn camera and pulled it off, deactivating it. Cook put it back on and believed it had reactivated, but that does not seem to be the case as there was no additional footage.

Caranto's camera activates as he is behind a patrol vehicle in the driveway of the house while armed with his rifle. Caranto maintains this position until the shooting. Deputies repeatedly give Rendon commands over the PA to show his hands and come out of the house. Rendon can be seen in the kitchen from the open front door. Caranto gives Rendon multiple commands to come out of the house. Rendon moves in and out of the house and stands just outside the front door while holding and swinging a handgun in his hand. Caranto tells Rendon not to point and Rendon goes back inside. Later, Caranto and other deputies fire their weapons. Due to the angle of the camera at that moment, Rendon cannot be seen on the footage. Caranto's shots impact a white vehicle between him and the front door of the house. Deputies then cease fire and

approach. Rendon is on the ground, face up, and visibly wounded. A deputy checks his pulse. Deputies roll Rendon over and place handcuffs on him while Caranto and another deputy clear the residence. When Caranto returns to Rendon, a deputy is performing CPR on Rendon.

Patmon's camera activates as he is arriving to the scene. Patmon joins with deputies as they speak to CW1, who provides information. Patmon and other deputies enter and evacuate the four children with Patmon carrying one. Patmon then joins other deputies on an exterior corner of the house and then moves to the other side of the house. Patmon orders Rendon to come out and to give up or they will send in a canine unit. Later, deputies are in the backyard and deploy a robot toward the patio where Rendon is located. After Rendon goes back in the house, Patmon walks to the southernmost window on the backside of the house. As he stands near the window, a gunshot can be heard from the area of patio. The team of deputies retreats to the corner. A second gunshot is heard, and the team retreats to the street in front of the house. Patmon takes cover behind a patrol vehicle and is given a rifle. He then takes various positions under cover. He is behind a vehicle when he and other deputies fire. Patmon's camera is angled toward the deputies behind another vehicle. Patmon and other deputies then move toward the house.

Spinelli's footage shows him parking and then taking cover behind his vehicle with his handgun drawn. Spinelli speaks to another deputy about what has transpired. After the children are evacuated from the residence, Spinelli and other deputies enter the home. A gunshot is heard, and Spinelli exits the house and retreats to a tree in the front yard. A minute later, Spinelli peeks through a front window of the house and another gunshot goes off. Spinelli grabs his rifle from his vehicle and takes a position behind an open patrol vehicle door. From this position, Spinelli's camera is blocked. A few minutes pass and a third gunshot sounds. Spinelli shouts out that Rendon keeps opening and closing the door and then Spinelli shouts commands for Rendon to show his hands or he is going to get shot. Spinelli voices concern that Rendon is trying to line up for a shot. Spinelli continues to order Rendon out, but Rendon does not comply. PA announcements are made for Rendon to exit with nothing in his hands. Spinelli shouts out Rendon's position as Rendon is seen moving through the house. Spinelli shouts out that he sees a gun in Rendon's hand and Rendon is "cocking" it. As the standoff continues, Spinelli tells another deputy that Rendon has a gun in his left hand. Spinelli comments that Rendon is under the influence. Later, Spinelli and other deputies begin firing.

Zamora camera records him as he arrives on scene and joins with deputies on the perimeter. Zamora takes cover behind a patrol vehicle on the street in front of the house. Deputies are heard shouting commands at Rendon during the standoff. Because of Zamora's crouched position, his camera only captures the asphalt throughout the entire shooting. A deputy is heard saying, "He's coming back," and Zamora and other deputies begin firing in the direction of the house. After the cease fire order is given, Zamora and other deputies move to the front of the house. Zamora takes a position to the side alley of the house as other deputies enter.

Trumbo's camera activates as he is running toward a parking lot near the scene. He retrieves his rifle and helmet from a vehicle, then returns to the house to take a position at a patrol vehicle in the street. Deputies can be heard yelling commands at Rendon to show his hands and to come out with his hands up. Trumbo moves to another vehicle, where a deputy tells him that Rendon has a

gun in his hand. From this position, and through the shooting, Trumbo's camera is mostly blocked by the vehicle he is behind. Deputies can be heard shouting at Rendon to come out. As the standoff continues, Caranto can be heard yelling at Rendon, "Don't do it," and "don't point, man." Trumbo and the other deputies begin firing. They cease when the cease fire command is given. Trumbo and other deputies then go to the front of the house. Trumbo guards the walkway on the side of the house while the other deputies clear the home.

#### **Law Enforcement Helicopter Evidence**

San Diego Police Department's ABLE (Airborne Law Enforcement) helicopter and San Diego Sheriff's Office's ASTREA (Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies) helicopter are both equipped with cameras that captured overhead perspectives of the incident. The most notable events are summarized below.

ABLE's camera footage shows it arriving and then circling above the house at approximately 3:53 p.m. Minutes later, Rendon is seen in the backyard patio area. At 3:58 p.m., Rendon can be seen on the patio ingesting a substance off what appears to be tinfoil. At 3:59 p.m., deputies confirm all children are safely evacuated as Rendon is still in the backyard. At 4:00 p.m., Rendon is seen holding and drinking out of what appears to be a partially filled bottle of alcohol. At 4:03 p.m., Rendon is in the house while ABLE begins making PA announcements for him to come outside with nothing in his hands. At 4:11 p.m., deputies position themselves on the north side of the house to contact Rendon in the backyard. At 4:26 p.m., deputies are in the backyard of the house on the west side near windows when a gunshot is heard. Deputies immediately react and retreat to the northwest corner of the house. At 4:27 p.m., deputies radio that a second gunshot is fired. Deputies on the northwest corner retreat to the street in front of the house.

ASTREA's camera timestamp is one hour ahead of actual time. As such, the times herein have been converted to actual time. At approximately 4:25 p.m., ASTREA arrives on scene and circles above the house. At 4:37 p.m., Rendon is on the patio smoking a substance from tinfoil. A handgun can be seen on the table next to him. At 4:41 p.m., ASTREA confirms the handgun is no longer on the table. At 4:44 p.m., Rendon is inside the house and deputies radio that they see Rendon walking around inside the house armed with a firearm. At 4:46 p.m., Rendon throws items onto the front lawn area of the house while deputies give him commands. At 4:51 p.m., Rendon is seen outside the front door of the house. He goes inside and then comes back out holding an object. At 4:53 p.m., Rendon is at the threshold of the front door once more. Again, he goes in, then comes back outside through the front door. Rendon then crosses back across the threshold and an object can be seen in his left hand. At 4:54 p.m., Rendon goes inside and slams the screen door while holding an object in his hand. At 4:55 p.m., Rendon comes back out and raises the object in his hand toward deputies in the front driveway of the house. The deputies fire at Rendon, who falls in the doorway. At 4:56 p.m., deputies approach him as he is on the ground.

#### **Autopsy and Toxicology**

On November 17, 2024, an autopsy was performed by the San Diego County Deputy Medical Examiner Office. The physician examiner observed multiple gunshot wounds to Rendon's head, body, and extremities. The Medical Examiner determined Rendon's cause of death was multiple gunshots wounds, and the manner of death was homicide. Toxicological analysis of Rendon's

blood at the time of death revealed the presence of 0.102% alcohol (ethanol), 0.04mg/L of amphetamine, 0.09mg/L of methamphetamine, and 18 ng/mL of fentanyl.

**Legal Standard of Criminal Liability**

Penal Code section 835a(c) sets forth the standard to evaluate a peace officer's use of deadly force. The law provides that "a peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary "to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person." Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(A).

As defined by statute, "deadly force" means "any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, the discharge of a firearm." Penal Code section 835a(e)(1).

"A threat of death or serious bodily injury is 'imminent' when based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person." Penal Code section 835a(e)(2).

"An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed." Penal Code section 835a(e)(2).

"'Totality of the circumstances' means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force." Penal Code section 835a(e)(3).

"In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case, and shall use other available resources and techniques, if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer." Penal Code section 835a(a)(2).

"The decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight. The totality of circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force." Penal Code section 835a(4).

"A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from their efforts because of resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested. A peace officer shall not be deemed an aggressor or lose the right of self-defense by the use of objectively reasonable force in compliance with subdivisions (b) and (c) to effect the arrest or prevent escape or overcome resistance. For purposes of this section 'retreat' does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation tactics." Penal Code section 835a(d).

**Conclusion**

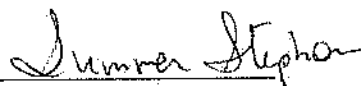
CW1 was home with her four children when Rendon entered. He was armed and began acting erratically, causing CW1 to call 911. Several sheriff's deputies responded. They repeatedly ordered Rendon to surrender, but he did not comply. Police helicopters were able to communicate Rendon's locations to deputies which allowed them to evacuate the children safely.

Helicopter personnel observed Rendon in the patio area with a handgun and he was seen ingesting what appeared to be a controlled substance. Deputies on the ground continued to order him to surrender while additional commands were broadcast from the helicopters above. Deputies entered the residence again but were forced to withdraw when Rendon fired multiple shots from his handgun. During the one-hour-and-forty-minute standoff, Rendon showed no indication of compliance with the many commands to relinquish his firearm and surrender. The deputies observed Rendon cursing, talking to himself, and making chaotic body movements. Deputies suspected he was under the influence of a controlled substance.

When Rendon fired his handgun inside the residence, deputies retreated. They did not immediately respond with force. Instead, through continued commands, they attempted to convince Rendon to surrender peacefully. Rendon repeatedly entered and exited the house while waving the handgun. Each time he came outside, deputies shouted at him to stop and surrender. Rendon ultimately exited, then raised and pointed the firearm toward the deputies. Seven deputies responded by firing on Rendon, believing he was going to shoot at them. When they fired, the deputies reasonably believed Rendon presented an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury. A reasonable officer in the same situation similarly would perceive Rendon's actions as a threat that had to be instantly confronted and addressed. As soon as they deemed Rendon no longer presented an imminent threat, the deputies immediately ceased fire.

Therefore, based on our review of this incident, these deputies bear no state criminal liability for their actions. A copy of this letter, along with the materials submitted for our review, will be retained in our files.

Sincerely,

  
SUMMER STEPHAN  
District Attorney

cc: Captain Christopher Lawrence, San Diego County Sheriff's Office  
Captain Manuel Del Toro, San Diego Police Department