

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

July 1, 2022
For Immediate Release

Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890
En Español [Barbara Medina](#) (619) 531-3305

District Attorney Releases Reviews of Seven Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office has posted its completed reviews of seven officer-involved shooting incidents, two of which were fatal, on its public website involving the following individuals: Ryan Bowers, Daniel McKibben, Shane Felix, Omar Rojas and Jesus Morales. The detailed letters sent to the various police agencies can be [found here](#). Related body-worn camera video evidence of these incidents, where available, has been released previously by each of the law enforcement agencies involved.

The DA's release of its reviews also included analyses of the following two fatal officer-involved shooting incidents:

Jesus Veleta

On July 23, 2021, San Diego Police received calls of two shootings. The first shooting occurred at Belmont Park; no one was injured. The second shooting occurred near a Food4Less on University Avenue. One victim was shot in the groin and leg. The suspects in both shootings were seen fleeing in a blue Honda Civic. Officers in marked police cars located the vehicle and stopped it, telling occupants to stay in the vehicle. Jesus Veleta, 22, exited the vehicle armed with a handgun in his right hand and fled. Several officers pursued Veleta to a nearby restaurant. Veleta disregarded orders to drop his weapon and continued running around the restaurant. As Veleta ran through the occupied drive-thru, he stumbled, fell to the ground, and dropped the gun. Veleta grabbed the gun and continued to flee. In the back of the restaurant, Veleta again stumbled and fell to the ground, but retained possession of the gun. As officers ordered Veleta to drop the gun, he raised it up behind him back towards the officers. Two officers discharged their firearms striking Veleta. Veleta threw his handgun in front of him as the officers discharged their weapons. Officers immediately provided medical aid to Veleta who was transported to a hospital and pronounced dead. Veleta's toxicology testing was presumptive positive for benzodiazepines and cannabinoids. His blood alcohol level was .24%. The District Attorney's review determined that the officers involved bear no state criminal liability for the actions. When Veleta raised his firearm behind him toward them, both officers reasonably believed Veleta posed an imminent threat to them that needed to be instantly confronted. The officers reasonably believed that had they not taken action, Veleta would have shot them.

Setha Phangdy

On August 19, 2021 the El Cajon Police Department received an emergency call from a person reporting a shooting at a business. Setha Phangdy, 38, shot one of the employees with a handgun and fled on foot. A witness provided a suspect description which was broadcast to officers. An officer in a patrol car encountered Phangdy a short distance away. Phangdy stood in the middle of the road, pointed a firearm at the officer and began shooting at him. The officer stopped his vehicle and ducked below the dashboard. The officer looked over the dashboard just enough to see Phangdy still in front of him firing his weapon, so he accelerated his vehicle and drove directly at Phangdy. The officer's vehicle struck Phangdy and knocked him to the ground. The officer got out of his vehicle and saw Phangdy sit up and try to reload his gun. The officer pointed his gun at Phangdy and ordered him to drop his weapon. Phangdy ignored the officer's commands and continued trying to load his gun. The officer fired his weapon at Phangdy striking him four times. Additional officers arrived and began providing medical aid to Phangdy. Phangdy was transported by ambulance to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Toxicology results were positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. In reviewing the totality of the circumstances, the District Attorney determined the officer's actions at the time of the shooting were reasonable based on the circumstances known to him and perceived by him at the time. The officer had reason to believe Phangdy posed an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to himself or the public. Under the totality of circumstances, the officer was justified in his actions and bears no state criminal liability.

###

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.