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For Immediate Release

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

The San Diego County District Attorney has completed reviews of four officer-involved shooting incidents, two fatal and two non-fatal. In all the incidents, the suspects were armed.

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 also 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's been determined that the law enforcement officers involved in all four of these incidents bear no criminal liability for their actions.

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

- Police officers responded to a call of a woman who had been shot in the head. The woman identified her boyfriend, **Imanol Aparicio**, as the shooter. When police located Aparicio and attempted to detain him, he fled into an alley and pivoted toward the officers while reaching into his waistband. Aparicio ignored the officers' repeated commands, and the officers fired their weapons. Aparicio raised his firearm in their direction, and the officers fired again, fatally striking him. The firearm Aparicio possessed was a ghost gun. [Read the DA's detailed letter here.](#)
- **Curtis Harris** was known to police to be a child abuse suspect and felon who was reportedly in possession of a firearm and a stolen vehicle. Officers located him at a Ralph's grocery store and attempted to detain him to serve him with an emergency protective order. As Harris fled, he turned and shot one of the officers in the head.

Officers returned fire and Harris was killed. An autopsy revealed the presence of meth, marijuana and PCP in his system. [Read the DA's detailed letter here.](#)

- Officers responded to reports of a man carrying a handgun while walking along State Route 76. After locating **Patrick Lowell**, officers blocked traffic and repeatedly ordered Lowell to stop walking toward them, warning that he may be shot. He did not comply and officers fired at Lowell who suffered a non-fatal injury. Lowell was armed with a black replica Glock 9mm handgun and a knife. He later pleaded guilty to two felony counts and was sentenced to two years in prison. [Read the DA's letter here.](#)
- After **Jose Murillo, Jr.** unexpectedly pulled up behind a CHP officer on the shoulder of Interstate 805, the officer engaged Murillo, who appeared to be under the influence of drugs. After the officer asked Murillo to step out of his car, Murillo opened a pocketknife and brandished it at the officer. The officer backed away and ordered Murillo to put the knife down several times, but he did not comply. Instead, Murillo opened his door and ran toward the officer, pointing the knife at him. The officer fired at Murillo, striking him non-fatally. Tests later showed the presence of cocaine and marijuana in his system. A jury convicted Murillo of multiple felony crimes and a judge sentenced him to one year in custody and two years probation. [Read the DA's letter here.](#)

The DA's detailed review letters regarding the above incidents 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.

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