

Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Kevin Doby

Los Angeles Police Department

Officer Juan Diaz, #44301

Officer Alfredo Castillo, #45180

J.S.I.D. File #25-0002



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

May 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPTAIN OMAR BAZULTO
Los Angeles Police Department
Force Investigation Division
100 West First Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

FROM: JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Kevin Doby
J.S.I.D. File #25-0002
L.A.P.D. File #F056-24

DATE: May 11, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) has completed its review of the December 28, 2024, non-fatal shooting of Kevin Doby by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officers Juan Diaz and Alfredo Castillo. We have determined the evidence supports a reasonable belief by the officers that the use of deadly force was necessary in self-defense and the defense of others.

The LADA Command Center was notified of the shooting at approximately 12:34 a.m. on December 29, 2024. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the scene and was given a briefing and walk-through by LAPD Lieutenant Jess Falk.

The following analysis is based on LAPD investigative reports and other materials, including recorded interviews, photographs, surveillance video, body worn camera video (BWV), and radio communications submitted to this office by the LAPD Force Investigation Division (FID) on February 4, 2026. Compelled statements of the shooting officers, if they exist, were not considered in this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On December 28, 2024, at approximately 11:20 p.m., [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were attending a family gathering at a residence located near [REDACTED] East 114th Street in the City of Los Angeles. During the evening, both men exited the residence and stood on the sidewalk in front of [REDACTED] East 114th Street, where they engaged in conversation near a parked Tesla Model Y.¹

¹ Investigators determined the Tesla was operating in "sentry mode," which is a security feature which uses the vehicle's external cameras and proximity sensors to monitor its surroundings while parked and locked. The cameras are motion-activated and subsequently recorded to an internal hard drive, which was later recovered by investigators.

Moments later a gray Cadillac drove westbound on 114th Street and turned onto Graham Avenue. The driver, later identified as Kevin Doby, exited the vehicle while armed with an AK-style rifle which he had concealed beneath a jacket. Doby approached [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on the sidewalk, removed the rifle from the jacket, and pointed it at them while demanding they empty their pockets. Doby then snatched a gold chain from around [REDACTED]'s neck, breaking the chain in the process.

[REDACTED] immediately tackled Doby to the ground in an attempt to wrestle the rifle away from him. [REDACTED] also attempted to restrain Doby as both men fought with him for control of the weapon.

While on the ground, Doby positioned the rifle between his legs while the two men continued striking him, attempting to gain control of the weapon. At one point, a piece of the rifle's stock broke off. As the altercation continued, Doby produced a folding knife from his pocket and held it in his right hand while still continuing to struggle with the two men over control of the rifle.

At approximately 11:27 p.m., LAPD Officers Juan Diaz and Alfredo Castillo were on patrol in a marked police vehicle when they observed the three individuals wrestling on the sidewalk. Diaz illuminated the group with the patrol vehicle spotlight and stopped the vehicle approximately 65 feet away.

Both officers exited the patrol vehicle and approached the group. As Diaz moved closer, a male voice yelled that Doby had a gun. Diaz drew his service weapon and ordered the two victims to get off Doby. Diaz repeatedly shouted commands including "Drop the gun!"

As the officers approached, the altercation continued with Doby remaining armed with both the rifle and knife. At approximately 11:27:54 p.m., Diaz fired one round from his service weapon at Doby. Immediately after the shot was fired, the two men disengaged from the struggle and fled from Doby.

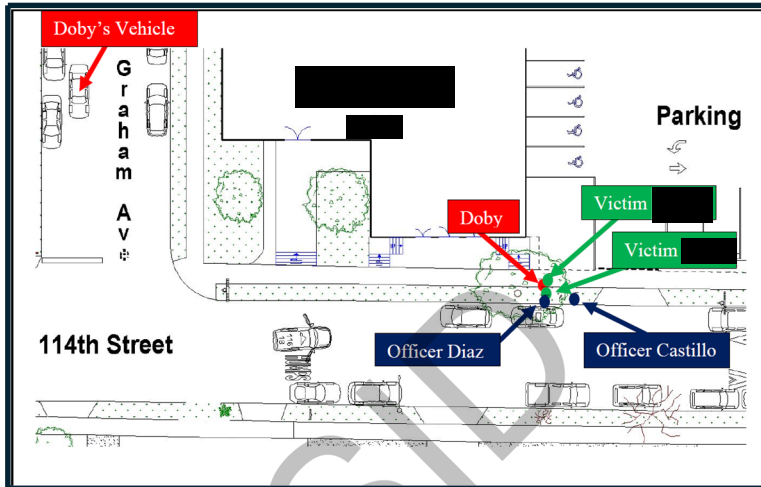
Following the first shot, Doby stood up while still holding the rifle. In response, Diaz fired an additional seven rounds from his service weapon as he quickly stepped backward away from Doby. Simultaneously, Castillo fired one round from his service weapon as Doby stood up while still holding the rifle.

Castillo fired four more rounds at Doby, who maintained control of the rifle and ran west. Doby then ducked behind the parked Tesla. Castillo immediately ceased firing when Doby moved behind Tesla and out of view behind a nearby tree.²

Diaz commanded Doby to "Drop the rifle!" As Doby stood up with the rifle, Diaz fired a ninth round from his service weapon. Shortly thereafter, Doby fell to the ground and discarded the rifle underneath a parked vehicle.

² Doby was the only individual in proximity to the tree and Tesla at the time Castillo fired.

Officers subsequently approached and took Doby into custody without further incident. Doby's loaded .22-caliber AK-style rifle and folding knife were recovered. Doby sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his left leg and back and was transported to the hospital for treatment. Both victims were struck by gunfire during the incident, with [REDACTED] sustaining a graze wound to his wrist and [REDACTED] sustaining a gunshot wound to his forearm. They were also transported to the hospital for treatment and later released.



LAPD Diagram Depicting the Parties' Relative Positions at the Time Diaz First Fired his Service Weapon.



Doby's Knife as Photographed at the Scene.



Doby's Rifle as Photographed at the Scene.

Witness Statements³

Statement of Kevin Doby

On December 30, 2024, investigators interviewed Doby at the hospital.⁴ He explained on the night of the incident he drove to the area near his residence after going to purchase marijuana. Doby stated he bought marijuana from two men, but after the transaction the men attempted to take the marijuana back.

Doby said he returned to his car, retrieved an unloaded .22 caliber rifle, and returned to confront the two men. A physical fight ensued. During the struggle, one man choked him while the other struck him in the face.

Doby stated one of the men had a knife. While wrestling with this man, Doby said he grabbed the knife and stabbed him in the leg in order to get him off of him. While he was fighting with the men, Doby heard several gunshots and realized he had been shot in the leg. He said he did not initially realize police officers were present because of the commotion. He said he heard officers yelling "Hands!" so he raised his hands, and was taken into custody.

Doby stated he could only partially describe the individuals involved, saying one appeared to be Hispanic but the incident happened quickly and he was unsure if he could identify them.

Statement of [REDACTED]

On January 21, 2025, investigators interviewed [REDACTED]. He stated on December 28, 2024, he attended a family gathering at a residence located near [REDACTED] East 114th Street. At approximately 11:20 p.m., he and [REDACTED] stepped outside and stood on the sidewalk in front of [REDACTED] East 114th Street, where they were speaking with each other near a parked vehicle.

³ All interviews referenced in this memorandum were recorded.

⁴ Doby was advised of and waived his Miranda rights and agreed to speak to investigators.

While they were standing on the sidewalk Doby approached with a rifle, pointed it in their direction, and demanded they empty their pockets. Doby then forcibly grabbed a gold chain from around [REDACTED]'s neck, causing the chain to break.

In fear of being shot, [REDACTED] charged Doby, tackling him to the ground. Once on the ground, [REDACTED] attempted to gain control of the rifle to prevent Doby from pointing it at him or [REDACTED].

In an effort to disarm Doby, [REDACTED] used his left hand to hold onto the rifle while simultaneously striking Doby with his right hand. During the struggle, he was able to break off a plastic portion of the rifle's stock while attempting to pull the weapon away from Doby. He threw the broken piece away to prevent Doby from retrieving it.

[REDACTED] observed a police vehicle approaching and attempted to get the officers' attention. As he briefly turned his attention toward them, Doby produced a folding knife from his pocket. [REDACTED] then resumed focusing on restraining Doby while attempting to control both the rifle and the knife.

[REDACTED] stated the officers approached and began ordering Doby to drop the weapon. As the struggle continued, [REDACTED] heard a gunshot and realized he had been struck in his hand. He described feeling immediate pain and realizing he was bleeding. After the first gunshot, [REDACTED] ran away from Doby. As he fled, he heard several additional gunshots being fired.

[REDACTED] was later transported to the hospital where he was treated for a graze wound to his left wrist. [REDACTED] said neither he nor [REDACTED] sells marijuana. He said neither he nor [REDACTED] had ever encountered Doby prior to the incident.

Statement of [REDACTED]

On December 29, 2024, investigators interviewed [REDACTED]. He stated he attended the same family gathering as [REDACTED]. At approximately 11:20 p.m., he and [REDACTED] stepped outside and stood on the sidewalk talking with one another.

Doby approached them while armed with a rifle, pointed it at them, and demanded they empty their pockets. When Doby grabbed [REDACTED]'s gold chain, he ([REDACTED]) immediately tackled Doby to the ground. [REDACTED] joined the struggle in an effort to help restrain Doby and prevent him from using the rifle.

[REDACTED] positioned himself on the ground next to Doby and wrapped his arm around Doby's head while [REDACTED] continued attempting to wrestle the rifle away. Throughout the struggle, Doby remained in possession of the rifle. Doby produced a knife while they were attempting to restrain him.

Police officers arrived shortly thereafter and ordered Doby to drop the gun. The officers continuously issued multiple commands while he and ██████████ were still physically engaged on the ground with Doby. ██████████ said he suddenly heard a gunshot and immediately felt a warm sensation in his arm. He later realized he had been struck by a bullet in his right forearm.

After the initial gunshots, ██████████ disengaged from the struggle and ran away from Doby. While running, ██████████ heard additional gunshots being fired behind him. ██████████ was transported to the hospital where he was treated for a through-and-through gunshot wound to his right forearm.

Video Recordings

Investigators reviewed multiple video recordings related to the incident, including surveillance footage from a privately owned Tesla vehicle, and BWV recordings from the shooting officers.⁵

The Tesla cameras captured video of the initial encounter between the suspect and the victims as well as portions of the subsequent struggle. Doby can be seen approaching the victims on foot along the sidewalk. Doby holds the rifle beneath a jacket before removing it and pointing it toward the victims. Doby forcefully grabs a gold chain from around ██████████'s neck. Immediately afterward, ██████████ tackles Doby to the ground and the two begin struggling for control of the rifle. ██████████ attempts to restrain Doby while ██████████ continues attempting to gain control of the firearm. Doby's knife is visible in his hand as the victims attempt to restrain him. The victims continue struggling with Doby on the sidewalk as the officers approach. Moments later Diaz appears to fire one shot and the parties separate.



Still from the Tesla Surveillance Video Depicting Doby (Left) Pointing the Rifle at ██████████ (Middle) and ██████████ (Right).

⁵ As a result of BWV manufacturer settings, audio and video are both recorded upon activation by the officer. The previous minute of video, without audio, is also captured. The Tesla video does not contain audio.

Diaz's BWV captures him exiting the patrol vehicle and approaching three individuals wrestling on the sidewalk. As Diaz approaches, a male voice can be heard yelling that Doby has a gun. Diaz draws his service weapon and begins issuing commands such as, "Drop the gun!" and warns Doby has an "AK!" While holding the knife, Doby turns his body and remains in close proximity to the rifle. Diaz fires one round at Doby. Immediately after the first round, the victims disengage from the struggle and run away. While still armed, Doby stands up, begins moving toward parked vehicles as Diaz moves backward into the street firing additional rounds. Diaz fires one additional round at Doby who is partially concealed behind a tree and armed.



Still From Diaz's BWV Moments Before he Fired his Service Weapon. Doby can be Seen Holding a Knife in his Right Hand (Red Circle) and His Rifle Next to him (Yellow Circle).

Castillo's BWV shows him exiting the patrol vehicle and approaching the scene behind Diaz. As the struggle continues, Castillo positions himself on the sidewalk east of the group while maintaining his service weapon pointed in their direction. While holding the rifle, Doby begins to stand. Castillo moves backward into the street and fires multiple rounds. Doby runs westbound before moving behind the parked Tesla. As Doby moves out of view, Castillo ceases firing



Still From Castillo's BWV as he Fired the First Round from his Service Weapon. Doby (Center) can be Observed Holding his Rifle.

Additional Information

Investigators determined Doby's firearm was a functional .22 caliber Arms Corporation rifle. It contained one live round in the chamber and 14 live rounds in a high-capacity magazine. Investigators determined Doby's folding knife measured eight inches in length inclusive of a three and half inch blade.

On December 31, 2024, Doby was charged in case 24CMCF02115 with two counts of assault with a machine gun in violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(3), one count of second degree robbery in violation of Penal Code section 211, one count of attempted second degree robbery in violation of Penal Code section 664/211, and one count of possession of a firearm with a prior violent conviction in violation of Penal Code section 29900(a)(1). The matter is currently pending trial.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the 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, or to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Penal Code § 835a(b), (c)(1)(A), and (c)(1)(B).

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. 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 § 835a(e)(2).

“Totality of circumstances” means all facts known to or perceived by the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force. The peace officer’s decision to use force is not evaluated with the benefit of hindsight and shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force. Penal Code § 835a(a)(4) and (e)(3).

When Diaz and Castillo arrived at the scene, they encountered an active violent struggle involving a suspect armed with both a rifle and a knife. Doby had just committed an armed robbery and was physically engaged with two victims while maintaining access to both weapons. Under these circumstances, the initial use of deadly force by each officer was objectively reasonable.

The deadly threat did not end after the first shot. Doby stood up while still armed with the rifle and continued to manipulate and maintain control of the weapon. Although the victims were disengaged from the struggle, Doby remained armed, noncompliant, and capable of using deadly force. Doby’s actions reasonably indicated the imminent deadly threat remained ongoing.

Deadly force is justified to prevent escape where the suspect poses a continuing threat of death or serious bodily injury. As such, Doby’s movement away from the officers did not render the continued use of deadly force unreasonable. Doby was an armed robber who continued to possess a loaded rifle and had refused repeated commands to drop the weapon. If not immediately stopped, Doby posed a significant risk to the officers, the victims, and nearby residents. Further, Doby’s movement behind parked vehicles may have been an attempt reposition or gain a tactical advantage.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, Diaz and Castillo could reasonably believe Doby posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves and the victims and the use of deadly force was necessary to defend against that threat.

CONCLUSION

Based on the available evidence, we conclude Diaz and Castillo acted lawfully in self-defense and defense of others when they fired their service weapons. Additionally, Diaz and Castillo acted lawfully by using deadly force to apprehend a fleeing felon who threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury unless immediately apprehended.