

**Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Geoffrey Scott Barton
Claremont Police Department**

Sergeant Eduardo Lomeli #3906

J.S.I.D. File #25-0029



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

June 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEF MIKE CISZEK
Claremont Police Department
570 W. Bonita Avenue
Claremont, California 91711

CAPTAIN AUTURO R. SPENCER
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Homicide Bureau
1 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, California 91755

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

SUBJECT: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Geoffrey Scott Barton
J.S.I.D. File #25-0029
L.A.S.D. File #025-00007-3199-013

DATE: June 15, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office completed its review of the February 3, 2025, fatal shooting of Geoffrey Scott Barton by Claremont Police Department (CPD) Sergeant Eduardo Lomeli. We conclude Lomeli acted in lawful self-defense and the defense of others at the time he fired his service weapon, reasonably believing based on the totality of the circumstances that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent deadly threat.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of this fatal officer involved shooting at approximately 5:30 p.m. on February 3, 2025. The District Attorney Response Team was provided with a briefing and walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on reports, radio transmissions, 9-1-1 calls, recorded interviews, photographs, body-worn camera video (BWV), and surveillance video submitted to this office by LASD Homicide Bureau Detectives on October 16, 2025. Lomeli's voluntary statement was considered in this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

After abusing his elderly parents on multiple occasions, Geoffrey Scott Barton's family obtained a restraining order and attempted to evict him from the family home. On February 3, 2025, a private investigator hired by the family served Barton with restraining and move out orders.

Lomeli and Officer Morales arrived at the location to conduct surveillance and observed Barton pushing a trash bin in front of the residence.¹ When the officers made eye contact with Barton, Barton reached for a .22 caliber handgun holstered inside his waistband, resulting in a fatal officer involved shooting. Barton was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

Lomeli told investigators he was working as a detective in November 2024, when he was assigned to investigate an elder abuse case involving Barton and his elderly parents. Lomeli said Barton's parents reported Barton punched his 81-year-old father several times before his 80-year-old mother attempted to intervene. Barton pushed his mother into his father and they both fell to the ground. Lomeli was designated as the investigating officer and submitted the case to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office for a criminal filing (CPD Report#2402501).

Lomeli said in January 2025, CPD officers were called back to the residence when Barton locked his parents out of their home and barricaded himself inside. Barton's sister told Lomeli her parents feared Barton's access to guns and fled their home leaving Barton alone inside the residence. When Barton's parents attempted to return to their home to get their prescription medication and an oxygen tank, Barton prevented their entry by piling items against the access doors and sealing the doors with duct tape. On January 30, 2025, a judge granted the family's requests for a restraining order and eviction order.²

On February 3, 2025, at approximately 1:18 p.m., Barton's sister advised Lomeli that a private investigator had properly served Barton with an eviction notice and a restraining order. She sent Lomeli a copy of the judicially signed orders in an email. Barton's sister told Lomeli she and her parents were afraid of Barton because he had access to guns. Lomeli said Barton's sister's concern for safety was shared by the officers.

Lomeli said prior to going to Barton's home, he met with his command staff and told them he was concerned for everyone's safety including Barton, Barton's parents if they returned to the home, and patrol officers who were unaware of Barton's history and his access to guns.

Lomeli told his supervisors Barton kept multiple "long rifles" and handguns in the home.³ Lomeli believed "there was a very dangerous situation at that house with Barton's parents saying he was barricading himself in the house and there were long guns inside that house. The potential for danger is very high with this house."

¹ The officers were dressed in black long-sleeve polo shirts with CPD shoulder patches, the word "Police" in bold white lettering on their backs, and nameplates and badges on their chests. Lomeli had experience and training as a SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) officer for both Pomona and a regional SWAT team.

² Case 25PSRO00085 included a signed order for "Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Order After Hearing."

³ The CPD had responded to multiple calls at the residence regarding elder abuse allegations, with the most recent on January 3, 2025. On March 23, 2021, Barton punched his father causing his father to fall to the ground and hit his head on his oxygen tank. Barton told officers he had a gun, and officers retrieved long guns from Barton's room. One count of elder abuse (Penal Code section 368(B)(1)) was filed in case KA127220.

Lomeli met with the private investigator who served Barton with the restraining order. The investigator provided Lomeli with the original restraining order and eviction notice. The investigator told Lomeli he was concerned for the safety of Barton's neighbors and showed him a video depicting the proof of service on Barton at 1:17 p.m. on February 3, 2025.

The investigator told Lomeli he had been an investigator for over 30 years and said he's "never met somebody so angry and aggressive [as Barton]. He's going to hurt someone."

At approximately 4:30 p.m., Lomeli called Barton's family and confirmed with his sister and each of his parents that they wanted Barton to be evicted and arrested for trespassing and violating the court order. Lomeli conducted a firearms check and learned there were two handguns registered to Barton's address. At 4:32 p.m., Lomeli and Morales arrived at the residence, located at the end of a cul-de-sac, to conduct surveillance.

Lomeli told investigators he was concerned for everyone's safety. He said, "I'm afraid for the community, I'm afraid for somebody who's gonna go up on his door and unexpectedly, you know, get confronted with somebody who is so angry, you know, has mental health problems, and has access to long-range weapons, I mean rifles."

Lomeli said he hoped to find Barton outside and away from the home to "safely take him into custody" for violating the restraining order and refusing to vacate the property. Lomeli said he did not want to confront Barton while he was inside the home because Barton's family told him Barton had access to guns.

Lomeli said he and Morales sat outside the residence for ten to 15 minutes while they reviewed Barton's rap sheet, his Department of Motor Vehicles photograph, and the video provided by the investigator from earlier that day. While in the car, they saw Barton pushing a trash bin from the driveway of the home to the street. Lomeli thought he and Morales had the element of surprise and moved his car towards Barton.

Lomeli saw Barton on the walkway of the residence pulling a trash bin towards the home. Lomeli said he thought it was odd that Barton did not leave the trash bin on the street. Lomeli said he made eye contact with Barton as Barton began walking backwards and yelling at them. Lomeli said he activated his BWV and was a "little scared" Barton would run back into the house and arm himself.

Barton continued staring and yelling at the officers while standing on the walkway. Lomeli saw Barton let go of the trash bin and saw something which looked to Lomeli like a manila folder in Barton's right-side waistband.⁴

Lomeli said as they exited their car, Barton quickly reached for his right-side waistband. He saw Barton flip open a flap and grab a black revolver handgun. Lomeli and Morales took cover behind their car. Lomeli described Barton raising the handgun with his right hand and positioning his left hand underneath the gun. Lomeli said he saw Barton shift his weight and

⁴ Lomeli realized after he approached Barton, Barton had removed the revolver from a tan holster he was wearing on his belt which initially appeared to Lomeli as a "manila folder."

take a shooting stance. When Lomeli saw Barton raise the gun and point it at him, he drew his own service weapon and fired twice.⁵

Lomeli was unsure whether he had hit Barton, and believed Barton had taken cover behind the trash bin. Lomeli notified dispatch shots were fired and requested an ambulance. While using their car as cover, Lomeli observed Barton face up on the ground. The officers cautiously approached Barton and Lomeli saw the revolver near Barton's body. (Figure 1)



Figure 1: As Lomeli and Morales Approached Barton, They Observed Barton's Handgun Between his Legs (Yellow Circle).

Lomeli told investigators his initial plan was to approach Barton with a less-lethal weapon like a Taser and while his partner acted as lethal cover. Lomeli said, "When I developed this plan, I thought we were going to be contacting Barton in a closer situation. I thought he was gonna be closer to us [but where Barton was standing] my pepper spray was not going to be effective and my taser would probably hit my car or the trash bin. Barton had a gun that's gonna kill me or Matt, and it was a deadly force situation for me."

When Morales was interviewed by investigators, he told them he heard Barton yell, "No! No! No!" as Barton dragged the trash bin towards the house. Morales believed Barton was trying to get back inside the house where he would arm himself with weapons. Morales said Barton's behavior immediately changed. Morales said, "[Barton went from] I'm trying to evade you to [Barton] turning around, squaring up with me, facing me square, and looking me in the eyes with this aggressive, angry look, and no longer trying to run from me."

⁵ Lomeli's BWV shows he moved the car closer to Barton's home at 4:32:10 p.m. At approximately 4:32:19 p.m., he parked and exited the patrol car. He fired two rounds from his service weapon at approximately 4:32:20 p.m. The angle of Lomeli's BWV in relation to the patrol vehicle resulted in the camera being obstructed during the shooting. Morales did not have time to activate his BWV until after the shooting.

Morales estimated Barton was approximately seven yards away when Morales saw Barton pull a handgun from a holster attached to his waistband. Morales said, “I remember this like jolting feeling that like almost shocked through my body where it was like, ‘Oh shit! He’s gonna try to kill me!’” Morales did not have time to draw his service weapon and instinctively yelled, “Gun! Gun! Gun!” when heard Lomeli fire his service weapon.

Morales said he knelt behind the engine block of their car for cover. Morales said when he heard gunshots he was “terrified [Barton] had killed my partner.”

FORENSIC EVIDENCE

Barton’s Posted Notices

Barton posted dummy surveillance cameras and notifications all around the property, stating he was the “legal owner” of the property. Other notices created by Barton found inside the home described people spying on him, illegal sexual assaults, and extra-terrestrials.

Barton’s Cell Phone Memos⁶

Investigators recovered three memos written on Barton’s cell phone to himself. On January 14, 2025, Barton wrote in part, “I have been baracaded [sic] in my house @ [home address] since the Pigs or faggot, dweeb, n***er city of Claremont police . . . attempted to invade this house again that I legally purchased & legally own. It has been 3 weeks +/- after legally kicking out [parents names] for their extremist terrorism actions & constant threats at me instead of murdering them. Minutes ago a black and white police helicopter flew over my property as an obvious intentional serious threat to me by the PIGS.”

On the day he was served with the court orders he wrote angry racial slurs directed at the private investigator and police officers. Barton wrote, “I RECOGNIZE THE CAR THAT THE BLACK SKINNED N***ER DROVE AS USED BY PIG N***ERS THAT ILLEGALLY AND VIOLENTLY BUGULARIZED [sic] & INVADED & TOOK OVER MY HOUSE.”

Autopsy

Barton was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. On February 24, 2025, Deputy Medical Examiner Kevin Young spoke to Barton’s mother. She said Barton was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 36 years-old and was not taking his medication due to his belief he was being poisoned.

On February 25, 2025, Dr. Young performed an autopsy on Barton’s remains. Dr. Young observed a single fatal gunshot wound to the top of Barton’s head. Toxicology reports indicate Barton did not have any illegal drugs or alcohol in his system at the time of his death.

⁶ The offensive language found on Barton’s cell phone was redacted for purposes of this memo.

Barton's Firearms

At the time of the incident, Barton was armed with a loaded H&R Sportsman .22 revolver and a shotgun rifle hidden in the trash bin Lomeli and Morales saw him dragging toward the house prior to the shooting.

On February 3, 2025, LASD criminalists booked Barton's .22 handgun with nine live rounds and the loaded shotgun rifle found in the trash bin in the front yard into evidence. (Figures 2 and 3)



Figure 1: Barton's .22 Caliber Handgun and the Nine Live Rounds Booked Into Evidence.



Figure 3: Barton's Shotgun Secreted in the Trash Bin he was Dragging Towards the Family Home.

Criminalists also booked items found on Barton's person and in the area where he was shot, including four shotgun shells, two plastic bags with ammunition, and a box of shotgun shells.

On the same day, Detective James Phillips served a search warrant on the family residence. Detectives discovered all of the windows and doors of the home were barricaded, and loaded firearms were located near every point of entry. Detectives found two Remington rifles, a Savage Arms rifle, a Winchester rifle, a Marlin rifle, and a bolt action rifle. Additionally, they found a High Standard M101 model .22 caliber pistol inside a locked gun safe. They also recovered thousands of rounds of ammunition strewn around the home.

Firearm Analysis

Lomeli was armed with a Staccato XC 9mm handgun. He fired two rounds, striking Barton once in the head.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons: (1) to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person; or (2) 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 section 835a(c)(1)(A) &(B).

Deadly force shall be used "only when necessary, in defense of human life," and officers "shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer." Penal Code section 835a(a)(2).

"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. 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).

When considering the totality of the circumstances, 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, are taken into consideration. Penal Code section 835a(a)(4) and (e)(3). 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 section 835a(a)(4).

Barton had a history of violence toward his elderly parents and had contemplated murdering them, according to his phone memos. He wrote he was the rightful owner of the residence, and he was ready to use violence to prevent anyone from removing him.

On the day of the incident, Barton was anticipating a violent confrontation with police officers. He was angry about being served with court papers and used vitriolic racial slurs to describe the officers and the investigator. Even before Lomeli and Morales arrived at the residence, Barton was armed with a handgun in a holster, a significant number of extra rounds, and a shotgun hidden in a trash bin. He was waiting for the officers as they exited their car and pointed a firearm at the officers less than a second later.

Lomeli told investigators he was afraid when he saw Barton had a gun. Both he and Morales described Barton as angry and aggressive. When Barton unholstered his gun, Lomeli said, “[The gun] is going to kill me or Matt [Morales], you know, and it was a deadly force situation for me.” Believing that both he and his partner were in life threatening danger, Lomeli fired two rounds in self-defense.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, Lomeli’s belief that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself or others was reasonable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we find that Sergeant Lomeli acted lawfully in self-defense and the defense of others when he used deadly force against Geoffrey Scott Barton.