

**Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of
Jorge Ramirez and Andy Ramirez**

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

**Deputy Timothy Cho #536021,
Deputy Richard Jaramilla #507487, Deputy Quioia Griffin #525940,
Deputy Miranda Carvalho #625515, Deputy Jose Ramirez #503608,
Deputy Goldburn Myvett, #634191,
Deputy Ramy Khaddage, 618149**

J.S.I.D. File #19-0274



JACKIE LACEY

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

October 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPTAIN KENT WEGENER
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: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Jorge Ramirez and Andy Ramirez
J.S.I.D. File #19-0274
L.A.S.D. File #019-06664-1699-055

DATE: October 21, 2020

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the June 18, 2019, non-fatal shootings of Jorge Ramirez and Andy Ramirez by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Timothy Cho, Richard Jaramilla, Quoya Griffin, Miranda Carvalho, Jose Ramirez, Goldburn Myvett and Ramy Khaddage. It is our conclusion that the deputies acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on June 18, 2019, at approximately 12:23 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing, walk-through of the scene and interviewed civilian witnesses.

The following analysis is based on police and investigative reports, audio recorded interviews, forensic analysis, video and photographic evidence submitted to this office by Detectives Karen Shonka and Mark Perez, LASD, Homicide Bureau. The deputies provided voluntary statements which were considered as part of this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On June 18, 2019, at 10:26 a.m., LASD Carson Sheriff's station received an Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) alert of a stolen vehicle traveling north on Wilmington Avenue from Sepulveda Boulevard in the City of Carson.¹ The vehicle was a gold Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck with license plate number [REDACTED]. The ALPR alert indicated that the stolen vehicle report stated that there may be a firearm in the vehicle.

LASD Deputy Quinn Alkonis observed the truck driving north on Wilmington Avenue, crossing West Carson Street. Alkonis requested backup units as the truck drove into the parking lot on

¹ ALPR is a technology that enables a license plate to be read from images captured on cameras located throughout Los Angeles County. An ALPR alert is sent to a patrol car's mobile digital computer and includes the description of the vehicle, location of the "hit" and any other relevant information.

the northeast corner of the intersection. The truck exited the parking lot westbound on West Carson Street when additional marked black and white patrol vehicles arrived to the scene.

The marked black and white patrol vehicles followed the truck with their overhead red lights and sirens activated. The truck failed to yield and a pursuit ensued. The truck made a U-turn at Bonita Street and went east on West Carson Street. Deputies observed two occupants in the vehicle, later identified as Jorge Ramirez, the driver, and Andy Ramirez, the front seat passenger. The truck was driving slightly above the speed limit and drove through a red light at Santa Fe Avenue.

Jorge Ramirez made a left (north) turn onto Via Alcalde Avenue and traveled counterclockwise around an open field. The truck turned south onto Via Oro Avenue back toward West Carson Street. Meanwhile, deputies deployed spike strips across the southbound lanes of Via Oro Avenue, just north of West Carson Street.



The red arrows show the pursuit path taken by the Chevrolet Silverado.
The green "X" designates where the spike strips were deployed.

As the truck approached West Carson Street, it abruptly veered to the right (west) onto the west curb to avoid the spike strips. The truck traveled across the grass parkway at the northwest corner and struck a large electrical box on the north curb line of West Carson Street. The truck lost control and traveled across West Carson Street and came to a stop on the south sidewalk after striking a one-foot cement retaining wall. Responding patrol units came to a stop in and around the intersection to the rear of the Silverado, offset to the driver's side.



Tire marks left by the Silverado after it jumped the curb.
The electrical box is visible in the background.



The damaged electrical box on the north side of West Carson Street.
The Silverado where it came to a stop on the south sidewalk.



Position of the patrol vehicles after the truck crashed onto the south sidewalk.

Uniformed LASD deputies exited their vehicles and took cover behind the marked patrol units and began giving commands. Deputy Timothy Cho took cover behind a power pole on the north side of West Carson Street with his service weapon drawn. Deputy Richard Jaramilla took cover behind the engine block of Unit 820 armed with his service weapon. Deputy Quovia Griffin took cover on the passenger side of Unit 820 armed with her service weapon. Deputy Miranda Carvalho took cover behind the driver's door of Unit 142 with her service weapon drawn. Deputy Jose Ramirez took cover to Carvalho's left behind the driver's door of Unit 142 armed with an LASD issued rifle. Deputy Goldburn Myvett took cover behind the passenger door of Unit 142 armed with an LASD issued shotgun. Deputy Ramy Khaddage took cover to the right of Myvett behind the passenger door of Unit 142 with his service weapon drawn.

Andy Ramirez exited the passenger door of the truck with a silver revolver raised in his hand. He pointed the gun toward the deputies and began firing. In fear for their lives, and the lives of their fellow deputies, Cho, Jaramilla, Griffin, Carvalho, Jose Ramirez, Myvett and Khaddage returned fire. Andy Ramirez fell to the ground. Cho could no longer see Andy Ramirez' hands or the firearm once he was on the ground. Andy Ramirez began to turn his body to the south giving him a clear view of deputies from beneath the truck. In fear that Andy Ramirez was going to continue firing at the deputies, Cho fired several more rounds until Andy Ramirez stopped moving.

Griffin stated that Andy Ramirez struck Unit 820's windshield with gunfire. She heard the windshield pop and observed a lot of glass. Cho stated that he moved to a kneeling position behind the power pole while firing his service weapon in an attempt to gain better cover. At that time, he felt the pole vibrate as if it had been struck by gunfire. Myvett stated that he believed the first round fired by Andy Ramirez struck Unit 142's front passenger door frame where he was standing. Khaddage stated that the same passenger door's window shattered as Andy Ramirez was firing his weapon.

Multiple commands were given to Jorge Ramirez to exit the driver's door. Jorge Ramirez eventually exited and went to the ground. Deputies approached Jorge Ramirez using ballistic shields, cleared the interior of the truck and took Jorge Ramirez into custody. Deputies assisted Jorge Ramirez to the rear of Unit 820 and began rendering aid for gunshots he had sustained. Deputies then approached Andy Ramirez and took him into custody and began rendering aid.

Injuries

Personnel from the Long Beach Fire Department responded to the scene and transported Jorge Ramirez to Long Beach Memorial Hospital where he was treated for three gunshot wounds to his left back and one gunshot wound to his left arm. Andy Ramirez was transported to St. Mary Medical Center where he was treated for gunshot wounds to the upper lip, left pinky finger, scrotum, buttock, left bicep and four to the outer left thigh.

Statement of Corey J.

Corey J. was working as a security guard at the Southern California Edison property located on the south side of West Carson Street. Corey J. observed ten patrol vehicles with their lights and sirens activated traveling east on West Carson Street. He then heard the sound of a vehicle engine revving and observed the gold pickup truck south on Via Oro Avenue. The truck jumped the curb, hit a utility box, lost control and collided into a cement wall on the south side of street. The patrol cars stopped and deputies exited with their weapons drawn. The deputies yelled orders to the occupants of the truck. The truck passenger door opened and Andy Ramirez exited. Andy Ramirez turned and extended his left arm toward the deputies as if he was aiming a gun at them, immediately followed by the sound of gunfire. Corey J. could not see what was in Andy Ramirez' hand. Deputies returned fire and Andy Ramirez fell to ground. Jorge Ramirez appeared to have been hit by gunfire because he was leaning over the steering wheel.

Statement of Matthew W.

Matthew W. was in his second-floor office at the northwest corner of West Carson Street and Via Oro Avenue. Matthew W. heard police sirens followed by a loud crash. He looked out his office window and saw a pickup truck with a flat tire at the south curb of West Carson Street. The passenger door opened and Matthew W. observed something shiny, that he believed was a handgun, in Andy Ramirez' lap. Andy Ramirez slowly stepped out of the truck and turned to the south holding a chrome revolver at his waist with both hands. After approximately two seconds, Andy Ramirez turned to the north and took a shooting stance, raising the gun to chest level. Matthew W. told everyone in his office to get to the ground. Matthew W. then heard multiple gunshots lasting ten to 15 seconds. After the gunshots stopped, Matthew W. looked out the window and saw Andy Ramirez on ground.

Recovered Firearm

Andy Ramirez' weapon was a stainless steel, seven shot .357 Smith & Wesson revolver, model 686-6, with red wood grips and a sight system. It was loaded with one live cartridge and four expended cartridge cases.



Recovered revolver.

Ballistic Evidence

LASD senior criminalists conducted a field investigation of the shooting scene. There was bullet-related damage to Unit 820 including seven bullet impacts to the hood, one bullet hole to the hood and five bullet holes to the windshield. The bullet hole to the top of the windshield traveled in a northeast direction, consistent with being fired by Andy Ramirez. The other bullet impacts and bullet holes to the hood and windshield were caused by bullets traveling in a southwest and downward direction, consistent with being fired by the deputies.



Bullet Impacts to Unit 820's hood and windshield.



Close up of the bullet impact to the top of Unit 820's windshield.

There was a defect in the wooden telephone pole that Cho used for cover on the north side of West Carson Street. It had a linear scrape mark with a fresh appearance. It was not determined if the defect was bullet-related.



Defect to the wooden telephone pole.



Close up of the possible bullet impact to the telephone pole.

There was also bullet-related damage to Unit 142 including a shattered front passenger door window, a bullet hole to the top frame of the front passenger door opening, three bullet holes and shotshell payload damage to the weather stripping on the driver's door and bullet holes to the driver's side spotlight and mounting. It could not be determined if the broken front passenger door window was bullet-related. The remaining damage was caused by bullets and the shotshell payload traveling in a southwest direction, consistent with being fired by the deputies.

Jorge Ramirez Interview

On June 25, 2019, investigators responded to the Los Angeles County Medical Center's jail ward to conduct an interview with Jorge Ramirez. Investigators attempted to advise Jorge Ramirez of his Miranda rights, but he said he was not feeling well. The interview was concluded at that time. Andy Ramirez was not interviewed by investigators due to his medical condition.

Criminal Charges

Andy Ramirez was charged with four counts of attempted murder on a police officer, ten counts of assault with a firearm on a police officer and felon in possession of a firearm. Jorge Ramirez was charged in the same case with felony evading and carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle while actively participating in a criminal street gang.²

² Los Angeles County Superior Court case number NA112257.

On August 7, 2019, Jorge Ramirez pled guilty to both charges and was sentenced to two years and eight months in state prison. On January 8, 2020, Andy Ramirez was found to be mentally incompetent to stand trial pursuant to Penal Code section 1368 and the criminal proceedings were suspended. A progress report on Andy Ramirez' mental competency is due on November 9, 2020.

THE LAW

The use of deadly force in self-defense or in defense of another is justifiable if the person claiming the right actually and reasonably believed (1) that he or the person he was defending was in imminent danger of being killed or suffering great bodily injury, (2) that the immediate use of force was necessary to defend against that danger, and (3) that he used no more force than was reasonably necessary to defend against that danger. See, CALCRIM No. 505.

A police officer may use reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance of a person the officer believes has committed a crime. Penal Code section 835a. An officer "may use all the force that appears to him to be necessary to overcome all resistance, even to the taking of life; [an officer is justified in taking a life if] the resistance [is] such as appears to the officer likely to inflict great bodily injury upon himself or those acting with him." *People v. Mehserle* (2012) 206 Cal.App.4th 1125, 1146.

In evaluating whether a police officer's use of deadly force was reasonable in a specific situation, it is helpful to draw guidance from the objective standard of reasonableness adopted in civil actions alleging Fourth Amendment violations. "The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight... The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397.

In *Brown v. Ransweiler* (2009) 171 Cal.App.4th 516, the court affirmed a summary judgment against an innocent bystander injured by police gunfire while they were attempting to apprehend a murder suspect. The suspect accelerated his vehicle toward two officers while attempting to escape. Four officers fired a total of 33 to 34 rounds at the suspect, fatally wounding him. At least one fragment, or ricochet, struck the innocent bystander. The court concluded that the officers' shooting at the suspect was objectively reasonable as a matter of law, noting that the use of force was not unreasonably dangerous relative to the danger the suspect's actions posed. Furthermore, in view of the exigency of the circumstances the officers were facing, they met their duty to use reasonable care in employing deadly force.

CONCLUSION

Jorge Ramirez was driving a stolen vehicle when it was captured by the ALPR system in the City of Carson. Jorge Ramirez failed to yield to deputies when they attempted to conduct a traffic stop with their lights and sirens activated. During the pursuit, Jorge Ramirez lost control of the truck while attempting to avoid spike strips and crashed into a utility box and concrete wall. At that time, Andy Ramirez exited the passenger door with a loaded revolver and began firing at the deputies. Andy Ramirez' actions placed the deputies in reasonable fear for their lives, and the lives of their fellow deputies, and they responded with reasonable deadly force.

The use of deadly force against Jorge Ramirez was also reasonable under the circumstances. Unlike *Brown v. Ransweiler*, Jorge Ramirez was not an innocent bystander. He was fleeing from deputies in a stolen truck. Andy Ramirez exited from that stolen truck before firing his weapon at the deputies. The deputies fired their weapons at Andy Ramirez to stop him, however, due to Jorge Ramirez' close proximity, he was also struck by gunfire. In light of the exigent circumstances facing the deputies, and the danger posed by Andy Ramirez, they used reasonable care in employing deadly force.

We conclude that Deputies Timothy Cho, Richard Jaramilla, Quoia Griffin, Miranda Carvalho, Jose Ramirez, Goldburn Myvett and Ramy Khaddage acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others when they used deadly force against Jorge Ramirez and Andy Ramirez. We are therefore closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.