

**In-Custody Death of Ken Ball
Long Beach Police Department**

**Officer Adam Yu, #11546
Officer Yassine Bouzarif, #10848**

J.S.I.D. File #24-0357



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

August 17, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEF WALLY HEBEISH
Long Beach Police Department
400 West Broadway
Long Beach, CA 90802

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

SUBJECT: In-Custody Death of Ken Ball
J.S.I.D. File #24-0357
L.B.P.D. File #240057461

DATE: August 17, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) has completed its review of the November 15, 2024, in-custody death of Ken Ball involving Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) Officers Adam Yu and Yassine Bouzarif. We conclude the force used by Yu and Bouzarif was reasonable and not the cause of Ball's death.

The LADA Command Center was notified of this in-custody death on November 15, 2024, at approximately 9:40 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the scene and was given a briefing by LBPD Sergeant Robert Trout.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports and other materials, including recorded interviews, photographs, surveillance videos, body worn camera videos (BWV), and the autopsy report submitted to this office on January 26, 2026. Voluntary statements of LBPD personnel were considered in this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On November 15, 2024, between approximately 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Ball was with a friend in an alley behind the [REDACTED] block of Orange Avenue in Long Beach. Ball experienced chest pain so he went to a liquor store around the corner to buy aspirin.

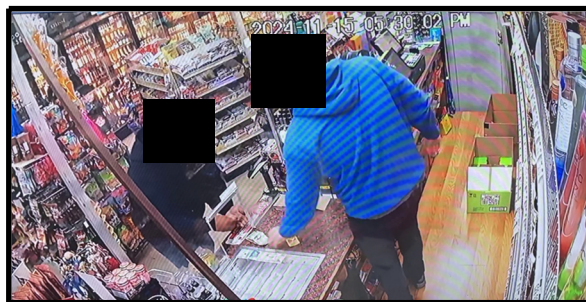


Figure 1: Still Image from Surveillance Video Depicting Ball (left) Purchasing Aspirin at 5:30 p.m.

Ball returned to the alley and told his friend he was going home to relax. Ball was advised to go to the hospital. Ball's friend last saw Ball driving in a gray Toyota Camry in reverse in the alley.

At 5:58 p.m., a resident of a property which abuts the alley where Ball was last observed driving called 9-1-1 to report a vehicle crashed through the gate separating his property from the alley and into his house. At approximately 6:03 p.m., Officer Marshall Silva arrived and saw a gray Toyota Camry in the backyard of the caller's property. The vehicle appeared to have reversed into a cinderblock wall adjacent to the residence. The headlights were on, the engine was running, and there was a male in the driver's seat, later determined to be Ball, who seemed to be "passed out." Silva broadcast his observations on his radio and requested assistance from additional officers. Silva also requested the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) respond and stage at the closest intersection.

Assisting LBPD units began to arrive at 6:08 p.m., and the officers formulated a plan to approach and detain Ball. Stop Sticks were placed at the vehicle entrance/exit connecting the yard and the alley in case Ball attempted to flee.¹ Yu and Bouzarif were assigned as the "hands-on" officers.²

Officers made several call outs in both English and Spanish but Ball was initially unresponsive. Ball eventually exited from the driver's door. He appeared unsteady, using the car door to balance himself, and mumbled nearly incoherently.³ Ball knelt on the ground as the officers approached and lay prone as the officers reached his location.



Figure 2: Still Image from BWV Depicting Ball on his Hands and Knees Beside his Vehicle as LBPD Officers Approach him.

¹ Stop Sticks are a tire deflation device utilized to disable a vehicle.

² "Hands-on" officers are tasked with, *inter alia*, handcuffing a subject.

³ Two of the six officers present when Ball exited the vehicle reported Ball complained of chest pain between indecipherable mutterings. The others were unable to discern anything intelligible.

All of the officers concluded Ball was possibly under the influence of alcohol or an unknown substance based upon their respective observations.⁴

At 6:15 p.m., Yu and Bouzarif each simultaneously placed a set of handcuffs on Ball's left and right wrists, respectively, and connected them behind Ball's back.⁵ Yu rolled Ball onto his side immediately after the handcuffs were secured. Ball complained of chest pain and stated he had difficulty breathing. Ball asked to sit up and Yu helped him to do so. At 6:16 p.m., Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) personnel arrived. Silva and LBPD Officer Giovanni Rodriguez removed Ball's handcuffs at their request. LBFD personnel rendered medical aid to Ball, including the administration of chest compressions.

At approximately 6:24 p.m., LBFD personnel moved Ball by gurney to the ambulance. Ball was transported to Memorial Care Long Beach Medical Center where he was treated in the emergency room until 6:54 p.m., when the doctor pronounced him dead.

On December 25, 2024, Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Grant Ho performed an autopsy on Ball. Ho observed a right rib fracture and chest abrasions that were consistent with resuscitation efforts. The autopsy examination revealed "a ruptured ascending aortic dissection with associated hemopericardium (500 cc), cardiomegaly (enlarged heart), and arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease" and "no evidence of life-threatening trauma." Toxicology results showed the presence of cocaine and the cocaine metabolite, benzoylecgonine, "which is an indicator of recent cocaine use."

Ho determined the cause of the death to be a "ruptured aortic dissection" with the "[e]ffects of cocaine listed as a contributing factor," and the manner of death was classified as accidental.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

Under California law, peace officers are permitted to use reasonable force in the performance of their duties, including the use of less-lethal options, when responding to individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others. An officer is justified in using force when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary to protect human life or prevent serious bodily injury. Penal Code §835a.

An act causes death if the death is a direct, natural, and probable consequence of the act, and the death would not have happened without the act. CALCRIM 582.

Here, Ball drove through a closed gate and collided with a wall in the backyard of a private residence. He was initially unresponsive to officers' commands and appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or an unknown substance. The force Yu and Bouzarif used was necessary to safely detain Ball while the officers assessed the situation. The force was minimal in both degree and duration; the officers guided Ball's hands behind his back to handcuff and detain him while they, and other officers, assessed the situation and briefly waited for fire department

⁴ The officers who heard Ball make a statement about chest pain as he exited the vehicle likewise concluded Ball was possibly intoxicated. They also considered the possibility Ball was suffering from a medical emergency.

⁵ The BWVs show the officers guide Ball's hands behind his back with a minimal application of force and without resistance.

personnel to arrive. The use of force in this matter was objectively reasonable and legally justified.

Ball's death was caused by a "ruptured aortic dissection" with the "[e]ffects of cocaine listed as a contributing factor." The slight amount of force the officers employed incidental to handcuffing Ball was not the cause of death.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the evidence in this case, we find Yu's and Bouzarif's use of force was reasonable. We further find said use of force was not a cause of Ball's death.