

Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Tomas David Ramirez

Beverly Hills Police Department

Sergeant Rodney Solórzano, #4574

J.S.I.D. File #24-0259



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

January 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

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

SUBJECT: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Tomas David Ramirez
J.S.I.D. File #24-0259
L.A.P.D. File #241010402

DATE: January 7, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the August 8, 2024, fatal shooting of Tomas David Ramirez by off-duty Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) Sergeant Rodney Solórzano.¹ We conclude Sergeant Solórzano acted in lawful self-defense at the time he fired his handgun, reasonably believing based on the totality of the circumstances, deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent deadly threat.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting at 10:35 p.m. on August 8, 2024. The District Attorney Response Team was provided a briefing and walk-through of the scene by LAPD Robbery Homicide Detective Matthew Casalicchio.

The following analysis is based on surveillance video, crime scene photographs, investigative reports, audio recordings and transcripts of witness interviews, and the autopsy report submitted to this office by LAPD Robbery Homicide Detective Casalicchio on July 23, 2025. Sergeant Solórzano's voluntary statement was also considered in this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

On August 8, 2024, off-duty BHPD Sergeant Rodney Solórzano was exiting a gas station on Roscoe Boulevard, near the on-ramp to the southbound 405 freeway, when he and his passenger observed Tomas David Ramirez pointing a handgun at ██████² Believing Ramirez was about to kill

¹ Solórzano has been employed as a police officer for approximately 20 years.

² Ramirez's handgun was later determined to be an airsoft pellet gun, capable of firing metal pellets.

█, Solórzano exited his car and ordered Ramirez to drop the gun. Ramirez raised and pointed the weapon at Solórzano, prompting Solórzano to fire three rounds at Ramirez. Ramirez was shot once and pronounced deceased at the scene.

SUMMARY

█

█ told investigators on August 8, 2024, he confronted Ramirez because he believed Ramirez was riding his stolen bicycle. █ told Ramirez he wanted his bicycle back, and the two men began arguing. █ offered to buy the bicycle back from Ramirez, but Ramirez refused and “got aggressive,” opening his backpack to show █ he had a gun.

█ immediately recognized the item in the backpack as a gun and was frightened. █ said Ramirez told him to “stop talking about the bike” before taking the gun out and racking it³ █ was afraid, and attempted to walk away from Ramirez, but Ramirez was still angry about the bicycle and began following him. █ picked up a two-foot wooden plank to defend himself, when Ramirez fired at █ five times, striking him on the hand with the fifth shot. At that moment, █ realized the weapon was a pellet gun and Ramirez was firing BBs at him.⁴

█ said he backed away from Ramirez as Ramirez continued to point the gun at him. █ saw Solórzano approach and heard him yell, “Get down!” (Figure 1)

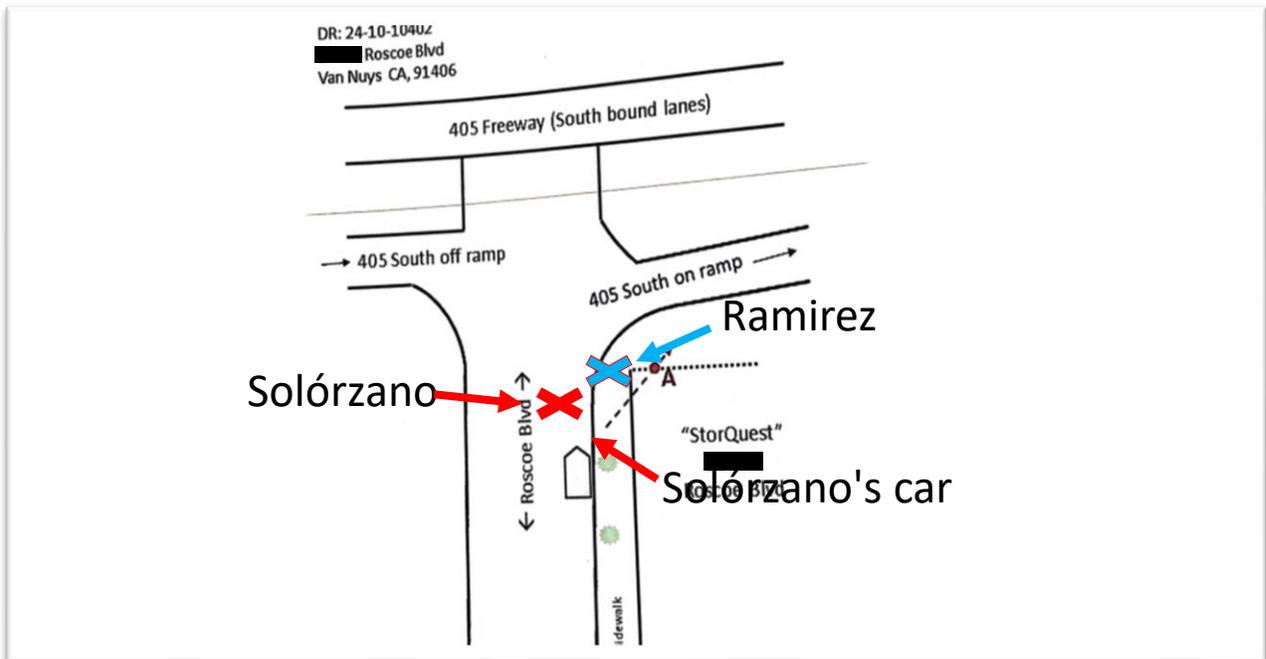


Figure 1: Approximate locations of Ramirez and Solórzano at the time of the shooting.

³ “Racking” a gun refers to the act of pulling back the slide or bolt of a firearm to load a round into the chamber and preparing the gun to be fired.

⁴ █ said the shots fired from Ramirez’s gun were “loud,” and he believed Ramirez was firing live rounds at him. █ said the BB which struck his thumb “hurt.”

████ said everything afterward happened “so fast.” █████ dropped the wooden plank, got back onto his bike, and fled from the scene. He told investigators he heard five gunshots.

Solórzano

Solórzano told investigators he was exiting a service station on Roscoe Boulevard just after 8:00 p.m., when he heard his passenger say, “Oh my God, there’s a fight! Oh my God, that guy’s got a gun! This [sic] guy’s got a gun!”

Solórzano told investigators, “I could clearly see one of them holding a handgun pointing it in the direction of a second guy’s head and I immediately said, ‘Oh shit!’” Solórzano stopped his car and exited. His passenger was worried for his safety, but he told her, “I have to [go].”

At approximately 8:12 p.m., Solórzano’s passenger called 9-1-1 and told the operator, “. . . there is this guy with a gun and we had to get involved . . . So my friend is an officer and he carries a gun, obviously, and we saw two men on the side with a gun, and two guys were going to shoot each other, so [Solórzano] had to get involved. So, there’s one guy shot now.”

Solórzano estimated Ramirez was ten to 20 feet away from █████ when Ramirez pointed a gun at █████’s head. Solórzano said he saw █████ holding an object in self-defense.⁵ █████ was lowering the weapon and attempting to back away as Ramirez kept the gun aimed at █████’s head.

Solórzano saw Ramirez holding the gun in his left hand, so Solórzano drew his handgun. When Solórzano drew his handgun, Ramirez lowered his weapon and began to walk towards the sidewalk.

Solórzano said as soon as Ramirez lowered his weapon and began to walk away, he felt a “sense of relief. Okay, it’s over . . . it’s like, alright, he’s walking away, I can call it in or whatever, not get involved.”

As Ramirez turned and walked away, Solórzano could clearly see Ramirez was still holding the weapon. Solórzano yelled, “Drop the gun! Drop the gun! Off-duty police! Drop the gun!” Solórzano said he was standing approximately ten to 15 feet away from Ramirez when Ramirez turned toward him and pointed the weapon at Solórzano’s chest and stomach.

Solórzano said, “It took me a while to process it. It’s like fuck, it’s a gun and during this time like . . .like I thought about [my family] and I thought this is it. And I fired off three rounds. I didn’t even like have the time to like . . . he had the drop on me.”⁶ After Solórzano fired his handgun, Ramirez fell to the ground holding what was later determined to be a pellet gun.

Officer Anthony Zepeda arrived at the location at 8:20 p.m. Zepeda handcuffed and detained Solórzano while Officer Bailey Magana removed and took possession of Solórzano’s handgun.

⁵ Solórzano was unable to identify the object, describing it as “it wasn’t like a cylindrical pipe . . . it was [comprised of] four sides.

⁶ The term “drop” refers to gaining a significant tactical advantage by acting quickly or preemptively to gain a superior or dominant position.

Los Angeles City Fire Department Paramedics arrived at the scene and pronounced Ramirez deceased at 8:27 p.m.

Ballistics

Ramirez was armed with a CO2 powered air pistol pellet gun, 0.177 BB caliber, Sig Sauer, model P226, serial number 22F1942-0. The weapon was loaded with steel pellets, commonly referred to as BBs.⁷ (Figure 2)



Figure 2: Ramirez’s 0.177 caliber Sig Sauer air pistol pellet gun.

LAPD criminalists examined the pellet gun and determined the magazine was fully inserted. A CO2 cartridge was inserted in the grip, the hammer was cocked, and the safety was off. Eight metal BBs were removed from the magazine. Additional metal BBs were loose on the ground where Ramirez fell on the sidewalk.

Solórzano was armed with a 9mm Glock 19, Gen5 pistol. Solórzano fired three rounds from the weapon, striking Ramirez once.

Autopsy Report

On August 11, 2024, Deputy Medical Examiner Roohani performed a post-mortem examination of Ramirez’ remains. Dr. Roohani identified a single gunshot wound to Ramirez’s forehead and ascribed the cause of death to a gunshot wound to the head.

⁷ The Sig Sauer website describes the weapon as a “. . . faithful recreation of the (semi-automatic handgun) Sig Sauer MK25 carried by U.S. Navy SEALs.”

Toxicology

Toxicology testing conducted during the autopsy detected the presence of amphetamine and methamphetamine in Ramirez's system at the time of the shooting.

Surveillance video

The identities of the parties could not be determined from surveillance footage obtained, however, investigators were able to determine the approximate time ■■■ confronted Ramirez, as well as when Solórzano left the service station before stopping in the street and exiting his car. The video surveillance camera facing the shooting incident was blocked by a storage facilities' exterior gates.

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. 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 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).

Mistake of fact is a defense to assault with a deadly weapon and the elements are found in CALCRIM No. 3406. When an officer's belief is both actual and reasonable, the court must instruct on the defense of mistake of fact, where is substantial evidence supporting the defense.

In this case, both Solórzano and his passenger mistakenly believed Ramirez was pointing a real handgun at ■■■. while ■■■. tried to defend himself with a wooden plank. ■■■. initially believed

the weapon was real until he was struck by the pellets. Ramirez's weapon had no distinguishing marks identifying it as a replica/BB gun. ■■■■, Solórzano, and his passenger all believed the weapon was a real firearm. Therefore, Solórzano's conduct was lawful under his mistaken belief Ramirez was pointing a real handgun at his chest.

Solórzano stated he believed he needed to immediately intervene in order to save ■■■■'s life. Both Solórzano and his passenger said they believed Ramirez, who was aiming the pellet gun at ■■■■'s head, was going to shoot and kill ■■■■. By identifying himself as a police officer and telling Ramirez to drop the weapon and get onto the ground, Solórzano redirected Ramirez's attention, and the danger from ■■■■, to himself. Solórzano's action allowed ■■■■ to safely flee the location.

When Solórzano ordered Ramirez to "get on the ground," Ramirez initially turned away from Solórzano. Ramirez refused to drop the weapon, however, and chose to point it at Solórzano's chest. Solórzano felt Ramirez had gained a tactical advantage over him, and believed Ramirez was going to use the weapon to shoot and kill him. In response, Solórzano fired his handgun in self-defense.

Solórzano's use of deadly force was reasonable to stop the apparent imminent deadly threat posed by Ramirez. Under these circumstances, Solórzano reasonably believed that the use of deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself or ■■■■. The fact the weapon brandished by Ramirez was later discovered to be a pellet gun does not alter this conclusion.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we find Sergeant Solórzano's use of deadly force was reasonable under the circumstances and in lawful self-defense.