

Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Ricky Jimenez
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Danny Soto, #635553
Deputy Joshua Bueso, #622126
Deputy Travis Long, #656701
Deputy Josef Schirmeister, #644579

J.S.I.D. File #22-0180



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

March 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING CAPTAIN ARTURO R. SPENCER
Homicide Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
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 Ricky Jimenez
J.S.I.D. File #22-0180
L.A.S.D. File #022-09621-1125-013

DATE: March 11, 2025

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the June 5, 2022, fatal shooting of Ricky Jimenez by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Danny Soto, Travis Long, Joshua Bueso, and Josef Schirmeister. It is our conclusion that Soto, Long, Bueso, and Schirmeister acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others when they used deadly force.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on June 5, 2022, at approximately 2:44 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports, body worn camera video (BWV), and recorded interviews submitted to this office on April 20, 2023, by Detectives John Duncan and Chris Maurizi of the LASD Homicide Bureau. The deputies' voluntary statements were considered in this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On June 5, 2022, at approximately 1:08 p.m., Ricky Jimenez called 9-1-1 and said, "I'm going to take my life." Jimenez told the operator that he was standing outside a restaurant in Lancaster, California and provided the operator a description of his clothing. A short time later, Jimenez called 9-1-1 a second time and asked, "Should I walk inside the fucking [restaurant] and take somebody hostage?"

LASD deputies Soto, Long, Beso, Schirmeister, Terrie Coats, Marissa Gonzalez, Darin Van Arsdale, and Sergeant Adam Hilzendeger responded to the scene. They observed Jimenez standing outside of the restaurant holding a knife. The deputies attempted to detain Jimenez using verbal commands, a Taser, and a 40mm less-lethal weapon, but were unsuccessful. Jimenez reached into his backpack and retrieved a black crossbow with a pistol grip. Despite commands to drop the weapon, Jimenez raised the crossbow and pointed it at the deputies. Soto, Long, Bueso, and Schirmeister fired their weapons.

Jimenez was struck 11 times and fell to the ground. The deputies approached Jimenez and performed life-saving measures. They were relieved by Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel who continued to render aid. Jimenez was transported to Antelope Valley Medical Center. Jimenez was pronounced deceased at 1:50 p.m.

Investigators recovered a fixed blade knife and a crossbow next to where Jimenez had been standing. Investigators recovered a crossbow bolt in a parking stall south of where the deputies fired their weapons, consistent with Jimenez having fired the crossbow in the direction of the deputies. DNA analysis of the knife was consistent with Jimenez's DNA being present on both the handle and blade of the knife. DNA analysis of the crossbow was inconclusive due to the complexity of the sample.



Still photograph of Jimenez's knife.



Still photograph of Jimenez's crossbow.



Still photograph of the crossbow bolt recovered from the parking stall south of the deputies.

Long was armed with a Smith & Wesson MMP 2.0 9mm semi-automatic pistol. He fired one round during the incident.

Schirmeister was armed with a Smith & Wesson MMP 2.0 9mm semi-automatic pistol. He fired seven rounds during the incident.

Bueso was armed with a Smith & Wesson MMP 2.0 9mm semi-automatic pistol. He fired four rounds during the incident.

Soto was armed with a Sig Sauer Tac-Ops 1911 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol. He fired five rounds during the incident.

On June 5, 2022, an autopsy was conducted. The medical examiner determined Jimenez died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. A toxicology analysis was conducted and detected the presence of hydrocodone, amphetamine, and methamphetamine in Jimenez's blood.

BODY WORN CAMERA VIDEO

All of the responding deputies were equipped with functioning BWV. BWV depicts Soto arriving at the scene at approximately 1:22 p.m. Jimenez is standing outside the restaurant holding a knife. A black backpack is on the ground in front of Jimenez's feet. Soto engages Jimenez in conversation. Over the next approximately 13 minutes additional LASD deputies arrive, including Bueso, Long, and Schirmeister. Soto repeatedly attempts to convince Jimenez to drop the knife but Jimenez refuses.



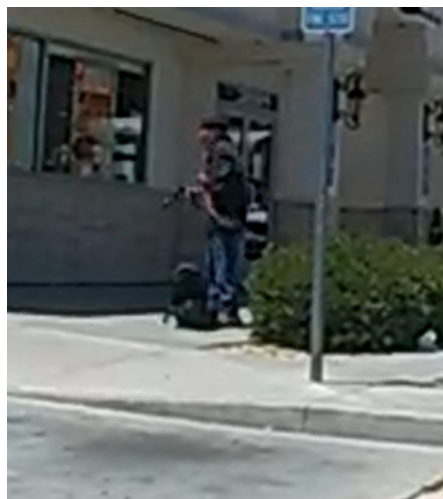
Zoomed still from Van Arsdale's BWV showing Jimenez with the knife in his right hand.

During this time, Soto radios for a Mental Evaluation Team (MET) to respond but is told that the MET is unavailable. Soto reassures Jimenez the deputies want to help him. Approximately 13 minutes after the first deputies arrived at the scene, Jimenez picks up the black backpack with his left hand and reaches inside the backpack with his right hand.



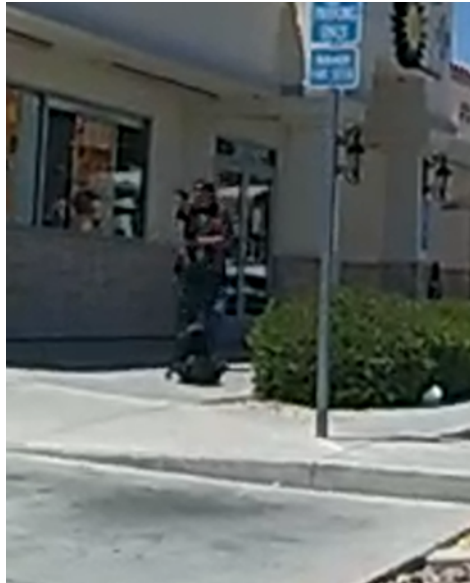
Zoomed still from Van Arsdale's BWV showing Jimenez reaching into the backpack.

Deputies yell at Jimenez to drop the backpack. Instead, Jimenez retrieves a black, pistol-grip crossbow.



Zoomed still from Van Arsdale's BWV showing Jimenez holding the crossbow.

Schirmeister fires a 40mm less-lethal round which strikes Jimenez in the upper body. Schirmeister fires a second 40mm round which strikes Jimenez in the upper body. LASD Deputy Darin Van Arsdale fires a Taser at Jimenez. Jimenez turns towards the deputies, raises the crossbow, and points it at the deputies.



Zoomed still from Van Arsdale's BWV showing Jimenez pointing the crossbow at the deputies.

At approximately 1:35 p.m., Soto, Bueso, Long, and Schirmeister fire their weapons. Approximately 30 seconds later, the deputies approach and begin rendering medical aid to Jimenez.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STATEMENTS

LASD Deputy Danny Soto

Soto gave a voluntary statement to Duncan on June 16, 2022. Soto stated on June 5, 2022, he was driving a marked police vehicle. His partner, Long, was the passenger. Soto responded to a restaurant in Lancaster in response to a person attempting suicide call. While en route, the call was updated with information indicating the suicidal person was threatening to take hostages inside the restaurant. When Soto arrived at the restaurant, he observed Jimenez standing outside the restaurant. Jimenez matched the description given in the radio call. Jimenez had a knife in his right hand and a black backpack on the ground in front of his feet.

Soto gave Jimenez commands to drop the knife. Jimenez refused. Soto radioed for additional units to respond to the scene. Soto continued to give Jimenez commands while holding his duty weapon in a low fixed position pointed towards Jimenez. Soto requested a MET over his radio but was told by the LASD Communication Center that a MET was unavailable. Soto continued

to give Jimenez commands to drop the knife. Jimenez waved the knife around in the air and appeared to be speaking, however, Soto could not hear what Jimenez was saying.

Jimenez dropped the knife, which appeared to be attached to a lanyard and was dangling from Jimenez's left wrist. Jimenez lifted the black backpack from the ground in front of him and reached inside. Soto gave Jimenez commands to remove his hand from the backpack. Jimenez removed his hand, which was empty, from the backpack.

Jimenez smoked a cigarette. Soto continued to give Jimenez commands and told Jimenez they were there to help him and would have him seen by a doctor.

Jimenez reached into the backpack again. Another deputy fired a 40mm less-lethal projectile at Jimenez. Soto observed the projectile strike Jimenez in the upper body, however, the strike had no effect. Jimenez took a step backwards and retrieved a black "pistol-like" object from the backpack. Soto thought that Jimenez was about to shoot at the deputies and was in fear for his own life as well as those of his fellow deputies. Jimenez brought the pistol-like object upwards and pointed it at the deputies. Soto fired five rounds from his service weapon. Soto did not recall Jimenez firing anything from the pistol-like object. Jimenez fell to the ground.

LASD Deputy Travis Long

Long gave a voluntary statement to Duncan on June 16, 2022. He and his partner, Soto, responded to a restaurant in Lancaster, California in response to a radio call regarding a man threatening to take hostages inside the restaurant. When Long arrived at the scene, he observed Jimenez standing in front of the entrance doors to the restaurant holding a black backpack and a knife. Long ordered Jimenez to drop the knife and attempted to detain Jimenez at gunpoint. Jimenez refused to drop the knife. Long continued to command Jimenez to drop the knife, however, Jimenez refused and paced back and forth in front of the restaurant. A MET was requested but was unavailable.

Jimenez smoked a cigarette. Jimenez picked up the backpack and reached inside. Long observed a firearm grip protruding from the backpack. Long said, "I see a grip!" Long ordered Jimenez to drop both the knife and the backpack. Jimenez refused. Another deputy fired a 40mm less-lethal projectile at Jimenez. Long did not see the less-lethal projectile strike Jimenez. Two to three seconds later, Jimenez retrieved what Long believed to be a silver firearm from the backpack. Long feared for his own life as well as the life of his partner. Long believed Jimenez fired something from the silver firearm. Long fired one round from his service weapon and observed Jimenez fall to the ground.

LASD Deputy John Bueso

Bueso gave a voluntary statement to Duncan and Maurizi on June 23, 2022. Bueso stated he and his partner, Gonzalez, responded to a restaurant in Lancaster, California to back up Soto detaining a man with a knife at gunpoint. Bueso monitored LASD radio traffic while en route to the scene, and heard Soto request a MET. Bueso heard the LASD Lancaster Station respond that the MET was unavailable.

Bueso arrived at the scene and observed Jimenez standing in front of a restaurant holding a knife. Soto was attempting to get Jimenez to put the knife down. Bueso heard Jimenez say he would not put the knife down and the deputies could not help him. Jimenez picked up a black backpack and slowly walked towards the deputies. Soto told Jimenez to put the backpack down. Jimenez reached inside the backpack and Bueso observed what he believed to be the handle of a firearm. Bueso unholstered his firearm. Bueso heard the sound of two 40mm less-lethal projectiles being fired at Jimenez. Bueso did not observe either of the projectiles strike Jimenez.

Jimenez retrieved a crossbow from the backpack. Deputies yelled at Jimenez to drop the crossbow. Jimenez raised the crossbow and pointed it at the deputies. Bueso feared that Jimenez would shoot Soto or another deputy with the crossbow. Bueso fired his service weapon three times. Bueso observed Jimenez fall to the ground.

LASD Deputy Josef Schirmeister

Schirmeister gave a voluntary statement to Duncan and Maurizi on June 30, 2022. Schirmeister stated he and his partner, Van Arsdale, responded to a restaurant in Lancaster, California in response to a call of a man with a knife threatening to take hostages at the restaurant. While en route to the scene, Schirmeister heard Soto request a MET over the radio but Soto was told a MET was unavailable.

Schirmeister arrived at the scene and deployed a 40mm less-lethal projectile launcher to have the option of using non-deadly force. Jimenez was pacing back and forth in front of the entrance doors to the restaurant with a knife in one hand and a backpack in the other hand. Schirmeister heard Soto tell Jimenez that the deputies were there to help him, and heard Jimenez reply he didn't want any help. Jimenez smoked a cigarette while still holding the knife.

Jimenez reached inside the backpack. Schirmeister fired one 40mm less-lethal projectile at Jimenez. Schirmeister observed the round strike Jimenez in the stomach. Jimenez paused, then reached back inside the backpack and retrieved an object. Schirmeister yelled, "Drop that shit!" Schirmeister fired a second 40mm less-lethal round that struck Jimenez in the chest. Jimenez did not drop the object in his hand. Schirmeister believed Jimenez was holding a pistol because of the appearance of a grip on the object. As Schirmeister further observed the object, he believed it to be either a pistol or short-barreled rifle because of a "picatinny rail" along the barrel of the object.¹

Jimenez pointed the object at the deputies. Schirmeister took cover behind his police vehicle and unholstered his pistol. Schirmeister heard a "poof" sound. Schirmeister believed Jimenez was shooting at the deputies. Schirmeister rose from cover and fired two to four rounds at Jimenez. Schirmeister observed Jimenez on the ground.

¹ A picatinny rail is a firearm accessory that allows for the mounting of various accessories to a firearm, such as optical scopes, tactical lights, or additional grips.

CIVILIAN STATEMENTS

██████

██████ gave a statement regarding the incident to LASD Detectives Joseph Iberri and Amber Montenegro on June 5, 2022. ██████ stated she was having lunch with Jimenez on June 5, 2022, at a restaurant in Lancaster. While standing outside the restaurant, Jimenez stated, “Today’s the day.” When ██████ inquired what Jimenez meant, Jimenez stated, “Suicide by cop.” ██████ went back inside the restaurant. While inside the restaurant she heard multiple gunshots. ██████ did not witness the shooting.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

California law permits the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others if the person claiming the right of self-defense or the defense of others actually and reasonably believed that he or others were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death. Penal Code § 197; *People v. Randle* (2005) 35 Cal. 4th 987, 994 (overruled on another ground in *People v. Chun* (2009) 45 Cal. 4th 1172, 1201); *People v. Humphrey* (1996) 13 Cal. 4th 1073, 1082; *see also*, CALCRIM No. 505.

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person 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 to 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 §§ 835a(c)(1)(A) & (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).

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 §§ 835a(a)(4) & (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 § 835a(a)(4).

The available evidence in this case indicates Jimenez was initially armed with a knife. He had threatened to kill himself and threatened to take hostages prior to the deputies’ arrival. Jimenez refused all commands to drop the knife and instead produced what initially appeared to be a

firearm, which later turned out be a crossbow. Jimenez refused commands to drop the crossbow and instead pointed it the deputies. Long and Schirmeister believed Jimenez fired at the deputies, and evidence recovered at the scene is consistent with him having done so. When Soto, Long, Bueso, and Schirmeister used deadly force against Jimenez they reasonably believed that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death and the force used in return was necessary and reasonable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we conclude Deputies Soto, Long, Bueso and Schirmeister acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others.