

**Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Ramon Gonzalez
Los Angeles Police Department**

Officer Chris Mazmanyán, #41771

J.S.I.D. File #23-0039



GEORGE GASCÓN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

May 20, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPTAIN OMAR BAZULTO
Los Angeles Police Department
Force Investigation Division
100 West First Street, Suite 431
Los Angeles, California 90012

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

SUBJECT: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Ramon Gonzalez
J.S.I.D. File #23-0039
L.A.P.D. File #F005-23

DATE: May 20, 2024

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the February 7, 2023, non-fatal shooting of Ramon Gonzalez by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer Chris Mazmanyman. We have concluded that Officer Mazmanyman acted in lawful self-defense 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 the shooting on February 7, 2023, at 5:38 p.m. The District Attorney's Response Team responded and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene by LAPD Force Investigation Division Lieutenant Alisha Jordan.

The following analysis is based on body worn video (BWV), Digital in Car Video System (DICVS), investigative reports, audio recordings and transcripts of witness interviews, crime scene photographs, and medical reports submitted to this office by LAPD Force Investigation Division Detective Melissa Valdes on February 13, 2023. Compelled statements, if any, were not considered as part of this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles Police Officers observed Ramon Gonzalez (Gonzalez) riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. The officers had knowledge that Gonzalez was wanted for an attempted murder shooting. They drove alongside Gonzalez and ordered him to stop and get off his bicycle. Gonzalez refused and fled on his bicycle, down a side street. He jumped off his bike and ran on foot. The officers believed that Gonzalez was armed with a concealed handgun and ran after him.

While running from the officer, Gonzalez removed a handgun from a holster under his clothing. Gonzalez stopped running and pointed the handgun at the pursuing officer. The officer fired his service weapon multiple times at Gonzalez. Gonzalez was struck by gunfire but kept running until he collapsed and dropped his gun. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) paramedics arrived

and transported Gonzalez to a local hospital. None of Gonzalez' injuries were life threatening and he was discharged from the hospital later that evening.

SUMMARY

On February 7, 2023, at approximately 3:37 p.m., LAPD Officers Chris Mazmanyman (Mazmanyman) and Leonardo Serrato (Serrato) from the Van Nuys Area Gang Enforcement Detail (GED), were dressed in full uniform and driving in a marked black and white patrol car near Hazeltine Avenue and Victory Boulevard. Serrato was driving and Mazmanyman was seated in the passenger seat. They were stopped at a traffic light when they saw 49-year-old Ramon Gonzalez (Gonzalez) riding a bicycle on the sidewalk.¹

The officers had prior knowledge that Gonzalez was wanted for an attempted murder shooting investigation that occurred on October 7, 2022.² Additionally, the officers knew that Gonzalez was wanted for murder on a warrant issued by the California Department of Corrections.

When the traffic light changed, Serrato drove close enough to Gonzalez to verify his identity. Serrato activated the patrol car's red lights and siren and yelled at Gonzalez, "Hey Bro! Get off the bike! Get off the bike! Get off the bike! Face the wall!" Gonzalez turned and yelled, "Why?!" while he pedaled away from the officers. The officers yelled, "Face the wall!" but Gonzalez ignored their commands and rode down the middle of Victory Boulevard. (Figure 1)



Figure 1: Gonzalez rode his bike down Victory Boulevard towards Tyrone Street.

¹ Gonzalez is six-feet tall and weighs 270 pounds.

² Gonzalez was charged with attempted murder involving a gun in case LA098633 (Count 3).

Before attempting to take Gonzalez into custody, Serrato and Mazmanyman requested additional officers. Mazmanyman relayed their location to the dispatch operator and broadcasted, “9G22 let me get backup for a 187 suspect, gonna be on Victory [Boulevard], east of Sylmar [Avenue].”³ After Mazmanyman made the request for additional units, Serrato activated his BWV.

Both officers believed that Gonzalez was carrying a firearm. Mazmanyman broadcasted that information to dispatch, “9G22 he’s going to be possibly armed.” Mazmanyman activated his BWV and updated their location, “9G22 suspect [is] on his bicycle. He’s heading northbound on Tyrone from Victory.”

When Serrato turned onto Tyrone Street, he attempted to cut off Gonzalez’ forward momentum by quickly stopping and parking the patrol car in front of Gonzalez. As Serrato veered to the opposite side of the street, near Gonzalez, Gonzalez was hit by the passenger side rear view mirror.⁴

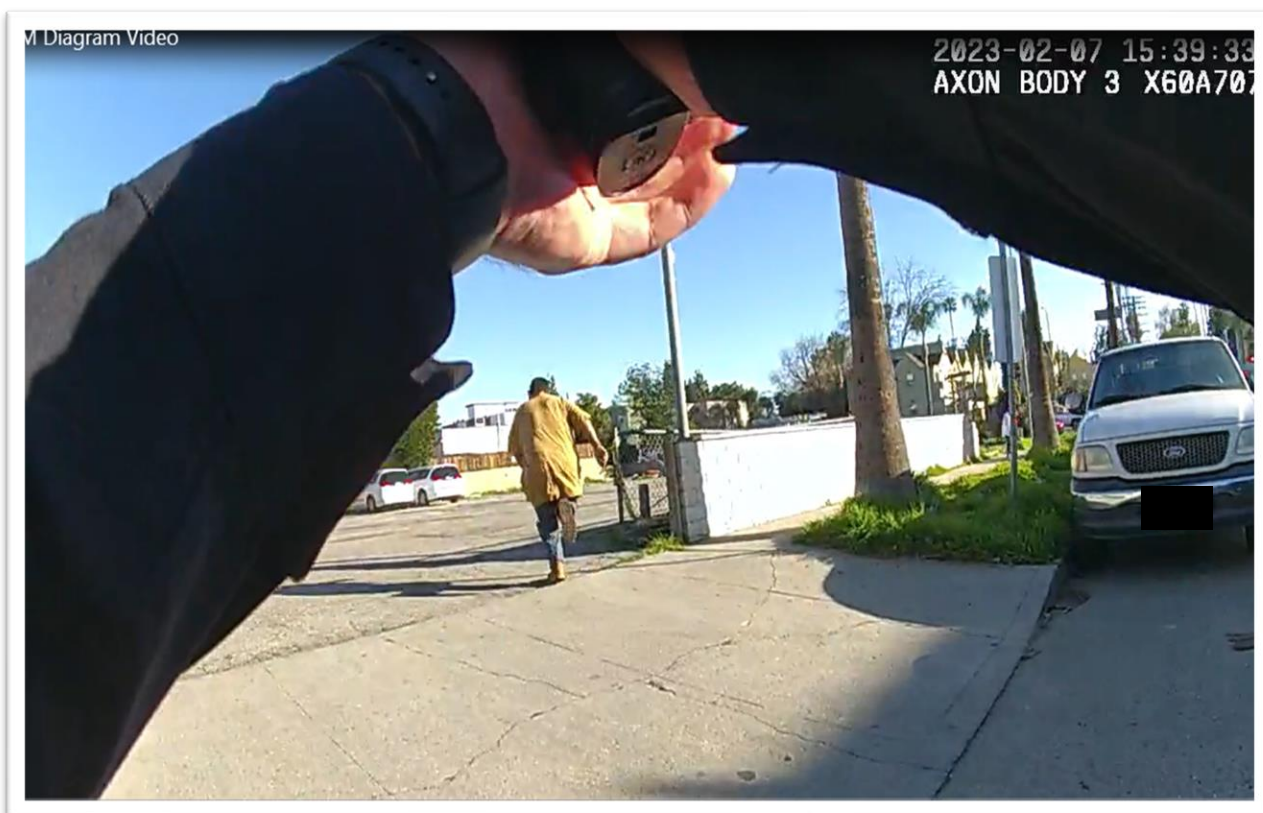


Figure 2: Mazmanyman exited the patrol car and ran after Gonzalez.

Gonzalez jumped off the bicycle and ran through an empty church parking lot. (Figure 2) Mazmanyman who was still seated in the patrol car, unholstered his service weapon and transitioned it from his right hand to his left hand. As Mazmanyman reached with his right hand to open the car door, he unintentionally fired his service weapon into the dash of the patrol car.

³ Mazmanyman referenced Penal Code section 187, the section for murder, when he stated “187.”

⁴ Gonzalez described his contact with the patrol car’s rear view mirror: “[the driver] slam[med] . . . finessed” the patrol car into his bike. Gonzalez said, “I kind of jumped off . . . and fell off the bike at the same time.”

Mazmanyman exited the patrol car and ran after Gonzalez, yelling “Hey! Put your hands up!” and “Hey! Put the gun down! Put the gun down! Put the gun down!” Serrato initially followed Mazmanyman, running after Gonzalez yelling, “Get on the ground!” Serrato told Mazmanyman, he needed to secure the patrol car and he walked back to the parked car. While Serrato was at the passenger side of the patrol car, he heard the shots fired by Mazmanyman and ran back towards his partner. Serrato did not witness the officer involved shooting.

Mazmanyman chased Gonzalez to the end of the parking lot. While he was running away, Gonzalez removed a black handgun from a holster underneath his clothing and held it in his right hand. Several civilian witnesses were interviewed and described Gonzalez holding a gun in his hand as he ran away from Mazmanyman, through the parking lot towards Victory Boulevard.

Gonzalez ran to the end of the parking lot, stepped over a small cinderblock wall, stopped, and turned. While facing towards Mazmanyman, Gonzalez raised his right arm to eye-level, bladed his body, and pointed the handgun directly at Mazmanyman who was still chasing after him. (Figures 3, 4, and 5)



Figure 3: Mazmanyman’s BWC captured Gonzalez (circled in red) as he turned, bladed his body, and pointed his handgun at Mazmanyman. At that moment, Mazmanyman fired his service weapon.



Figure 4: Close up of Gonzalez raising his right arm and pointing his handgun (circled in red) at Mazmanyman.



Figure 5: Han's BWV showing Gonzalez pointing his gun (circled in red) at Mazmanyman.

Sergeant John Han (Han) and Officer Kristin Delatoro (Delatoro) arrived in response to the request for backup just as Gonzalez pointed his gun at Mazmnyan. Mazmnyan raised his gun and fired eight rounds at Gonzalez from approximately 26 feet. (Figure 6)

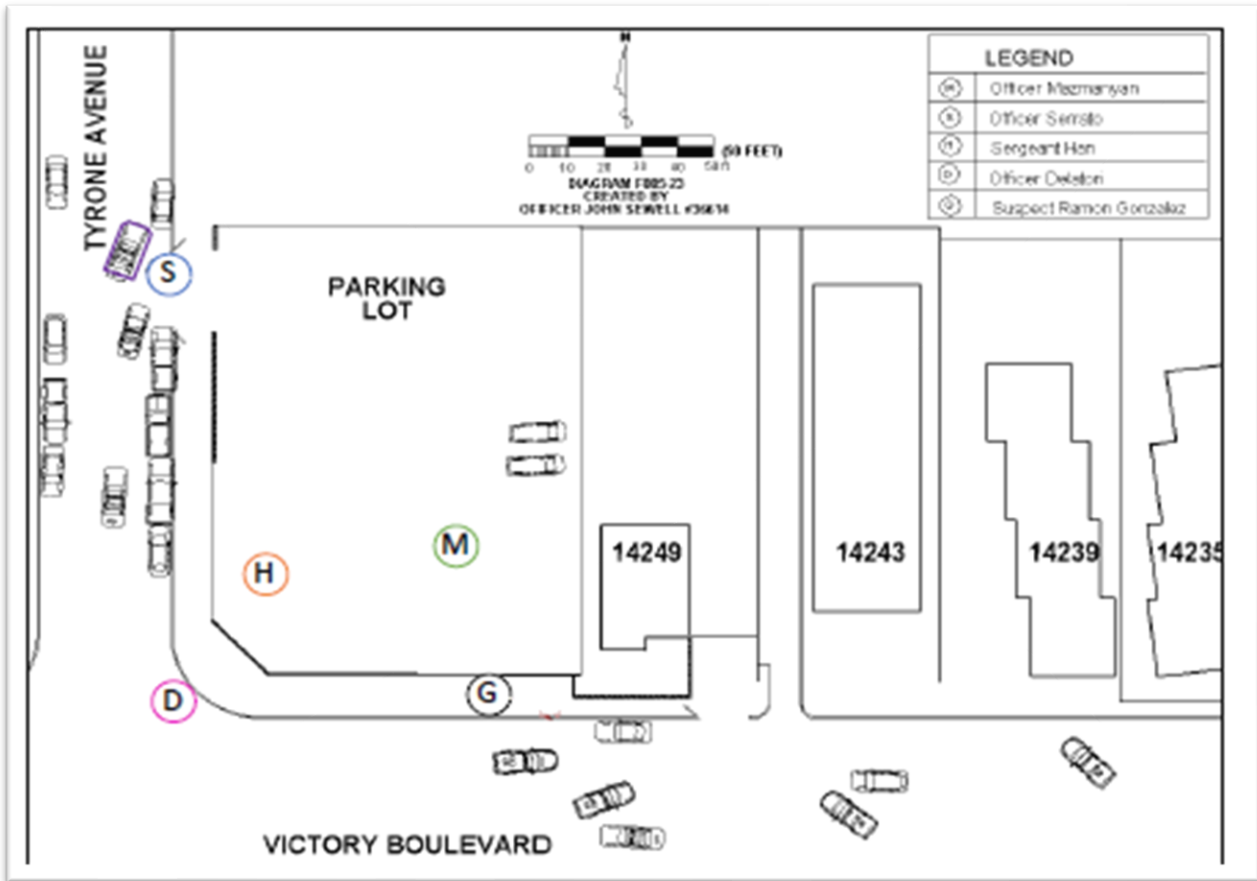


Figure 6: Relative positions of the officers at the time of the officer involved shooting (M-Mazmnyan, H-Han, D-Delatoro, S-Serrato, and G-Gonzalez).

Gonzalez was hit by several rounds but turned and ran down Victory Boulevard. Gonzalez ran approximately 50 feet before dropping to the ground in a seated position. Mazmnyan took cover behind a parked car and held Gonzalez at gunpoint until other officers arrived to assist. Mazmnyan repeatedly ordered Gonzalez to “Drop the gun! Drop the gun! Drop! Don’t touch the gun! Roll on your stomach!”

Gonzalez eventually complied with Mazmnyan’s orders and rolled onto his stomach. Gonzalez was handcuffed and placed in a recovery position on his left side.

Officers De-Andres Jackson (Jackson), George Lara (Lara), Tristian Alexander (Alexander), and Ryan Peterson (Peterson) arrived after the shooting occurred. Serrato, Jackson, and Peterson lifted him from the street onto the sidewalk where they began treating him for his injuries. Jackson and Delatoro applied pressure to Gonzalez’ wounds until the LAFD paramedics arrived

and transported Gonzalez to Northridge Hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Witnesses Statements

Ramon Gonzalez

After being treated for his injuries, Gonzalez was released from the hospital and arrested. Investigators met with Gonzalez and advised him of his *Miranda* rights. Gonzalez waived his rights and agreed to be interviewed. Gonzalez told the investigators that he was riding his bicycle on the sidewalk when he saw the officers. “[T]hey started hauling ass after me and telling me, ‘Get off the bike!’” Gonzalez heard one of the officers say, “That’s Solo.” Gonzalez was surprised that the officers recognized him and told the investigators, “[Solo] was my gang name from back in the days . . . I heard it clearly . . .” Gonzalez said, that when the officers said his name [Solo], “[it] tripped me out.”⁵

Gonzalez said that after hearing his name, he turned his bike and rode down Tyrone Street when the officer “slam[med] . . . finessed” the patrol car into his bike. He said, “I kind of jumped off . . . and fell off the bike at the same time.” Gonzalez stated he started running through the parking lot when he “felt the shots.” He told the investigators once he was shot, he thought, “What the fuck? . . . fuck it, I got to defend myself . . .and I took out the shit (i.e., gun) and I pointed it at them.” Gonzalez said the gun was in an “inside waist holster” under his shirt. He said he initially ran from the officers because he wanted to “get rid of [the gun].”

When asked to describe his gun, Gonzalez said, “It was supposed to look like a Glock gun . . . it’s a ghost [gun].” Gonzalez said he loaded the gun with “Nine or ten [bullets] and one in the chamber.” Gonzalez told the investigators, as he was running, he pulled the gun from his left side with his left hand and transitioned it to his right hand. Gonzalez stated he kept running across the parking lot with the gun in his right hand.

Gonzalez told investigators, that when he pointed the gun at the officer, the officer “backed up” and Gonzalez ran down Victory Boulevard. Gonzalez stated he did not fire his gun at the officer because he only “wanted to scare him.” While Gonzalez was running away, he felt the pain of being shot and fell to the ground and dropped the gun.

■

■ told investigators it was about 3:30 p.m. when he was sitting in his gray Ford Mustang. He saw a man on a bicycle being followed by the police. The man made a left turn in front of him [onto Tyrone Street] and then ran through the parking lot, chased by a police officer. The man held a gun in his right hand at his side. ■ described the gun as a “[B]lack9mm pistol.”

■ heard the officers say, “Drop the gun!” and then he heard “two” shots fired and saw the man running in his direction. The man was approximately five feet away from ■ when ■ heard the shots and saw the officer firing his weapon. ■ was unsure if the man fired his gun but he

⁵ Evidence collected from the incident included a Visa debit card in Gonzalez’ wallet, in the name of “Solo Gonzalez.”

thought the sounds of the gunshots sounded different from each other and believed they may have been produced by separate guns.

As the man ran in his direction, █████ believed that the man was going to take his car by force. █████ tried to leave his car, but the officers told him to stay inside. █████ saw that the man had been shot by the officers and was bleeding from his chest. Officers told █████ to get out of his car and move to the bus stop (for his safety) when the officers took the man into custody.

█████.

█████ was on the second floor of her apartment building when she heard sirens. █████ looked outside her window and saw a man with a yellow shirt running away from an officer, through the church parking lot. █████ saw the man reach into his left pants pocket and pull out a gun. The man held the gun in his left hand and pointed it behind him, at the officer.

█████ moved away from the window and heard one to two shots and the officer yelling, “Drop the gun!” She heard the officer order the man to drop the gun “at least three times.” She heard another five to six gunshots. When she returned to look out of her window, she saw police tape and the ambulance.

█████

█████ was standing by a fence on Tyrone Avenue when he saw a man on a bicycle being followed by police. █████ told investigators that he saw the officers stop and exit their patrol car. █████ heard one shot fired and believed the sound came from the man running from the officers. The shot caused the man of the bicycle to fall off and the man began running through the parking lot.⁶ █████ heard the officers yell out to the man as they ran after him. As the man approached Victory Boulevard █████ heard additional shots fired.

Other Witnesses

Additional witnesses were present during the incident and gave statements. Most were in their cars while they were stopped in traffic on Victory Boulevard. All the additional witnesses either corroborated officer statements, other percipient witness statements, or ducked down inside their cars to avoid gunfire.

Forensic Evidence

Body Worn Video

- 3:38:24 Mazmanyman broadcast, “[L]et me get backup for a 187 Suspect.”
- 3:39:20 Mazmanyman broadcast, “Suspect’s on his bicycle . . . heading northbound Tyrone from Victory.”
- 3:39:28 Mazmanyman activated his BWV.

⁶ Gonzalez fell/jumped off his bicycle when the patrol car contacted his body. The initial shot that A.H.G heard was made when Mazmanyman unintentionally discharged his service weapon into the dash of the patrol car before he ran after Gonzalez.

- 3:39:35 Han and Delatori arrived.
- 3:39:45 Mazmanyman fired his service weapon at Gonzalez.
- 3:39:56 Han declared himself incident commander and broadcasted, “. . . Shots have been fired. Let me get the first unit with a shield.”
- 3:50:39 Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics arrived on scene.
- 4:01:05 Gonzalez was transported to Northridge Hospital and was treated for his injuries.

Firearms and Ballistic Evidence

The semi-automatic handgun that Gonzalez pointed at Mazmanyman was identified by LAPD Forensics as a “[S]emi-automatic pistol, 9mm Luger caliber, Polymer80, model PF940V2, serial number None (FMBUS/Ghost Gun).”⁷

The handgun was a blue steel pistol with a four and one-half inch barrel. It was visually examined and unloaded at the scene. One live cartridge (9mm Luger caliber) was removed from the chamber and nine cartridges (9mm Luger cartridges) were removed from the magazine.

While there was a live round in the handgun’s chamber, the criminalist who examined and unloaded the gun at the scene, determined that the pistol’s magazine was not fully inserted. Both the handgun and the magazine, used by Gonzalez were later analyzed and both were determined to be “functional.” (*Figure 7*)



Figure 7: Gonzalez’ handgun, magazine, and ammunition taken at his arrest.

⁷ Gonzalez’ handgun was classified as a “Ghost Gun” or a “Firearm Manufactured by [an] Unlicensed Subject” (FMBUS). Ghost Guns have no serial numbers or other traceable markings and are generally of unknown origin or ownership.

At the time of the incident, Gonzalez had his gun holstered underneath his clothing in a black “Uncle Mike’s” holster. The holster was removed as Gonzalez was treated for his injuries. When Gonzalez was searched after being shot, officers found an additional magazine loaded with nine live cartridges. The holster, gun, the additional magazine, and ammunition were booked into evidence.

Mazmanyman fired eight rounds from his service weapon from approximately 26 feet away from Gonzalez. All eight rounds were fired within three seconds. Two of the rounds fired from Mazmanyman’s service weapon, impacted vehicles on Victory Boulevard. One of the impacts hit a white pickup truck traveling eastbound and the second impact hit an ambulance traveling westbound. None of the people inside those vehicles were injured.

Medical Treatment and Toxicology-Northridge Hospital

Gonzalez was transported and treated at Northridge Medical Hospital at 4:00 p.m. Physicians identified four “through and through” gunshot wounds to his left chest, right shoulder, right upper back, and left rib. None of the bullet wounds penetrated the chest wall or presented life-threatening injuries. Gonzalez was treated for his injuries and at 10:17 p.m., he was discharged into LAPD custody.

During his treatment, Gonzalez admitted to methamphetamine and opiate use. Toxicology reports taken by the hospital detected the presence of amphetamines and opiates, including fentanyl in Gonzalez’ system.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

The Law

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).

The Analysis

When Mazmanyman and Serrato saw Gonzalez on his bicycle, they immediately recognized him and knew he was wanted for murder. Once the officers verified Gonzalez' identity, they attempted to detain Gonzalez peacefully when they ordered Gonzalez to get off his bicycle and "face the wall." However, Gonzalez was carrying an illegal gun and refused to follow their orders. While the officers did not initially see a gun on Gonzalez, their initial observations of him on the bicycle led them to reasonably believe that Gonzalez was armed with a concealed firearm.

Mazmanyman broadcasted the information that Gonzalez was possibly armed to warn the responding officers. However, before the responding officers arrived, Gonzalez jumped off his bike and ran across the church parking lot. Since Mazmanyman knew that Gonzalez was wanted on an attempted murder case and possibly armed, Mazmanyman had no other choice than to pursue Gonzalez across the open parking lot. Mazmanyman had his service weapon unholstered as he ran after Gonzalez yelling, "Put the gun down!"

Mazmanyman's fear that Gonzalez was armed was confirmed when Gonzalez took his gun out of its holster, stopped running, and pointed the gun directly at Mazmanyman. Mazmanyman had no cover to hide behind and made the decision to use deadly force when Gonzalez brought his gun up to eye-level and aimed it at Mazmanyman. The BWV clearly shows that Mazmanyman did not fire his service weapon until Gonzalez turned around and pointed his gun at Mazmanyman. When Gonzalez turned to run away, Mazmanyman continued firing at him until Gonzalez ran to the left and out of view of Mazmanyman's BWV.

Gonzalez told investigators that when he pointed his gun at Manzmanyman he only wanted to scare the officer. However, based on Mazmanyman's knowledge of Gonzalez' prior history of violent crimes, Gonzalez' use of a firearm in a prior attempted murder case, and the fact that the weapon that Gonzalez was pointing at Mazmanyman appeared to be a functioning handgun, Mazmanyman was justifiably afraid for his life and left with no other choice than to use deadly force against Gonzalez.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the facts support Mazmanyman's reasonable fear and belief that deadly force was necessary to defend himself against the imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we find that Officer Mazmanyman's use of deadly force was reasonable under the circumstances, and he acted lawfully in self-defense.