

Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Rushdee Anderson
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Justin Sabatine, #623021
Deputy Meshawn Telemaque, #639879

J.S.I.D. File #22-0304



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District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

June 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING CAPTAIN ARTURO R. SPENCER
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Homicide Bureau
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Monterey Park, California 91755

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

SUBJECT: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Rushdee Anderson
J.S.I.D. File #22-0304
L.A.S.D. File #022-07453-0373-013

DATE: June 17, 2025

The Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the September 2, 2022, fatal shooting of Rushdee Anderson by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Justin Sabatine and Meshawn Telemaque. We have concluded the deputies acted lawfully in self-defense and the defense of others when they fired their service weapons, as the evidence supports reasonable belief that the threat of deadly force was necessary to stop an imminent threat of death or great bodily injury.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting at approximately 1:00 p.m. on September 3, 2022. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the location. They were given a briefing regarding the circumstances surrounding the shooting and a walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports, recorded interviews, surveillance video, radio communications, firearm analysis reports, body worn camera videos (BWV), medical records, and crime scene photographs and diagrams submitted by LASD Detectives Christian Mezzano and Kasey Woodruff on April 20, 2023. Sabatine and Telemaque each gave voluntary statements which were considered in this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

On September 2, 2022, at approximately 6:20 p.m., LASD Deputies Sabatine and Ian Fujino, responded to a "person with a gun" call for service at [REDACTED] West 108th Street, in the City of Los Angeles. Deputies Justin Greene and Meshawn Telemaque also responded. The reporting person, later identified as [REDACTED], stated a Black male adult wearing a white t-shirt and blue shorts had been seen outside the location with a black firearm. Upon arrival, [REDACTED] approached the deputies and directed them to the area where the suspect was located.

Telemaque and Sabatine proceeded to the area and observed an individual, later identified as Anderson, exiting the front door of [REDACTED] West 108th Street, then standing on the porch. Anderson reached down toward a chair beside him and retrieved a black firearm. Turning toward the deputies, he raised the pistol in their direction. Sabatine and Telemaque gave repeated commands for Anderson to drop the weapon, but he did not comply. Fearing for their safety, both deputies discharged their firearms, striking Anderson. Anderson retreated into his residence, where he was later found on the ground with a black firearm on the floor near his leg. Additional deputies arrived on scene and rendered medical aid before Anderson was transported for medical treatment. Anderson ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

Interview of [REDACTED]

On September 3, 2022, at approximately 4:26 a.m., Detectives Mezzano and Woodruff interviewed [REDACTED] inside the South Los Angeles Sheriff's station.¹ The interview was audio recorded. [REDACTED] provided background about Anderson and stated Anderson's mother lived in one of the neighboring units next to [REDACTED].² Anderson moved in with his mother after he was released from [REDACTED]. Anderson's mother was sick, and [REDACTED] would speak to Anderson on the phone regularly and give him rides to the hospital to visit with his mother. In June 2022, [REDACTED] stated Anderson began to create problems and demand money from her.

[REDACTED] described an incident which occurred earlier during the week of the shooting in front of Anderson's residence. During the incident, a transient's dog attacked Anderson. Anderson and an associate were armed with guns and appeared to be waiting for the transient to return to shoot him. Anderson told [REDACTED], "I want to get the niggas that put their dog on me. I ain't [sic] scared of them. I got a track record." [REDACTED] said Anderson is an "[REDACTED]" gang member. Their homes were on rival gang "[REDACTED]" turf.

On September 2, 2022, prior to arriving home, [REDACTED] received phone calls from friends who told her to be careful when she got home because Anderson was "acting up." Her friends informed her Anderson wanted to fight people, causing her friends to leave. After work, [REDACTED] arrived home and parked her vehicle in the street in front of her house. Anderson approached her vehicle on foot and tapped on her window. [REDACTED] remained in her vehicle due to fear for her safety while she waited to see what mood Anderson was in. [REDACTED] stated Anderson appeared to have consumed alcohol, was laughing, and appeared to be in a good mood. She briefly spoke with Anderson without incident before he walked back to his residence via a walkway accessible from the alley.

[REDACTED] exited her car and called Anderson on his cell phone to ask a question and make small talk. Anderson exited the front door of his residence and appeared angry. [REDACTED] believed he was "up to

¹ [REDACTED] was interviewed by Deputy Julian Stern immediately following the incident, during which she provided a summary of the use of force incident. Her account in this initial interview was consistent with the more detailed statement she later provided to Mezzano and Woodruff.

² Anderson's mother passed away on July 10, 2022. Anderson continued to live in the residence following his mother's death.

something." ■■■ asked Anderson, "Are you alright?" after she saw he had an angry look in his eyes. Anderson was angry because ■■■ allowed people to sit on her porch and on the grass in front of her residence. Anderson told ■■■ there were other areas in the neighborhood where people could congregate and angrily said to her, "I'm not scared of ya'll [sic] out here! I'm not scared! Look what I got!" Anderson removed a black, short, fat, semi-automatic handgun from his pocket and showed the pistol to ■■■. Anderson said, "I'm tired of these niggas over here. You let them sit on your porch and sit under your tree. You must be from over here, cuz [sic] you let them do too much." Anderson then turned toward the street and said "Fuck 100's! I'll fuck them up! If I see them, it's going down!"

■■■ said she walked herself slowly backward to the front door of her residence and entered. Anderson was agitated and appeared to be provoking a violent confrontation by making disrespectful comments about the street gang that claimed control of the area where Anderson resided. ■■■ closed and locked the door behind her. She did not believe Anderson would shoot her, however, she was not entirely sure. ■■■ called 9-1-1 because she was afraid Anderson was going to hurt someone. She provided a description of Anderson and his behavior to dispatch.

Upon learning of the deputies' arrival, ■■■ exited her residence and walked toward the liquor store, where she saw deputies detaining the wrong individual. ■■■ contacted the deputies and told them, "Come this way." ■■■ directed the deputies to follow her toward Anderson's residence. Anderson exited his residence and appeared to be observing what was occurring in the front yard with the deputies. ■■■ pointed Anderson out to the deputies by saying, "That's him!" Anderson looked at ■■■ and the deputies, then retrieved a gun from a chair on his porch.

■■■ heard Anderson say "Oh yeah? Yeah?" in a confrontational tone of voice. ■■■ saw Anderson point the handgun toward the deputies.³ ■■■ yelled, "Officer! He's got a gun!" ■■■ then heard, "BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM." ■■■ heard a deputy yell and thought one of the deputies was shot by Anderson. ■■■ turned and ran for her life. ■■■ heard the deputies return fire. ■■■ became upset and began to cry because she thought Anderson shot and harmed one of the deputies. ■■■ said Anderson was in the wrong and had fired at the deputies first. ■■■ said she knew the deputies went to Anderson's residence to protect others in the area. The interview was then concluded.

Interview of Deputy Sabatine

On September 14, 2022, Woodruff and Mezzano interviewed Sabatine at the Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau conference room. Also present was Sabatine's attorney. The interview was audio recorded. Before the interview, Sabatine and his attorney reviewed BWV footage of the incident.

On September 2, 2022, Sabatine and Fujino were assigned to patrol unit ■■■ for the South Los Angeles Station. A call was broadcast regarding a man with a gun. Sabatine noted the handling unit for the gun call was already handling a domestic dispute, leaving him and Fujino as the only

³ ■■■ demonstrated Anderson's movements, for the interviewers, raising her hand upward and pointing her hand in front of her, simulating a gun.

available unit to respond. Sabatine and Fujino discussed using a TASER as a less-lethal option, which Fujino carried.

The radio call described the suspect as a Black male wearing a white shirt and blue shorts, last seen at [REDACTED] West 108th Street. Sabatine knew this was a high crime area, particularly for narcotics and alcohol-related offenses.

Upon arriving at the scene, Sabatine and Fujino detained the wrong individual. At that moment, [REDACTED] approached while on her phone and pointed toward the correct location, saying, "He is around the corner on the grass." Sabatine believed she was the 9-1-1 caller and was referring to the armed suspect. Sabatine instructed Fujino to release the man they had detained. Sabatine and Telemaque, who had just arrived on scene, walked west on 108th Street toward Manhattan Place. At [REDACTED] West 108th Street, the front security door of the residence suddenly swung open, and Anderson emerged wearing dark shorts and a white tank top matching the suspect description. [REDACTED] immediately identified Anderson, shouting, "That's him! That's him!" Anderson moved toward a stool near the front door, lifted a seat cushion, and retrieved a black semi-automatic firearm. Within seconds, Anderson turned toward Sabatine and Telemaque while raising the gun toward Sabatine's midsection. Sabatine feared that Anderson was about to open fire on them. Sabatine stated he also considered the possibility of an ambush by Anderson or that Anderson might attempt to shoot [REDACTED].

Sabatine gave multiple commands for Anderson to drop the gun, but Anderson did not comply. Fearing for his safety, his partner's life, and the public, Sabatine fired approximately eight rounds at Anderson. When asked how he felt during the incident, Sabatine stated, "I thought he was going to kill us. I thought he was going to kill me in particular."

Despite being shot, Anderson remained in control of the handgun, turned left, stumbled into his residence, and shut the security door behind him. Sabatine could no longer see inside the home and was unsure whether Anderson had been critically wounded, was trying to escape, or posed a continued threat. Sabatine initiated an emergency radio broadcast and took cover behind a parked vehicle. He instructed Deputy Telemaque to do the same.

Additional deputies arrived, took command of the scene, organized an arrest team, and used a patrol vehicle's PA system to order Anderson to exit the residence. Meanwhile, deputies reported hearing heavy breathing inside the home near the front door.

After determining immediate medical aid was necessary, deputies led an approach team to enter the residence to provide life-saving measures. Sabatine's involvement ended at this point. Sabatine instructed Telemaque to remain near him outside Anderson's residence

Sabatine's attorney asked why he issued commands to Anderson before shooting. Sabatine explained his ideal outcome was for Anderson to drop the weapon and surrender, but Anderson gave no indication he intended to comply.

Interview of Deputy Telemaque

On September 15, 2022, Bernstein and Detective Teri Woodruff interviewed Telemaque inside the Sheriff's Homicide Bureau conference room. Also present was his attorney. The interview was audio recorded. Before the interview, Telemaque and his attorney reviewed the BWV footage of the incident.

On September 2, 2022, Telemaque and Greene were assigned to South Los Angeles Station patrol as unit ■■■B. Before the shooting incident, Telemaque and Greene were assisting another patrol unit with a domestic violence call. While at the scene, they received a radio dispatch for a "man with a gun" call. Telemaque contacted Fujino and Sabatine over the radio, and learned they had already arrived at the location.

Upon arrival, he saw Sabatine and Fujino on the southeast corner of 108th Street. Exiting his patrol vehicle from the passenger side, Telemaque moved to the scene. At that moment, he saw the front door of a nearby residence swing open, and Anderson stepped out. Telemaque heard a witness, ■■■■ exclaim, "That's him!" indicating Anderson was the armed suspect. Anderson looked in the deputies' direction and immediately reached to his right under a cushion on a chair near the front door, retrieving a firearm.

As Anderson stepped outside, Telemaque ordered him to stop. Upon seeing the gun, Telemaque aimed his firearm at Anderson and repeatedly commanded him to drop the weapon. As he moved westward to create distance between himself and Anderson, he saw Anderson begin to raise the firearm. Fearing for his own safety and the life of ■■■■ Telemaque fired approximately three to four rounds at Anderson. His view of Anderson was partially obstructed by a bush in front of the residence.

Following the gunfire exchange, Sabatine radioed for assistance. Telemaque moved east behind a parked vehicle for cover and performed a tactical reload of his duty weapon. Once additional units arrived at the scene, Telemaque and Sabatine were escorted back to the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station for post-incident procedures.

Interview of Witness Deputies

Interview of Justin Green

On September 15, 2022, Bernstein and Woodruff interviewed Greene inside the Sheriff's Homicide Bureau conference room. Also present during the interview was Greene's attorney. The interview was audio recorded. Before the interview, Greene and his attorney reviewed BWV footage of the incident.

Greene said he saw Anderson step out of his residence and immediately grab a firearm from beneath a cushion of a chair located on the front porch. Anderson then made a motion as if he was going to point the firearm at them. Greene said he was approximately twenty yards from Anderson's front door, with ■■■■ positioned between him and Sabatine. Reacting to the threat, Greene moved to find cover, at which point he heard approximately seven gunshots. He did not

see who fired their weapons. Following the shooting, a plan was devised to enter Anderson's residence. Once inside, Greene observed Anderson's firearm near his right hip on the floor.

Interview of Ian Fujino

On September 15, 2022, Bernstein and Woodruff interviewed Fujino inside the Sheriff's Homicide Bureau conference room. Present for the interview was Fujino's attorney. The interview was audio recorded. Before the interview, Fujino and his attorney reviewed the BWV camera footage.

As Fujino was walking west toward Sabatine, he heard Sabatine shouting, "Drop the gun! Drop the gun!" Immediately after, Fujino heard multiple gunshots. Due to a tree and bushes obstructing his view, Fujino was unable to see who the officers were telling to drop the gun, or who fired rounds. Fujino took cover until additional units arrived on the scene. Once backup arrived, he and other deputies entered Anderson's residence. Inside, Fujino saw Anderson lying face-up on the living room floor, with a firearm positioned underneath his body.

Body Worn Camera Video

Deputies Sabatine and Telemaque were equipped with BWV. Both had activated their units which captured the incident. Due to camera movement, the footage is blurry and grainy but Anderson's firearm is visible upon close inspection.

Sabatine's BWV footage

At timestamp 23:45:43, Sabatine's BWV camera turns south toward the porch and front door of [REDACTED] West 108th Street. Anderson exits through the front security screen door of his residence. After stepping outside, he walks directly to a wooden chair on the east side of the porch. Anderson lifts a dark seat cushion with his left hand and quickly retrieves a handgun with his right hand while looking at the deputies.

At timestamp 23:45:47, Anderson lowers the handgun and points it toward the ground, as if attempting to conceal it by placing his left hand over the top of the firearm. Sabatine yells, "Stop! Put it down! Put it down!"

At timestamp 23:45:48, Anderson raises his right arm and points the gun at Sabatine before immediately lowering it toward his waistband.

At timestamp 23:45:49, Sabatine fires his duty weapon at Anderson. Anderson turns his body south toward the front door of his residence, opens the black security door, and walks inside.

At timestamp 23:46:00, Sabatine broadcasts over his portable radio that deputies are involved in a deputy-involved shooting. Sabatine tells Telemaque to take cover behind a vehicle parked on the street.

Telemaque's BWV footage

At timestamp 23:45:45, a voice is heard saying, "He got a gun!" Telemaque turns south toward [REDACTED] West 108th Street and raises his duty weapon. Sabatine appears in front of Telemaque,

slightly offset to the left. Anderson stands on the front porch of [REDACTED] West 108th Street, holding a handgun. The deputies yell, "Put it down!" Telemaque fires his duty weapon. Anderson turns his back to the deputies and walks inside his residence. Following the shooting, Telemaque repositions himself behind a blue sedan parked on the street east of [REDACTED] West 108th Street.



Figure 1: BWV screen capture of Anderson retrieving his firearm.



Figure 2: BWV capture of Anderson holding his firearm.



Figure 3: BWV capture of Anderson pointing his firearm at the deputies.

Firearm and Casings Recovery

Detectives observed a black, semi-automatic handgun lying on the ground inside Anderson's residence, adjacent to Anderson's right leg. The firearm was later collected and rendered safe by LASD Senior Criminalist Marco Lezza. It was found to be loaded with one round in the chamber, while the magazine was empty. Additionally, detectives identified 12 cartridge casings scattered on West 108th Street, in the grass apron between the street and sidewalk, and at the southeast corner of West 108th Street and South Manhattan Place. The placement of the casings in front of the residence was consistent with the locations from which deputies fired their weapons. There was no evidence indicating the suspect discharged his firearm during the shooting.



Figure 4: Photo of Anderson's firearm next to his body

Firearm Analysis

LASD Scientific Services Bureau performed a forensic examination on the firearms in this case. Sabatine and Telemaque were both equipped with Smith and Wesson pistols. Their firearms were examined, test fired, and determined to be functional. Anderson was in possession of a Polymer 80 pistol. The analyst concluded Anderson's firearm was an incomplete firearm with an "80 percent" unfinished frame, lacking a serial number. The firearm was examined, test fired, and determined to be functional and operable.

Autopsy

On September 5, 2022, a post-mortem examination of Anderson was conducted. The Los Angeles County Deputy Medical Examiner determined the cause of death was a gunshot wound to Anderson's upper torso.

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; 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 another unless immediately apprehended. Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(A).

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(a)(4).

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 subject leading up to 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).

Under the circumstances presented, Sabatine and Telemaque reasonably believed the use of deadly force was necessary. Upon responding to a credible report of a man with a firearm, the deputies were directed by an eyewitness to Anderson’s location. Anderson, who had already displayed threatening behavior earlier that day and had made statements indicating a willingness to use his firearm, emerged from his residence. Upon seeing the deputies, he immediately raised the firearm towards the deputies. Despite multiple commands to drop the weapon, Anderson failed to comply and raised the firearm a second time. Anderson’s actions constituted an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, as he had the immediate ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to use deadly force against the deputies or [REDACTED].

The officers’ use of deadly force was necessary to defend their own lives and the lives of others in the immediate area, including [REDACTED], who was nearby. The deputies were not required to wait until Anderson fired his weapon before responding with force, as the law recognizes an officer need not suffer injury before taking necessary action to neutralize an imminent threat. All parties interviewed believed Anderson was an imminent lethal threat, which further corroborates the deputies’ belief that deadly force was necessary.

Moreover, the deputies attempted to de-escalate the situation by issuing commands for Anderson to drop his weapon, which he ignored. Given Anderson's refusal to comply and his aggressive posture while pointing a firearm, the deputies' belief that he would fire upon them or others was objectively reasonable and deadly force was necessary to stop an imminent threat of death or serious injury to the officers or others.

CONCLUSION

Based on the available evidence, we conclude Sabatine and Telemaque acted in lawful self-defense and the defense of others when they fired their service weapons at Anderson.