

**Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Liliana Garcia**

**Arcadia Police Department**

**Officer Matthew Medina, #830**

**J.S.I.D. File #23-0271**



**NATHAN J. HOCHMAN**

**District Attorney**

**Justice System Integrity Division**

**July 14, 2025**

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: CHIEF ROY NAKAMURA  
Arcadia Police Department  
250 W. Huntington Drive  
Arcadia, California 91007

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

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

SUBJECT: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Liliana Garcia  
J.S.I.D. File #23-0271  
L.A.S.D. File #023-00056-3199-056

DATE: July 14, 2025

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) has completed its review of the August 12, 2023, non-fatal shooting of Liliana Garcia by Arcadia Police Department (APD) Officer Matthew Medina. We conclude Officer Medina acted in lawful self-defense at the time he fired his weapon, reasonably believing the use of deadly force was necessary to defend himself against an imminent deadly threat.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on August 12, 2023, at approximately 11:04 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the location. They were given a briefing and walk-through of the scene by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Homicide Lieutenant Hugo Reynaga.

The following analysis is based on body worn camera video (BWV), cell phone video, witness statements, and investigative reports submitted to this office by the LASD Homicide Bureau on May 6, 2025. The involved officer did not provide a voluntary statement, and no compelled statement was considered.

## **INTRODUCTION**

On August 12, 2023, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Medina responded to a family dispute involving a knife. Garcia ran toward Medina with a serrated steak knife raised above her head. Medina fired one round from his service weapon striking Garcia, who fell to the ground. Garcia was transported to the hospital and survived.

## **FACTUAL ANALYSIS**

Medina arrived at approximately 9:33 p.m. in a marked black and white APD Ford Explorer patrol vehicle. Medina was dressed in a dark blue long-sleeved APD patrol uniform with an Arcadia police badge, name plate, body worn camera, and a handheld microphone, all visible on his chest. Arcadia Police insignia patches were visible on each shoulder. Medina's duty belt held his service weapon, two additional magazines, a canister of pepper spray, and a Taser. The front door of the single-story apartment opened onto a sidewalk. Local businesses and streetlamps illuminated the area. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were waiting outside.

## **BWV AND CELL PHONE VIDEO SYNOPSIS**

Cell phone video recorded by [REDACTED] and Medina's body worn camera captured the entire incident. Medina arrives eastbound California Street and parks his patrol SUV on the far curb opposite Garcia's apartment. The front door sits open. Medina approaches [REDACTED] and asks, "Who called?" [REDACTED] says he did. Medina asks, "Is anybody else inside the house?" [REDACTED] responds, "[REDACTED]" [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] point toward Garcia, who has appeared at the doorway and places her hands inside her front pockets. Medina asks, "Who's the one that pulled out the knife?" [REDACTED] points toward Garcia and says, "Her." [REDACTED] points toward Garcia and says, "She did."

Medina tells Garcia, "Hey, take your hands out of your pockets. Keep your hands out of your pockets." Medina again says, "Keep your hands out of your—" and cuts off as Garcia turns and walks back inside. Medina steps onto the sidewalk facing the front door. After approximately ten seconds, Garcia returns to the doorway with her right hand in her right front pocket. Medina says, "Keep your hands out of your pockets." Garcia walks onto the porch and puts her left hand in her left front pocket. Medina pleads, "Please, keep your hands—" Garcia does not pause and walks down a second step onto the sidewalk toward Medina who is backing up.

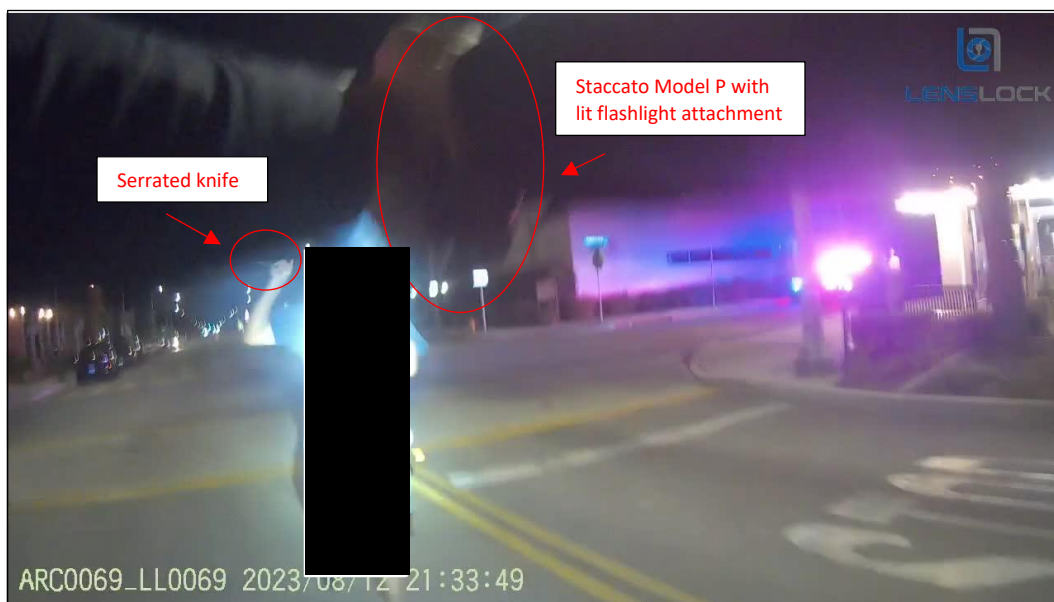
Medina unholsters his service weapon and shines the attached light on Garcia's lower torso as he commands, "Keep—keep your hands out of your pockets, dude!" Without pause, Garcia pulls her wallet out of her left pocket, tosses it to the side, and puts her left hand back in the pocket. Medina backpedals into the center of California Street and backs toward the intersection with First Avenue. Garcia continues to approach Medina. Medina radios, "Four-Four. I've got one at gunpoint, [ ] non-compliant." Garcia continues to walk toward Medina with her hands in her pockets.

[REDACTED] call out to Garcia and [REDACTED] says, "Lili, stop, bro!" Medina continues backpedaling and again commands, "Put your hands—take your hands out of your pockets,

now!” An unidentified male says, “Cover your ears.” [REDACTED] says, “That’s a Taser, right?” Medina responds, “No, it’s a gun.” As Garcia traverses the crosswalk into the intersection, she looks over to [REDACTED] on the sidewalk, smiles, raises her left arm, and points over them as if calling a home run. Medina commands, “Hey, take your hands out of your pockets! Take your hands out of your pockets!” Garcia lowers her left arm, pulls the silver steak knife out of her right front pocket with her right hand, and holds it at her side.

Garcia approaches the middle of the intersection as Medina backpedals south on First Avenue. [REDACTED] shouts, “Lili, you’re gonna get shot!” Garcia starts to run toward Medina. Medina illuminates Garcia’s upper torso and commands, “Hey, take your hands out of your pockets! I’m not gonna ask you again!” Garcia runs closer to Medina who shouts, “Stop!” Garcia raises the knife with the blade aimed at Medina. Medina again shouts, “Stop!” Garcia closes the distance between herself and Medina to approximately two strides. Medina continues to backpedal and fires one round from his service weapon, striking Garcia in the chest, while continuing to backpedal. Garcia briefly continues forward, clutches her chest, and falls to the ground.

Medina backpedaled away from Garcia for approximately 30 seconds. Garcia ran after Medina with the knife in her hand for approximately six seconds. Garcia held the knife raised for approximately two seconds before Medina fired.



*Figure 1 – Screenshot from Officer Medina’s BWV showing Garcia running toward Medina with the knife raised and blade pointed at him as he fires one round from his service weapon.*

## PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Medina carried a 9mm Staccato, Model P, semi-automatic pistol loaded with 20 rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber. Medina fired a single round at Garcia from

approximately ten feet away. The single round entered Garcia's right chest and exited the right side of her back.

Garcia was armed with a silver stainless-steel steak knife, approximately nine total inches long with a four-and-a-half-inch serrated blade.



*Figure 2 – LASD picture showing Garcia's knife.*

## **INTERVIEW WITH LILIANA GARCIA**

On August 19, 2023, at approximately 12:28 a.m., Sergeant Gina Eguia and Sergeant Frank Alvarado from the LASD Homicide Division interviewed Garcia at the APD jail. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **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 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 section 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 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) & (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). Moreover, "[a] peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat, or desist from their efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested." Penal Code section 835a(d).

## **LEGAL ANALYSIS**

The evidence supports a reasonable belief by Medina that deadly force was necessary to defend himself against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.

The available video evidence shows Garcia running full speed at Medina with a knife, poised to attack. Medina was clearly identifiable as a peace officer and had his service weapon aimed at Garcia. Garcia ignored all of Medina's commands and [REDACTED] pleas to stop. For the duration of the encounter, Garcia never hesitated as she continuously walked and ran toward Medina.

Under the totality of these facts, it was reasonable for Medina to believe Garcia had the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to him.<sup>1</sup> Officer Medina reasonably responded with deadly force.

## **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, we find Medina reasonably believed his use of deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to another.

---

<sup>1</sup> Garcia was charged in Los Angeles County Superior Court case GA115096 with a violation of Penal Code section 245(c), assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer. On April 16, 2024, Garcia was placed on Mental Health Diversion for two years pursuant to Penal Code section 1001.36(b).