

Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Joshua Sanchez
Pomona Police Department

Officer Karl Kellogg #42576

J.S.I.D. File #24-0186



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

July 14, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEF MICHAEL ELLIS
Pomona Police Department
490 West Mission Boulevard
Pomona, California 91766

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 Joshua Sanchez
J.S.I.D. File #24-0186
P.P.D Case #P2406-00218
L.A.S.D. File #024-00045-3199-055

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 June 5, 2024, non-fatal shooting of Joshua Sanchez by Pomona Police Department (PPD) Officer Karl Kellogg. We have determined the evidence supports a reasonable belief by the officer that the use of deadly force was necessary in self-defense and the defense of others when he fired his service weapon.

The LADA Command Center was notified of the shooting on June 5, 2024, at approximately 11:25 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the scene and was provided a briefing and walk-through by LASD Lieutenant Daniel Vizcarra.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports and other materials, including recorded interviews, body worn camera video (BWV), photographs, video recordings, and radio communications submitted to this office by LASD Homicide Bureau on January 23, 2025. Officers provided investigators with voluntary statements which were also considered in this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On June 6, 2024, at approximately 10:15 p.m., PPD's Major Task Force Unit (MTFU), which included Officer Karl Kellogg, responded to a mobile home park in the City of Pomona regarding a resident, later identified as Sanchez, having fired a gunshot in the air.¹

As officers arrived on scene, they observed Sanchez standing in the street holding a jacket. Officers ordered Sanchez to drop the jacket. Sanchez complied, then held his arms out to the side and began yelling at the officers. Officers issued additional commands for Sanchez to stop, but he ran behind a parked black sports utility vehicle (SUV) and fired a round in their direction. Kellogg fired one round from his service weapon, striking Sanchez in the mouth and causing him to fall to the ground.

Sanchez was transported to Pomona Valley Medical Center (PVMC) by Los Angeles County Fire Department (LAFD) personnel, where he was treated for a gunshot wound to the mouth. Sanchez's handgun was recovered from the ground next to where he fell.²



Sanchez's firearm was photographed at the scene.³

¹ PPD dispatch received two separate 9-1-1 calls: The first caller, later identified as [REDACTED] stated Sanchez pointed a firearm in the air and attempted to shoot, but the firearm might have jammed. The second call was made by an unidentified individual who stated they heard a single shot fired.

² Sanchez was charged in case 24PSCF00384 with one count of Penal Code section 664/187a, Attempted murder of a peace officer, and eight counts of Penal Code section 245(d)(1), Assault with a firearm upon a peace officer.

³ Investigators determined the firearm was a Polymer-80 with no serial number and one live round chambered. Two expended cartridges matching the firearm were also recovered near Sanchez.

Statement of Officer Karl Kellogg⁴

On June 7, 2024, Kellogg provided a voluntary statement to investigators. Kellogg said he was a member of PPD's MTFU and responded, to the location, along with other officers regarding a service call for a man who had fired a gun. Kellogg was designated as communications officer to issue verbal commands to the shooter.

Upon arrival, Kellogg observed Sanchez standing alongside the driver's side of a dark SUV, holding a "dark towel or shirt" around his right hand.⁵ Kellogg ordered Sanchez to drop it but Sanchez initially refused. Sanchez raised and lowered his hands several times in violation of multiple commands. He eventually dropped the jacket, and Kellogg ordered him to lie on the ground. Sanchez did not comply, and instead yelled statements similar to "Send the dog!" and "Come get me!"

As Kellogg approached Sanchez, Sanchez turned his body, ran to the passenger side of the SUV, then ran towards the vehicle's hood. Kellogg shouted, "He's running! He's running!" Kellogg heard Officer Yasmin Rodriguez yell, "Gun! Gun! Gun!!" Sanchez turned his body towards Kellogg and the other officers. Kellogg heard the sound of a gunshot coming from Sanchez's direction and believed Sanchez would fire at him and the other officers.

Kellogg observed Sanchez raise his hands towards his head, bend his wrist and point his firearm directly at Kellogg and the other officers. Fearing for his life and the lives of others, Kellogg fired one round from his service weapon at Sanchez's head to stop the threat. Sanchez fell to the ground.

Statement of Officer Yasmin Rodriguez

On June 7, 2024, Rodriguez provided a voluntary statement to investigators. Rodriguez said she was a member of PPD's K-9 unit and responded with other officers to the service call. Upon arrival, Rodriguez observed Sanchez standing alongside the driver's side of a dark SUV, holding a dark piece of cloth around his right hand.

Sanchez eventually dropped the cloth but refused to go to the ground despite commands to do so. As Sanchez ran around the passenger side of the vehicle, Rodriguez saw a firearm in his right hand and yelled, "Gun! Gun! Gun!" She ordered Sanchez to drop the gun, but he did not comply. Sanchez instead raised it to his eye level and pointed it in the direction of the officers. She saw a muzzle flash from the firearm and heard it discharge. As Sanchez held the firearm in the same position, Rodriguez heard the sound of another gunshot and saw Sanchez fall to the ground.

Witness Statements

On June 6, 2024, investigators interviewed a resident, [REDACTED] and her boyfriend [REDACTED] regarding the incident.

⁴ This interview, along with all others referenced in this memorandum, was recorded.

⁵ Sanchez's black jacket was recovered at the scene.

█████ stated she heard arguing on the street, looked outside, and saw Sanchez pacing near a black SUV, talking to himself and acting erratically. She believed he was under the influence of drugs. █████ noticed Sanchez was armed and called 9-1-1. While on the phone, she heard gunshots and saw Sanchez pointing the firearm in the air. When officers arrived, Sanchez yelled at them, “Are you gonna shoot me? Are you gonna kill me?” █████ then heard a gunshot, followed by what she believed was return fire from police. Her view was partially obstructed by bushes, so she could not see who fired. She recorded portions of the incident on her cellphone and provided the video to investigators.

█████ said he received text messages from █████ regarding a man armed with a gun in front of █████’s home and decided to spend the night with her. Upon arrival, he observed Sanchez near a black SUV, yelling, “I’m gonna fight, stab, and shoot you!” Sanchez appeared to be yelling this to someone else. Officers arrived and ordered Sanchez to raise his hands, but he was uncooperative. █████ began recording the incident from behind █████’s front door. He heard one gunshot, followed by another. He did not personally see Sanchez holding a gun. He provided the video to investigators.

Statement of Joshua Sanchez

On June 12, 2024, investigators interviewed Sanchez at PVMC.⁶ Sanchez said he was outside his residence standing near his black SUV talking to himself because he was upset about his life. He consumed a few “tall cans” that night but was not drunk.⁷ He said he did not legally own a firearm but obtained one a week prior when someone left a handgun in his vehicle.

Sanchez said when police arrived and ordered him to get down, he ran because they approached him aggressively. He admitted being right-handed and stated he could only shoot with that hand. Sanchez said he raised his hands above his head while holding the pistol in his right hand with the intention of throwing it. He claimed the pistol discharged accidentally and he did not intend to shoot anyone.

Investigators asked Sanchez why the firearm was recovered next to him if he intended to throw it. He did not have an explanation and said he may not have discarded it. Seconds after he dropped the firearm, he heard a “boom” and realized he had been shot in his face.

Video Evidence

Kellogg wore a BWV device which captured the entire incident.⁸ The footage shows Kellogg approaching the black SUV and taking a tactical position. Multiple officers can be heard ordering Sanchez to stop and drop to the gun. One gunshot is heard as Sanchez runs around the

⁶ Sanchez was mirandized by investigators, waived his rights, and agreed to speak to them without an attorney present.

⁷ In this context, “tall cans” is a reference to 16-ounce cans of beer.

⁸ As a result of BWV manufacturer settings, audio and video are both recorded upon activation by the officer. The previous minute of video, without audio, is also captured.

SUV. He then turns toward the officers and raises his hands while holding the firearm. Kellogg fires one round, and Sanchez falls to the ground.

Cellphone video footage from [REDACTED] shows Sanchez walking erratically near the SUV and speaking to himself. At one point, Sanchez raises his right arm while holding his firearm and attempts to fire. When the firearm does not discharge, he strikes it against the vehicle multiple times.

[REDACTED]'s video shows the arrival of PPD officers. Multiple commands from the officers can be heard ordering Sanchez to stop and drop the weapon. One gunshot is heard, followed moments later by a second.



Still image from Kellogg's BWV as he fires at Sanchez. The muzzle flash (green circle) can be observed as Sanchez (red circle) holds his firearm pointed in the officers' direction.



Still from [REDACTED]'s cellphone depicting Sanchez (red circle) pointing his firearm in the air.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person, or 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(b), (c)(1)(A), and (c)(1)(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).

“Totality of circumstances” means 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. 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) and (e)(3).

In this case, Kellogg was confronted with an armed individual who had already discharged a firearm, then pointed it directly at Kellogg and other officers. Both Kellogg and Rodriguez observed Sanchez raise a firearm to eye-level and discharge it in the officers’ direction. Civilian witness statements detail Sanchez’s erratic behavior and brandishing a firearm prior to the arrival of law enforcement. Additionally, BWV confirms Sanchez failed to comply with the officers’ commands, raising a firearm in their direction before Kellogg fired his service weapon.

Although Sanchez later claimed he intended to discard the firearm and it discharged accidentally, this statement is inconsistent with the observations of officers on scene, the physical evidence, and the video recordings. Sanchez’s conduct reasonably caused Kellogg to believe he and others were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death.

These facts and circumstances support a reasonable belief by Kellogg that the use of deadly force was necessary in self-defense and the defense of others.

CONCLUSION

Based on the available evidence, we conclude Kellogg acted lawfully in self-defense and the defense of others when he fired his service weapon