

Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Olban Perdomo

Los Angeles Police Department

Officer Steven Valenzuela, #43551

Officer Julian Lozano, #44064

Officer Eric Darling, #42231

Officer Alfred Foca, #43683

Officer Shuhei Fuchigami, #43010

J.S.I.D. File #23-0273



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

July 20, 2026

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: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Olban Perdomo
J.S.I.D. File #23-0273
L.A.P.D. File #F038-23

DATE: July 20, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) has completed its review of the August 13, 2023, fatal shooting of Olban Perdomo by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officers Steven Valenzuela, Julian Lozano, Eric Darling, Alfred Foca, and Shuhei Fuchigami. We have determined the officers acted in lawful self-defense and defense of a third party when they fired their service weapons. We further conclude, based on the totality of the circumstances, each of the officers reasonably believed the use of lethal force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves and/or another person.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on August 13, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene at 8:03 a.m. by LAPD Force Investigation Division (FID) Lieutenant Anthony Ljubetic.

The following analysis is based on body worn camera video (BWV), Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS), investigative reports, forensic reports, audio recordings, surveillance video, photographs, and the autopsy report submitted to this office by LAPD FID Detective Christian Carrasco on September 10, 2024. No compelled statements were considered as part of this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

On August 13, 2023, LAPD received a 9-1-1 call reporting an attempted auto theft by a male Hispanic, later identified as Olban Perdomo. Officers from LAPD's 77th Street Patrol Division arrived at the location and approached a resident's vehicle. As officers opened the driver's door Perdomo, who was seated in the back seat, extended what appeared to be a semi-automatic pistol into the area of the open driver's door. The officers immediately withdrew and radioed for backup. Numerous officers responded to the scene and set up a perimeter along the street. Minutes later, Perdomo exited the vehicle still holding the pistol. Officers issued numerous commands for Perdomo to drop the weapon, which were all ignored. Officer Brandon Roach fired three rounds from a 40-mm less-lethal-launcher (40-mm) at Perdomo, striking him twice.

Still holding the weapon, Perdomo walked to the front of the resident's vehicle and crouched on the ground between the vehicle and a metal fence. Just prior to the officer involved shooting, an officer can be heard on BWV saying, "Hey! He is pointing it towards." Valenzuela, Lozano, Darling, Foca, and Fuchigami discharged their service weapons, striking Perdomo numerous times. Despite immediate medical aid, Perdomo was pronounced deceased at the scene.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

The factual analysis was derived primarily from BWV worn by all officers who responded to the scene, DICVS, statements by involved officers captured on BWV, and statements made to investigators by uninvolved officers and bystanders.

INITIAL CONTACT WITH PERDOMO

On August 13, 2023, at 4:31 a.m., a resident on South Hoover Street notified LAPD of a male Hispanic, later identified as Perdomo, trying to steal a Toyota SUV. LAPD officers Brandon Roach and Ernie Robins responded to the residence at 5:20 a.m. The resident unlocked the car remotely for the officers and indicated Perdomo was inside the vehicle. The car had darkly tinted windows, so the interior was not visible to officers. Roach's BWV shows Robins open the front driver's door. Roach illuminates the interior of the vehicle with his flashlight. Perdomo extends what appears to be a semi-automatic pistol from the back seat into the forward cabin area to the left of the driver's seat head rest toward Robins. Roach says, "Hey! Hey, drop it! Drop it! Drop that!" Both officers draw their service weapons and retreat from the vehicle to seek cover. Simultaneously, Roach requests backup for a man with a gun.



*Perdomo Extending What Appears to Be a Semi-Automatic Handgun
(Bordered in Red) from the Second Row of the SUV.*

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS ARRIVE – CONTINUED CONTACT

Perdomo remains in the vehicle as Roach continues to issue commands for him to drop the gun and show his hands. Additional officers begin to arrive approximately two and a half minutes

after Perdomo displayed the gun. Officers position their vehicles in front of the residence to provide illumination of the resident's vehicle and cover for the officers. Officers deploy behind the LAPD vehicles and continue to issue repeated commands for Perdomo to drop his weapon. Perdomo moves to the vehicle's front seat. Officer Megan Floto's BWV captures Perdomo extending the gun for approximately 12 seconds outside the vehicle's driver-side door at the roof line, manipulating the gun and occasionally turning it in the direction of officers. Another officer yells, "He has a gun!"¹ Valenzuela can be heard on his BWC saying, "Hey! He's pointing! He's pointing it!" Perdomo then flashes the high beams of the resident's vehicle at officers, who continue to issue repeated commands for Perdomo to drop the gun and exit the vehicle. Perdomo again holds the gun outside the vehicle for another ten seconds. Sergeant Mario Cardona broadcasts on his radio, "We have a guy holding a gun inside a vehicle."



Perdomo Manipulating the Weapon Above the Roof Line of the Resident's Vehicle.

PERDOMO EXITS THE VEHICLE

At this point, additional LAPD officers have arrived and have taken up positions along the front of the residence, sheltering behind multiple LAPD vehicles. Approximately five minutes after the initial encounter, Officer Lozano begins to issue instructions in Spanish. Almost immediately after, Perdomo exits the vehicle and slowly walks away from it toward the front of the home. DICVS from Valenzuela's vehicle depicts Perdomo holding the weapon in his left hand by the barrel and slide area, not in a pistol grip. He has another object in his right hand which appears to be a sneaker. Perdomo walks slowly around the area in front of the front door of the residence, advancing as far as the metal gate. He holds both objects above his head and faces the officers, who continue to issue commands in Spanish to drop the weapon. He returns to the SUV and stands between the open driver's door and the vehicle, still holding both objects above his head. Next, Perdomo returns to the area in front of the porch, and lowers the items to

¹ Officer Darling can be heard on his BWC stating, "Yeah, he's holding the gun outside."

his abdomen, manipulating them as an officer can be heard yelling, “Nope! Hey, don’t point that thing!”



Perdomo Holding the Weapon and a Second Object, While Refusing to Comply with Officers’ Commands.

Officers request a 40-mm.² During the next minute, Officer Roach deploys the launcher three times. The first 40-mm round misses Perdomo, striking the metal fence.³ Perdomo notices the first round because he quickly turns his head toward the sound. Darling can be heard on DICVS and BWV saying, “He’s holding it (the weapon) with the muzzle. You see it?” Another officer agrees. The second round appears to strike Perdomo on the left side, and he yells from pain, bending down but quickly standing up again, remaining in front of the residence and continuing to hold both items. A few seconds later, Perdomo is struck by the third 40-mm round and again yells out in pain.

USE OF LETHAL FORCE

After being struck by the third round from the 40-mm, Perdomo crouches down and quickly moves away from officers to the area between the front of the resident’s SUV and the black metal fence. Perdomo stops even with the center of the SUV’s hood and appears to either squat or sit on the ground. As he reaches the SUV, he turns his body back in the direction of the officers. Perdomo appears to say in Spanish, “Ah, puta!”⁴ The gate and nighttime conditions obscure Perdomo, making it difficult to observe his hands and their contents. Just prior to the

² Sergeant Mario Cardona assumed command of the scene. While officers had batons, Tasers, and OC spray available, Cardona told investigators the 40-mm was the only viable less-lethal force option based on the officers’ distance to Perdomo and the danger he presented.

³ Immediately before the first 40-mm round is fired, an officer on Fuchigami’s BWV can be heard saying, “He’s pointing it dude! He’s pointing it dude!”

⁴ The Spanish word *Put*a is a slang term for a prostitute or a strong insult or expletive to express anger. Perdomo speaks periodically throughout the encounter in Spanish, but his statements are mostly inaudible or indiscernible.

officer involved shooting, Darling can be heard on BWV saying, “Hey! He’s pointing it towards.” Immediately afterward, numerous shots are fired by the five previously named officers.⁵ One or two objects appear to fall away from Perdomo to the ground after the shooting.



View of Perdomo (Bordered in Red) from DICVS Immediately Before the Shooting.

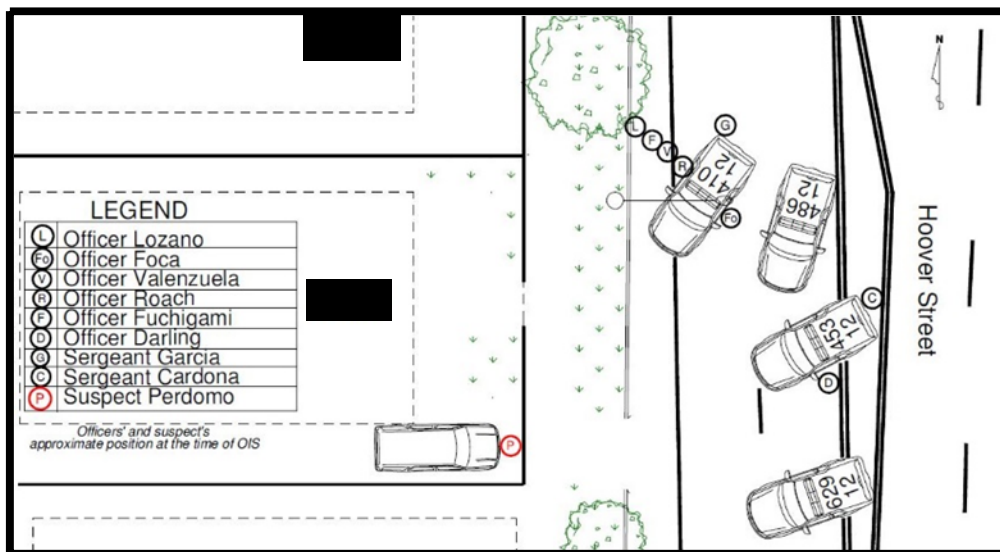


Diagram Depicting Relative Positions of Officers and Perdomo. Not all Officers Present are Depicted.

⁵ Just before shots are fired, an officer can be heard on Fuchigami’s BWV saying, “Dude, I don’t know if he’s pointing it or not.”

STATEMENTS BY PERCIPIENT WITNESSES

Officers

All percipient uninvolved officers were interviewed by investigators. All indicated they believed the weapon Perdomo possessed was a real firearm, and he posed a threat to officers and residents. These officers also confirmed numerous commands were issued to drop the weapon and surrender, which Perdomo ignored.

The officers had various recollections as to Perdomo's actions just prior to the shooting.⁶ Roach admitted while he could not clearly see Perdomo, he believed Perdomo was manipulating and possibly raising the gun. Robins told investigators he believed Perdomo changed his grip on the weapon to a pistol grip and turned the weapon in the direction of Robins and other officers. Officer Megan Floto could not see the firearm or how Perdomo was holding it because it was obscured from her position, but she believes other officers likely had a better vantage point. Officer Miriam Ramos was moving back and forth behind the patrol vehicles, and she only heard the shots and could not see the subject's actions at the time of the shooting. Officer Desiree Gonzalez recalled Perdomo stumbled and dropped the firearm. When he reached for it, officers fired. When Perdomo squatted in front of the car, Officer Christopher Moorehouse lost site of the gun; however, he saw movement from Perdomo, heard officers' shots, and saw Perdomo fall backward and drop the gun.⁷ Officer Jason Gasca indicated he could not see Perdomo when officers fired because his view was blocked by other officers in front of him.

Sergeant Crystal Garcia was unable to see the suspect from her position when officers fired. Cardona told investigators Perdomo held the gun in the air. He believed Perdomo intended officers to see the gun. Perdomo appeared angry after the second strike from the 40-mm. When Perdomo moved to the front of the SUV, he appeared to place one knee on the ground in a possible "shooting position." Cardona could not see Perdomo's mannerisms at the time he heard the gunshots; however, he described the gunfire as controlled, not excessive, and coming from one area where officers may have had a better vantage point.

Bystanders

Four bystanders were interviewed and gave similar accounts. They indicated Perdomo had entered the SUV and pointed a gun at the officers. More officers arrived and gave numerous instructions in Spanish and English to surrender and drop the gun, but Perdomo refused. Officers ordered the bystanders into the home, and a few minutes later they heard multiple shots. One bystander believed Perdomo also fired at officers.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Officers' Firearms and Round Counts

FID investigators conducted post-incident examinations of each officer's firearms and magazines. They determined Valenzuela was armed with a Glock .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol and fired two rounds. Lozano was armed with a Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun and fired one round. Foca was armed with a 9-mm Glock semi-automatic pistol and fired six rounds.

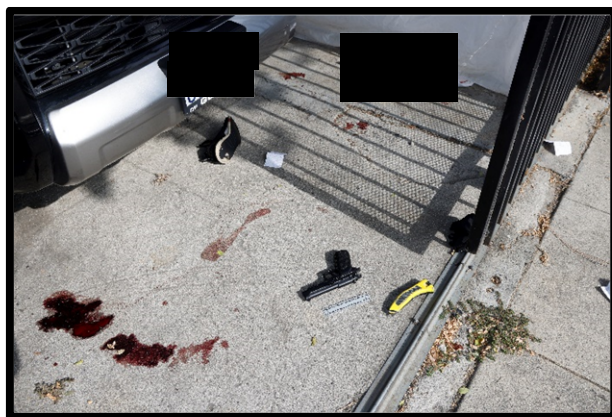
⁶ Some officers were assigned to the arrest team and did not have their firearms drawn at the time of the shooting.

⁷ Moorehouse told investigators Perdomo changed his grip on the gun to a pistol grip after the second 40-mm strike but continued to point the gun in the air.

Fuchigami was armed with a Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun and fired one round. Darling was armed with a .40 caliber Smith & Wesson semi-automatic pistol and fired two rounds.

Items Recovered

LAPD Forensic Science Division personnel analyzed the crime scene and recovered items of evidence. Personnel recovered a UKARMS M757 6-mm caliber spring-powered BB gun from the driveway area where the shooting occurred. The BB gun was loaded with nine metal projectiles in the magazine. The BWV shows officers approaching Perdomo to arrest him and render aid. Roach places his foot on the BB gun and states, “The gun is by his legs.” A sneaker was also recovered nearby.



Area Where Perdomo Collapsed Between the BB Gun and the Sneaker After Officers Dragged Him Away from the Weapon.



Close Up of the BB Gun Possessed by Perdomo.

PERDOMO’S INJURIES

LAPD officers provided medical assistance shortly after the shooting and continued to do so until approximately ten minutes after the shooting when personnel from the Los Angeles Fire Department arrived at the scene. Paramedics assessed Perdomo’s condition, and after discussions with medical staff at California Hospital, Perdomo was declared deceased.

Personnel from the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (LACDME) performed an autopsy on Perdomo’s remains on August 21, 2023. His cause of death was attributed to multiple gunshot wounds, and his manner of death was deemed homicide. Perdomo suffered at least seven separate gunshot wounds throughout his body: three to the head, two to the torso, one to his right thigh, and one to his right buttocks. LACDME collected and analyzed specimens from Perdomo’s remains which tested positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine.

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 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(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 the 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).

While the initial service call indicated a possible grand theft auto, Roach quickly updated the call to request back up for a man with a gun after Perdomo pointed a weapon at Robins as the officers opened the SUV door. When multiple officers responded and took defensive positions, they were soon confronted with Perdomo manipulating what appeared to be a semi-automatic firearm above the SUV, and occasionally turning it in the direction of officers. Numerous and repeated instructions were given over the course of almost eight minutes in both English and Spanish for Perdomo to put down the weapon and surrender. He never made any attempt to comply.

Instead, Perdomo exited the SUV and continued to manipulate the gun, prompting officers to order him to stop pointing it in their direction. Officers used the only viable less-lethal option by employing the 40-mm multiple times. Even after being struck twice, Perdomo still continued to hold the weapon. Once he went to the ground in front of the SUV and turned his body back toward the officers, one officer exclaims on BWV, “He’s pointing it towards.” Immediately afterward Valenzuela, Lozano, Darling, Foca, and Fuchigami fired a burst of gun fire for approximately three to four seconds, as objects (possibly the BB gun and the sneaker) fell to the ground around Perdomo.

Based on the totality of the circumstances known to officers at the time of the incident, it was reasonable for them to believe the use of deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat to themselves, their fellow officers, and the residents of the home. These conclusions are not altered in hindsight by the subsequent discovery that the item possessed by Perdomo was actually a realistic replica. Under the totality of the circumstances, the weapon was indistinguishable from a real semi-automatic pistol.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we find that Officers Valenzuela, Lozano, Darling, Foca, and Fuchigami acted lawfully in self-defense and defense of a third party when they fired their weapons.