

Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Kurt Cambell
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Tanner Haris #623049
Deputy Chad Norris #630132

J.S.I.D. File #20-0278



GEORGE GASCÓN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

September 14, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPTAIN ANDREW D. MEYER
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: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Kurt Campbell
J.S.I.D. File #20-0278
L.A.S.D. File #020-13251-1135-052

DATE: September 14, 2022

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the July 30, 2020, non-fatal shooting of Kurt Campbell by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Tanner Harris and Chad Norris. It is our conclusion that Deputies Harris and Norris acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on July 30, 2020, at approximately 5:17 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing, walk-through of the scene and interviewed four civilian witnesses.

The following analysis is based on police reports, recorded interviews, forensic analysis, cellphone videos, surveillance videos, police radio traffic, crime scene photographs and forensic analysis submitted to this office by Sergeants Gina Eguia and Robert Martindale, LASD, Homicide Bureau. Deputies Harris and Norris were not equipped with body worn video cameras. Deputies Harris and Norris provided voluntary statements which were considered as part of this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

This investigation involves two separate officer involved shootings. The first occurred in the driveway of a residence in the 44000 block of Fenhold Street and involved Deputy Harris. The second occurred at the intersection of Fenhold Street and East Kildare Street and involved Deputy Norris.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

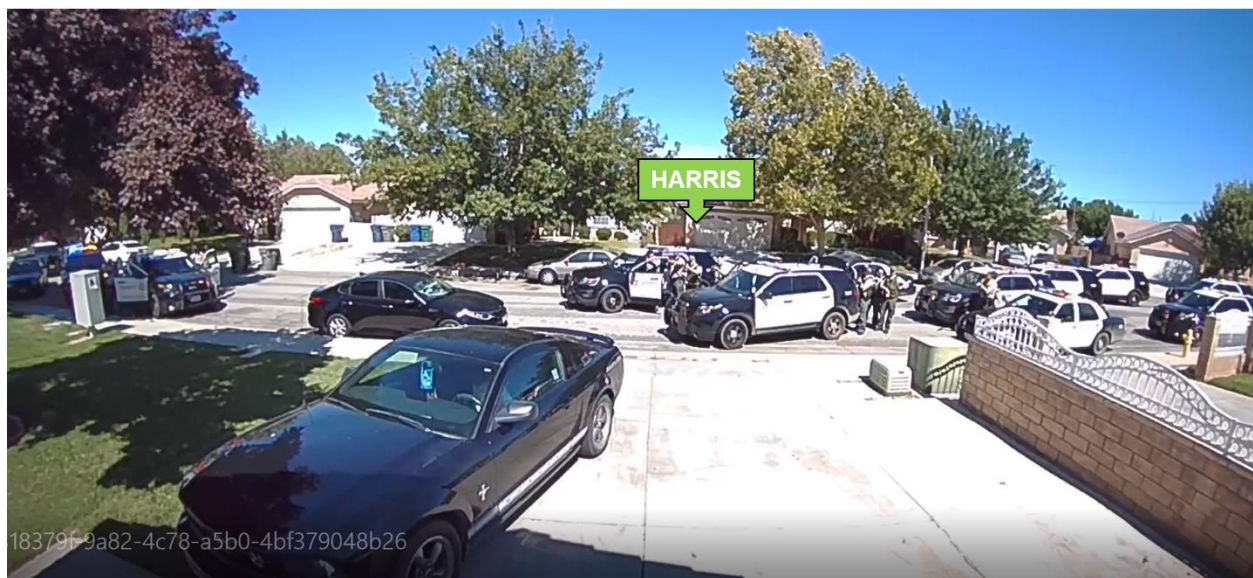
On July 30, 2020, at approximately 3:00 p.m., LASD deputies responded to the residence on Fenhold Street in the City of Lancaster regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The suspect, identified as Kurt Campbell, left the scene before deputies arrived. Responding deputies spoke

with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Campbell's ex-wife and adult daughter. The women stated they were in the garage when Campbell burst in uninvited. Campbell cursed and yelled at [REDACTED], chased her around a car and attempted to strike her with a broom. Campbell then went into the house and retrieved multiple knives from the kitchen. Campbell returned to the garage and attempted to stab [REDACTED]. Campbell attempted to stab [REDACTED] when she stepped between her parents.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] escaped into the house, locked the door and called 9-1-1. Campbell left the garage and retrieved a silver baseball bat from his vehicle and smashed the windshield of [REDACTED]'s vehicle parked on the street.¹ Campbell entered his Ford Mustang and fled the area.

[REDACTED] advised deputies of a motel where Campbell stayed. Deputies located Campbell in the parking lot of the motel standing next to his Mustang. Campbell entered his car and fled from deputies. Deputies followed Campbell until there were sufficient patrol vehicles to initiate a traffic stop. Campbell failed to yield after deputies activated their lights and sirens, and a vehicle pursuit ensued.

During the pursuit, Campbell exceeded the speed limit, ran red lights and stop signs, drove into oncoming traffic and narrowly missed colliding with slower vehicles. The pursuit led back to the Fenhold Street residence. Campbell parked the Mustang in the driveway, turned off the engine and refused to exit. Multiple patrol units surrounded the driveway. Deputies, including LASD Deputy Tanner Harris, took positions of cover around the multiple units.



The Mustang stopped in the driveway surrounded by deputies.

Statement of LASD Deputy Tanner Harris

Harris was at the Lancaster Sheriff's Station when he heard the radio calls regarding a male attempting to stab two people on Fenhold Street. The call was eventually updated to a vehicle

¹ Multiple neighbors observed Campbell vandalize [REDACTED]'s vehicle and it was captured on a neighbor's security camera.

pursuit. Harris and his partner, LASD Deputy Trevor Moore, responded to the pursuit. The deputies attempted to deploy spike strips, however it was not safe to do so.

The Mustang headed in the direction of the original call on Fenhold Street. Moore drove to the residence. Upon arrival, Campbell was pulling into the driveway and two patrol cars were stopped behind him on the street. Moore stopped their patrol vehicle and Harris exited.

Harris observed Campbell moving around inside the Mustang. Campbell adjusted the car's mirrors to see the position of the deputies behind him. Campbell reached into the backseat and toward the floorboards. Harris took a position between two of the patrol vehicles blocking the driveway. Deputies issued repeated commands to Campbell, but he ignored them.

Campbell continued to act erratically. He placed a bandana around his face, tied a shirt around his torso and danced in the car. At one point, Campbell leaned out the driver's window and said, "You're gonna have to kill me. Fuck you, motherfuckers." Harris stated that Campbell appeared to be hyping himself up to do something, and was willing to die doing it. Harris requested that LASD Special Enforcement Bureau respond to the scene with a Bearcat for a tactical approach.

Deputies evacuated Campbell's family members from the residence to the front yard north of the driveway.² Campbell immediately began to scream and point at them. Pepper balls were fired toward the Mustang and several appeared to hit the cracked driver side window, but had no effect on Campbell.

Campbell continued to yell at his family and started the Mustang's engine, revving it several times. Campbell then began to reverse the Mustang toward the deputies and patrol vehicles. As Campbell reversed, Harris said he realized he was in danger of being run over by the vehicle. Harris attempted to backpedal, but the patrol vehicle and other deputies blocked his path. In fear for his life, and the lives of the deputies around him, Harris fired three rounds to stop Campbell before he struck them.

On the third shot, Campbell accelerated forward and drove north through the lawn. Harris feared Campbell was attempting to run over his family members and the deputies escorting them. Harris, however, did not have a clear shot so he could not fire his service weapon. Harris heard the Mustang collide with another vehicle and deputies yell, "Get out of the way!" The Mustang fled north on Fenhold Street.

Statement of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] observed Campbell stop the Mustang in the driveway. Two to three police units stopped behind the Mustang. Additional units arrived and parked north and south of the residence. Deputies gave Campbell commands over a loudspeaker.

Deputies entered the backyard of adjacent properties and exited with three women from the residence. As the three women were being escorted north from the property, Campbell placed the Mustang in reverse and backed up a short distance. Campbell then drove forward and made a wide turn onto the neighbor's lawn toward the women. As Campbell drove across the lawn,

² [REDACTED], [REDACTED], a cousin and Campbell's mother were evacuated.

██████. heard a BB gun and observed smoke. She then heard several gunshots as Campbell accelerated toward the women.³ ██████. believes the Mustang collided with another vehicle and heard deputies yell, “Get back! Get back!”

Campbell drove north on Fenhold Street and nearly collided with additional units parked on the street. Several patrol vehicles followed Campbell with their lights and sirens activated. Five minutes later, the pursuit returned and passed by ██████’s location. As Campbell proceeded north on Fenhold Street, ██████. heard three to four additional gunshots.

Statement of ██████.

██████. heard police sirens and a helicopter overhead then observed Campbell park the Mustang in the driveway. Numerous police vehicles stopped behind the Mustang to the north and south of the residence. Deputies stood behind the doors of their vehicles and gave verbal commands over a loudspeaker. Campbell moved around in the vehicle and yelled, “I won’t come out if I don’t see my momma!”

Several deputies made their way into the residence through adjacent yards. A few minutes later, three to four women were escorted from the home onto the sidewalk north of the residence. As they were being escorted, Campbell revved the Mustang’s engine. Deputies gave additional commands to Campbell as he placed the car into reverse. ██████ heard three to four pops and observed white powder. Campbell then reversed the Mustang in the direction of the deputies, but she could not see how close he came to them. The Mustang made a wide turn onto the lawn toward the street. ██████. heard a few more pops that she believed was gunfire. Campbell collided with something in the street, then fled northbound, pursued by deputies.

Statement of ██████.

Multiple patrol units surrounded the Mustang parked in the driveway. Deputies gave Campbell commands to exit the car. Campbell moved around and reached for something in the back seat. He also demanded to see his mother. ██████. heard deputies fire a BB gun at the vehicle.

Minutes later, deputies removed family members from the home and escorted them to the north. As the family was being removed, Campbell turned on the Mustang’s ignition and slowly reversed. ██████. heard deputies yell, “Don’t move! Exit the Car! Stop!” He also heard a shotgun being racked. Campbell drove forward in the driveway and made a U-turn on the lawn to the north of the residence and drove into the street. ██████. heard a shotgun being fired approximately three to four times as Campbell accelerated forward and made the U-turn.⁴ It appeared to ██████. that Campbell was heading toward his family members. Campbell collided with a vehicle then drove north on Fenhold Street followed by patrol vehicles.

³ In an earlier interview with canvassing deputies, ██████. said she heard three to four gunshots as Campbell reversed and another three to four gunshots as he accelerated northbound.

⁴ A shotgun was not used during this incident. It is likely that ██████. mistook a beanbag shotgun that was deployed at this time for a shotgun.

Statement of [REDACTED].

Deputies ordered Campbell to exit the car. Campbell refused. Campbell became agitated, when family members were escorted onto the sidewalk north of the residence. Campbell reversed the Mustang then drove forward onto the neighbor's lawn, toward the street. As Campbell reversed, deputies yelled, "Back up!" [REDACTED] heard a pop that he was certain was a rubber bullet when Campbell accelerated forward. [REDACTED] heard two additional rubber bullets being fired as Campbell made the wide turn onto the lawn. One of the rubber bullets struck the passenger window, breaking it. [REDACTED] did not hear any gunshots. Campbell drove onto the street and deputies yelled, "Don't shoot!"

Campbell drove north on Fenhold Street and struck a patrol vehicle. Multiple police vehicles followed Campbell northbound out of sight with their lights and sirens activated. A short time later the Mustang returned at a high rate of speed. Deputies yelled, "Get back! He's coming back!" The Mustang nearly hit several patrol cars parked in the street. Campbell disappeared from view a second time as he drove north on Fenhold Street.

Statement of [REDACTED]

Numerous police vehicles were stopped behind the Mustang in the driveway. Deputies stood outside their vehicles and ordered Campbell to exit the car, show his hands and stop reaching within the vehicle. Campbell refused to exit without seeing his mother. Meanwhile, deputies made their way to the rear of the residence and escorted Campbell's family to the sidewalk, north of the driveway. A deputy fired approximately three shots at the Mustang and [REDACTED] saw smoke. These shots were not gunfire.

As Campbell's family members walked north on the sidewalk, Campbell turned on the ignition and placed the vehicle into reverse. Deputies yelled, "Stop!" Campbell ignored the commands and reversed toward the deputies. [REDACTED] could not see how close the Mustang came to the deputies. Campbell jerked the Mustang several times while reversing. It appeared that Campbell was trying to reposition the car in an attempt to flee.

Campbell drove forward and turned right toward the neighbor's lawn. [REDACTED] heard gunshots as Campbell drove onto the lawn toward the street. Deputies yelled, "Get back! Get back!" It appeared that Campbell was headed toward the women on the sidewalk north of the residence. Campbell then drove onto the street and collided with a vehicle. Campbell fled north on Fenhold Street followed by multiple patrol vehicles.

A few minutes later, Campbell returned to Fenhold Street and nearly collided with a parked car. Campbell continued north toward Kettering Street. Several police units were parked in the street in an attempt to block Campbell. [REDACTED] heard additional gunshots as Campbell passed them.

[REDACTED]. Cellphone Video

The video captures four women running north on the lawn and onto the sidewalk. Simultaneously, the sound of pepper balls being fired is heard. As the women continue to run

north on the sidewalk, Campbell is ordered to raise his hands and place them outside the window over the loudspeaker. The sound of the engine revving loudly is heard immediately after the commands.

The Mustang's reverse lights illuminate and the car begins to move in reverse toward the deputies positioned behind it on the street. The Mustang reverses a short distance then stops. The vehicle immediately reverses another short distance and stops two more times. It appears as if Campbell is repeatedly lifting his foot on and off the brake pedal while the car is in reverse. The sound of a less than lethal weapon, followed by three gunshots is heard. The Mustang immediately stops reversing and drives forward. The video ends.



The position of the Mustang when it begins to reverse.



The position of the Mustang when gunshots were fired.

Less Than Lethal Rounds

Moore fired multiple pepper ball rounds while Campbell was parked in the driveway before he turned on the car's ignition. Several appeared to enter the passenger compartment of the Mustang.

LASD Deputy Kenneth Towles deployed a beanbag shotgun when it appeared to him that Campbell was driving the Mustang toward his family members. Campbell became enraged when he saw the women. He pointed at them, screamed and threw around his hands. The first beanbag round broke the front passenger window. The next three rounds entered the vehicle through the broken window. It appeared to Towles that the beanbag rounds caused Campbell to change directions because he turned sharply into the street. Towles heard three to four gunshots before he fired the beanbag shotgun when Campbell began to reverse the Mustang.

LASD Deputy Rene Valencia fired one 37mm less than lethal round from an "ARWEN" launcher when the Mustang moved back toward the deputies. The round struck the left taillight. Valencia then heard two to three gunshots but does not know who fired. Valencia backpedaled away from the Mustang fearing it was about to crash into him.

Statement of LASD Deputy Chad Norris

Norris and his partner, LASD Deputy Vincent Clark, responded to the original assault with a deadly weapon call on Fenhold Street. Norris spoke with [REDACTED] and learned that Campbell

stayed at a nearby motel. En route to the motel, Norris heard over the radio that another unit located Campbell. Norris responded to their location to assist in a felony traffic stop. Campbell failed to yield and a pursuit ensued.

Norris and Clark took a containment spot to the rear of the Fenhold Street residence when Campbell parked in the driveway. Norris monitored the radio and heard that Campbell was not complying with commands and reaching around the interior of the car. Norris also heard that Campbell told deputies they were going to have to shoot or kill him to get him to exit the car.

Norris heard pepper balls being fired, followed by multiple gunshots from what he believed were separate firearms. Norris thought Campbell may have exchanged gunfire with deputies. Campbell fled the scene and Norris and Clark attempted to get ahead of Campbell to lay down spike strips as the Mustang circled the neighborhood. Eventually, Norris and Clark positioned their patrol vehicle on Fenhold Street, at Kildare Street, north of the original residence.

Norris positioned his patrol vehicle at an angle across Fenhold Street to narrow the street to force Campbell to drive over spike strips. As Norris exited the patrol unit, he observed the Mustang heading toward him at 35 to 40 miles per hour. The driver side of Norris' patrol vehicle was exposed to the Mustang.

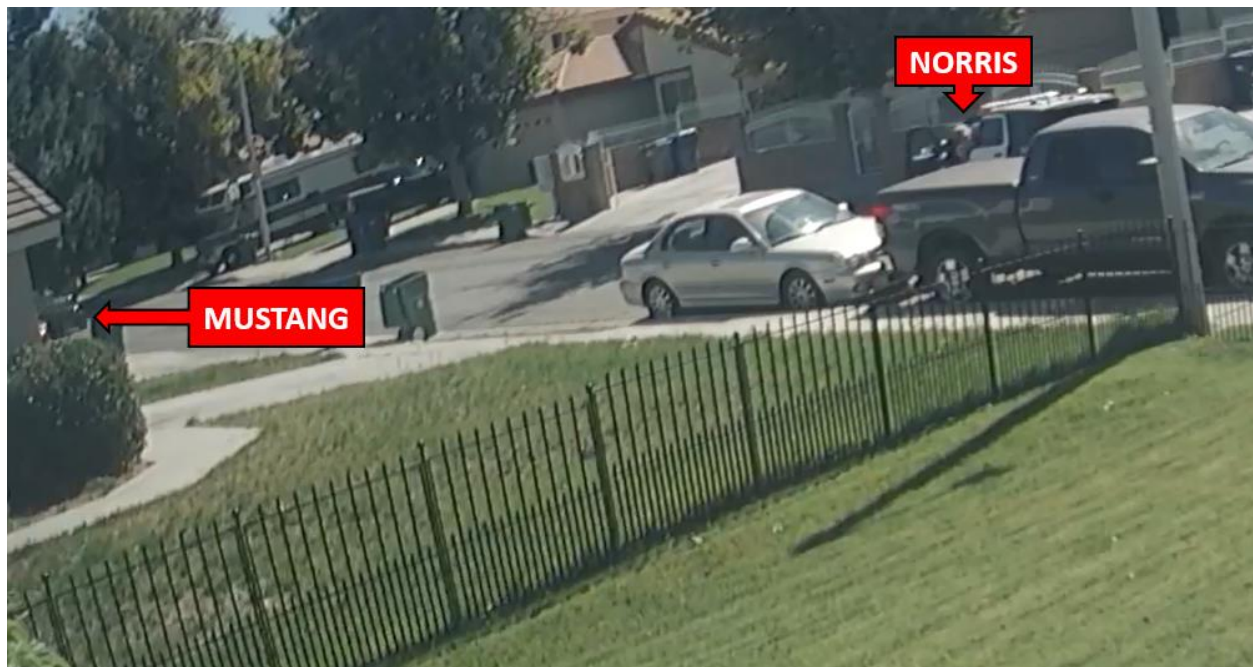
Norris said, the Mustang was on him within a "blink of an eye." Norris believed he had no other option but to fire his weapon to stop Campbell from striking him. It appeared to Norris that Campbell was desperate to avoid arrest and was not going to stop. Norris also believed Campbell had just engaged deputies in a gun battle. In fear for his safety, Norris fired five rounds from his service weapon at Campbell. The Mustang's driver side window shattered. Once the Mustang passed Norris, he stopped firing. Norris was surprised Campbell did not strike him or his patrol unit. Norris felt helpless as the Mustang was driving toward him, a feeling he has never experienced before as a deputy.

Statement of LASD Deputy Vincent Clark

Clark observed the Mustang traveling between 30 to 35 miles per hour on Fenhold Street toward Clark and Norris as they stood in the street. The Mustang came within one foot of Norris, as Norris walked to the rear of the patrol vehicle.

Clark heard Norris discharge his service weapon. Norris was near the rear driver side wheel when Clark heard the first shot. The Mustang's driver side window shattered. The Mustang did not strike Norris, but came very close. The Mustang continued north on Fenhold Street followed by several patrol units.

Surveillance Video of the Second Officer Involved Shooting



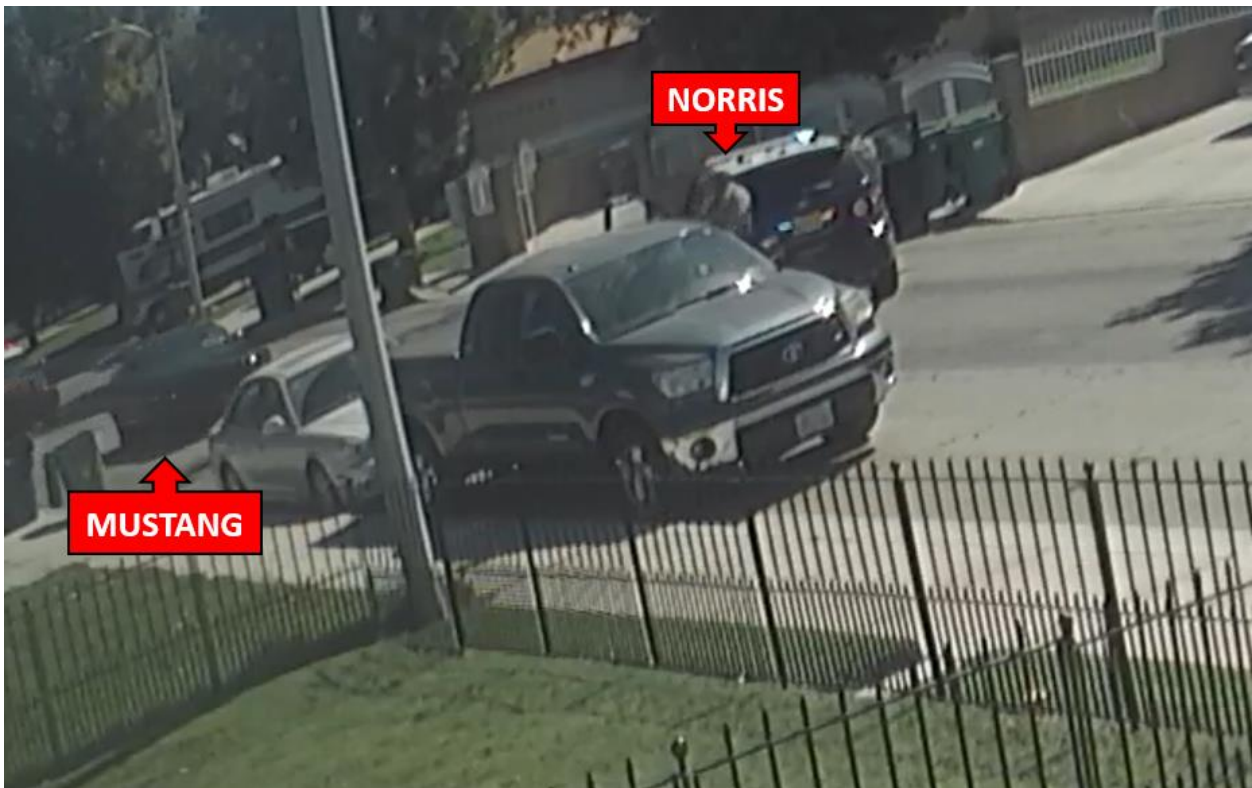
The Mustang approaching as Norris begins to exit the patrol vehicle.



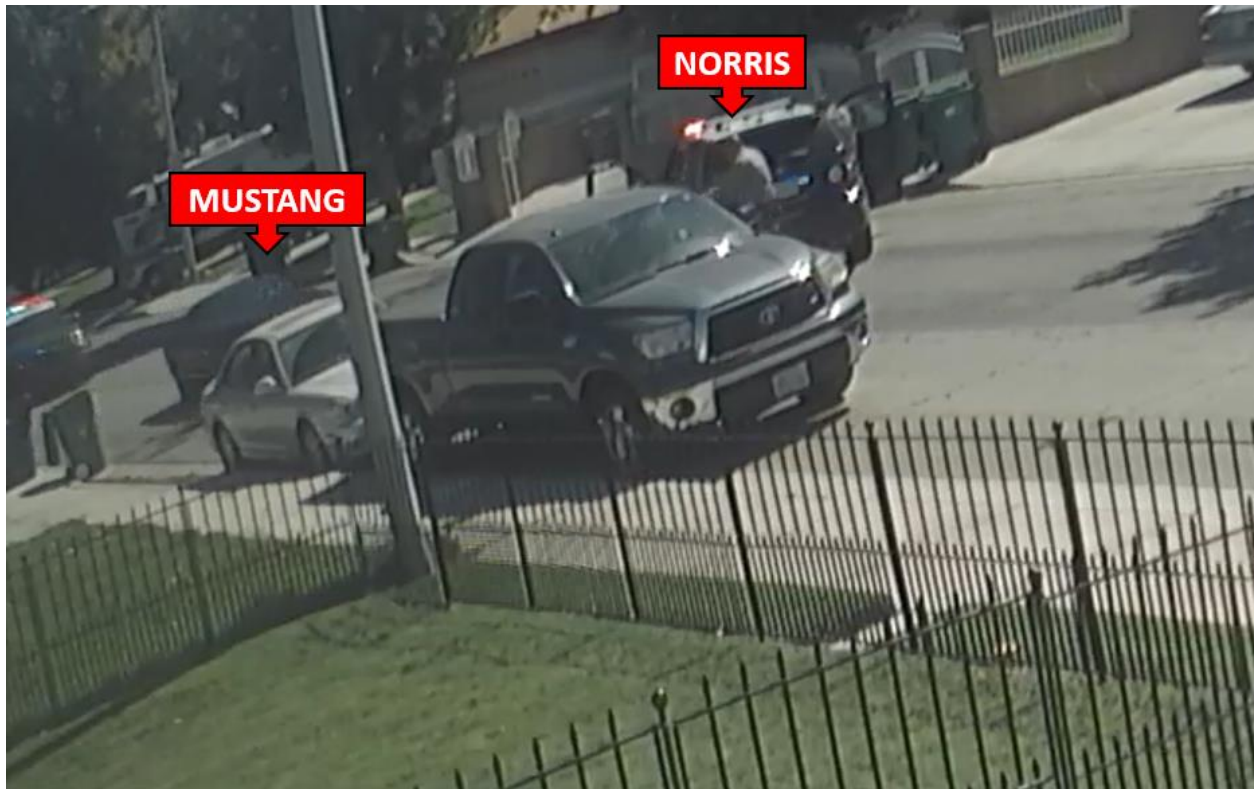
Norris looking back toward the approaching Mustang.



Norris walking toward the back of the patrol vehicle as the Mustang closes the gap.



Norris continues toward the rear of the patrol vehicle.



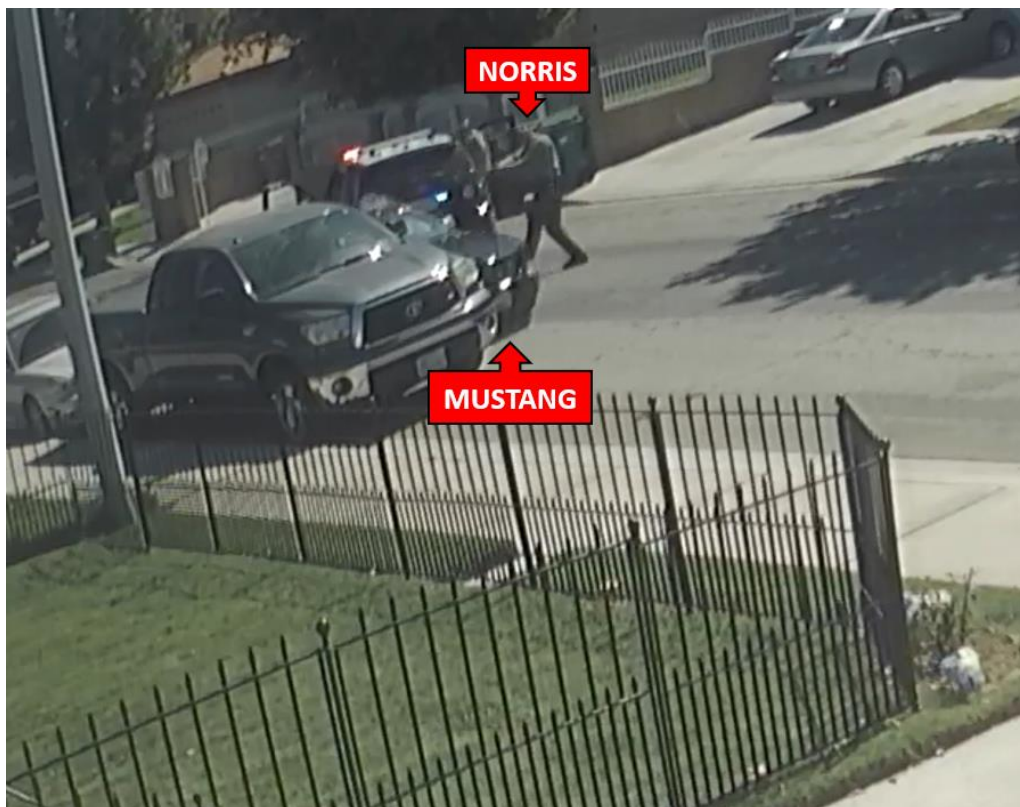
Norris faces the Mustang as it further closes the gap.



Norris raises his service weapon toward the Mustang.



Norris continues to point his service weapon toward the Mustang as he backpedals.
The Mustang is blocked by the pickup truck.



Norris' position as the Mustang passes him.

Campbell's Arrest and Injuries

Campbell eventually came to a stop on East Lancaster Boulevard. Valencia approached the driver door and yelled, "Let me see your hands!" Campbell momentarily raised his hands then reached down into the vehicle. Fearing Campbell was reaching for a weapon or attempting to flee, Valencia fired his Taser. It was ineffective. Additional deputies approached the Mustang and were able to remove Campbell from car and take him into custody.

Campbell sustained a single gunshot wound to his left hand. A bullet was surgically removed from his left hand.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for a blood draw from Campbell. A blood sample was obtained on July 30, 2020, at 11:35 p.m. The blood was subsequently analyzed and determined to be positive for amphetamines.

Statement of Kurt Campbell

Campbell spoke with LASD Homicide investigators after waiving his Miranda rights. The investigators audio recorded the interview. Campbell stated he went to the Fenhold residence to visit his mother. Campbell "snapped" when he saw [REDACTED]. He chased her around the garage, but denied having a knife. Campbell admitted having a broom. He also admitted vandalizing [REDACTED]'s car windows with a bat. Campbell left the location and returned to his motel room.

Campbell fled in his Mustang when deputies arrived to the motel. Campbell ran approximately 20 stop signs during the pursuit. Campbell returned to the residence and parked in the driveway and "started acting stupid." Campbell refused to exit the car and told the deputies, "Shoot me. Kill me. I don't want to live anymore."

Campbell saw [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and his mother running from the residence. He recalled reversing toward the deputies, but does not know how close he got to them. Campbell was not trying to strike the deputies. When asked what Campbell thought the deputies were thinking when he reversed toward them, Campbell said, "That I was going to hit 'em. It's common sense."

Campbell acknowledged driving toward his family when he accelerated through the lawn onto the street. He wanted to talk to his mother. He admitted striking a patrol vehicle, but said it was not on purpose.

Campbell observed Norris standing in the street when he was fleeing north on Fenhold Street. Campbell said he was trying to get past the deputy and had no intention of striking him. Campbell acknowledged that he was speeding and "very close" to Norris when he passed the deputy. Campbell was shot in the left hand when he drove by Norris. He did not see Norris holding his service weapon.

Campbell said during the entire incident he was in a delusional state and having a mental breakdown. Campbell wished the deputies would have just shot and killed him.

Ballistic Evidence

There were three bullet holes to the rear of the Mustang consistent with Harris firing at the Mustang from the rear.



The three bullet holes to the Mustang's trunk.

There were four additional bullet holes to the Mustang's hood, the driver sideview mirror and the driver door. The bullet passed through the mirror in the direction of the shattered driver window. That bullet was not recovered. It appears this bullet is the one that struck Campbell's left hand. The bullets that struck the hood and driver door did not enter the passenger compartment and could not have caused Campbell's injury.



The location of the four additional bullet holes to the Mustang.



A close up view of the bullet hole to the sideview mirror.

The trajectory of the two bullets that struck the hood was from front to back and left to right. The trajectory of the bullet that struck the sideview mirror was from left to right and front to back. The trajectory of the bullet that struck the driver door was from rear to front and left to right.

The location of the four bullet holes, and their trajectory, is consistent with Norris standing to the front of the Mustang when he fired his first shot and continuing to fire as the Mustang drove in his direction. It appears that Norris fired his last shot as the driver door passed him. The trajectory of the bullet to the sideview mirror that struck Campbell is consistent with Norris standing slightly to the front of the mirror as he fired.

Felony Charges

On August 4, 2020, Campbell was charged in felony complaint number MA079514 with eight felony charges and one misdemeanor charge arising from the events of July 30, 2020. On April 29, 2021, Campbell pled nolo contendere to assault with a deadly weapon (██████), assault upon a peace officer (Harris) and felony evading. On May 25, 2021, Campbell was sentenced to ten years in state prison.

THE LAW

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another 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; 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) and (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 on that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed. Penal Code section 835a(e)(2).

The decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable peace officer under the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight. The totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when an officer may be forced to make quick decisions about using force. Penal Code section 835a(a)(4).

In determining whether the use of deadly force is necessary, officers shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer. Penal Code section 835a(a)(2).

“Totality of the circumstances means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of force.” Penal Code section 835a(e)(3).

CONCLUSION

1. First Officer Involved Shooting

Harris fired three rounds at Campbell to stop him from reversing the Mustang into himself and his fellow deputies. The gunfire did not strike Campbell. Harris immediately stopped firing his service weapon when Campbell stopped driving in reverse.

It was reasonable, under the totality of the circumstances, for Harris to fear imminent serious bodily injury or death when Campbell reversed his vehicle toward him. Although the Mustang reversed slowly, and for a short distance, Campbell’s behavior that day was reckless, erratic, and demonstrated an unwillingness to surrender. It was reasonable for Harris to believe that the use of deadly force was necessary because it appeared that Campbell was not going to stop reversing until he struck him, and the other deputies.

Campbell also acknowledged that it was reasonable for deputies to think he was going to strike them with his vehicle when he reversed toward them. He stated it was “common sense.” Finally, Campbell pled nolo contendere to assaulting Harris with his vehicle.

2. Second Officer Involved Shooting

Norris fired four rounds at Campbell when the Mustang attempted to pass through a narrow gap of road at a high rate of speed, and where Norris was standing. One round shattered the driver window and struck Campbell’s left hand. It appears from the ballistic evidence, that Norris was to the front of the Mustang when he fired that shot. Norris stopped firing as the passenger door passed him.

It was reasonable, under the totality of the circumstances, for Norris to fear imminent serious bodily injury or death when Campbell accelerated his vehicle toward Norris. Campbell drove his vehicle recklessly when he fled from deputies earlier. He ran multiple stop signs and stop lights, drove on the wrong side of the road and nearly collided with other vehicles. Campbell did not care that he endangered the lives of innocent motorists and pedestrians, as well as pursuing deputies. He simply wanted to escape.

It was reasonable for Norris to conclude that he needed to stop Campbell before Campbell struck him and any other deputy in the area. Campbell acknowledged that he was speeding and came very close to Norris when he was shot.