Non-Fatal Shooting of Claudia Yvette Corugedo

Los Angeles Police Department

Officer Victor Solorio, #42671

J.S.I.D. File #25-0163

NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

September 16, 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: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Claudia Yvette Corugedo
J.S.I.D. File #25-0163
L.A.P.D. File #F021-25

DATE: September 16, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the May 26, 2025, non-fatal shooting of Claudia Yvette Corugedo by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer Victor Solorio. We conclude the officer acted in the lawful defense of others in response to an imminent threat at the time he fired his service weapon, reasonably believing based on the totality of the circumstances, deadly force was necessary to defend against serious bodily injury or death.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting at 10:36 a.m. on May 26, 2025. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene by LAPD Force Investigation Division (FID) Lieutenant David Smith.

The following analysis is based on body worn camera video (BWV), patrol car Digital In-Car Video (DICV), surveillance video, civilian recordings, multiple news media helicopter video recordings, investigative reports, audio recordings and transcripts of witness interviews, crime scene diagrams, and medical reports submitted to this office by LAPD FID Detective Guillermo Medina on June 4, 2026. Officer Solorio's compelled statement was not considered as part of this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Officers from the Van Nuys Division responded to a 9-1-1 call to investigate a "possible shooting" incident involving a van with bullet holes in the front windshield. Officers responded to the parking lot and eventually identified the driver of the van as Claudia Yvette Corugedo.

The officers attempted to detain Corugedo after they determined she had outstanding warrants. However, Corugedo backed away from the officers, withdrew a firearm from her waistband, and pointed it under her chin. The officers retreated and took cover behind their patrol car.

Corugedo fled in her van and led the officers on a chase before driving into a dead-end street. Corugedo was boxed in by LAPD patrol cars and ordered to surrender.

After several hours and multiple orders to surrender, Corugedo exited the van and walked toward a residence while armed with a machete and a firearm. She was struck by gunfire approximately six feet from the front door of the residence.

Corugedo remained uncooperative and treated by Los Angeles Fire Department Paramedics before being transported to a local hospital.[1] Corugedo's firearm was later determined to be a replica firearm, capable of firing metal BBs.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

At 7:12 a.m., on May 26, 2025, a 9-1-1 caller reported, "I was just over at Norm's…and [saw] this van, white van, that's there now, pulls up *full* of bullet holes! The glass in the front just-just like somebody-looks like a machine gun went at it! [T]he front windshield is like it's got 15 bullet holes in it, it's all spidered [sic] out and the driver's side is all shot-out."[2]

LAPD Communications Division (CD) broadcast the call to officers, "Possible shooting investigation…Norm's parking lot…bullet holes in the front windshield and driver's side."[3]

Officers Robert Sandoval and Cinthia Barrientos, responded to the call.[4] Sandoval told investigators when he approached the van, he heard dogs barking inside the van and saw Corugedo on her cell phone and sitting in the driver's seat. Sandoval was able to see the front windshield of the van and described it as "destroyed."

Sandoval said Corugedo appeared visibly upset and told Sandoval she was afraid her van was going to be towed and she would lose her dogs. Sandoval attempted to reassure her and told her they were only there to make sure "everything's okay."

Sandoval asked Corugedo to exit and walk to the back of the van. Sandoval asked Corugedo what happened to her van and she said her ex-boyfriend smashed it with a baseball bat. Sandoval asked her if she was on probation or parole and she told him she was on probation for contempt of court and violating a restraining order.

When asked for her name, Corugedo provided Sandoval with the name "[redacted]."[5] Sandoval went back to his patrol car and ran the information she provided through the Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) and his Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) to verify her identity. Sandoval determined Corugedo had given him a false first name, however, he was

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[1] Corugedo pled no contest to one count of recklessly evading of a peace officer, Vehicle Code section 2800.2 in case 25WCF00837.

[2] Norm's Restaurant is located on the corner of Sherman Way and Woodman Avenue, at 13636 Sherman Way. The 9-1-1 caller emphasized the word "full."

[3] All officers who responded to the location were wearing LAPD uniforms with badges and nameplates affixed to the front of their uniforms. The officers arrived in marked black and white patrol cars with forward facing red lights, a siren, and light bars affixed to the top of their vehicles.

[4] At the time of the incident, Sandoval had been employed as an officer for nine years. Barrientos finished the LAPD Academy on March 7, 2025, and had been employed as a police officer for approximately three months.

[5] Corugedo provided the name of [redacted] Corugedo. Investigators later determined Corugedo had given the name of her twin sister.

able to find Claudia Corugedo in the database. Law enforcement records indicated Corugedo had a $50,000 felony warrant, and two misdemeanor warrants, one of which was for $100,000.[6]

Sandoval broadcast his location to dispatch and told Corugedo, "Ma'am, just, Claudia, that is your name, just turn around." As Sandoval attempted to grab her, Corugedo reached for her waistband. Sandoval said, "[I saw] the barrel of a gun coming up, and honestly, it's never pointed at me…but she puts it right underneath her chin."



Barrientos' BWV Depicting Barrientos' Hands Outstretched as Corugedo Held the Firearm (Red Circle).[7]

Sandoval said, "I kind of fall and push her off. My body worn video falls off. Me and [Barrientos] redeploy. I put out a backup for 415 woman with a gun."[8] Sandoval said, "I mean it was scary. I don't know if she's going to blast her own head off or try to turn on me…or my partner." Sandoval said he unholstered his service weapon because he believed the situation could call for "deadly force…in a split second."

Sandoval said, "[Corugedo's gun] appeared to be a black semi-automatic handgun. It looked like a Glock…I've seen enough Glocks where it looked like a Glock."

Sandoval told Corugedo, "Hey, don't do this! Everything's going to be okay." However, Corugedo returned to her van, started the engine, and fled. When LAPD backup arrived at 7:38 a.m., Sandoval and the other units pursued Corugedo with lights and sirens.

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[6] Corugedo had multiple arrests for contempt of court, bringing contraband into a jail, weapons violations, battery, resisting a peace officer, accessory, and vandalism.

[7] The BWV image was brightened by 40% to improve contrast.

[8] "415 gun" call is police radio code indicating a disturbance involving a person armed with a firearm, signaling an urgent situation for a potentially dangerous suspect.

Van Nuys Patrol Sergeant Christopher Vege told investigators he authorized three units to pursue Corugedo, based on the information that they were pursuing an armed suspect. Vege said Corugedo drove "extremely erratically…driving up sidewalks and other driveways, on the grass."

During the pursuit, Sandoval observed Corugedo speeding and driving on the opposite side of the road. Sandoval said he followed her to the opposite side of the road because she had a gun and he worried she would point it at someone or toss it out the window of the van. At 8:08 a.m., Sandoval and the other units followed Corugedo into a residential dead-end street.[9]



Photograph Depicting the Windshield of Corugedo's Van, Taken in the Cul-de Sac. The Officers did not Cause any of the Damage to the Windshield.

Sandoval said he and Barrientos were concerned about officer safety and exited their patrol car with their service weapons drawn. Sandoval asked Barrientos to speak to Corugedo on the Public Address (PA) system because he believed, "A female voice will calm [Corugedo] down." Sandoval tried to reassure Corugedo by telling her, "Everything's going to be okay," talking about her dogs, and telling her, "Life is too precious."

Sandoval said Corugedo sounded "erratic." She made requests regarding her mother and sister while holding the gun to her neck. When Corugedo climbed to the roof of the van, officers called Corugedo's sister. Corugedo's sister said she evicted Corugedo from her home because Corugedo has mental health issues including bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. She also said Corugedo has made prior suicide attempts and is also addicted to methamphetamine.

Corugedo's sister told the officers Corugedo threatened to kill herself by jumping from a roof. The sister said the "final straw" was when Corugedo brought an assault rifle into the home where her young child lives. Officers made the decision not to put Corugedo's sister on the PA.

[9] The officers pursued Corugedo for 16.1 miles over approximately 31 minutes.

Sandoval observed, "There were multiple homes on the cul-de-sac with parked cars in the driveway. So, at that point it's kind of hard to evacuate [the residents]."[10] Sandoval saw Corugedo climb down from the roof of her van while holding the gun to her throat, her finger on the trigger, and armed with a machete. Sandoval said he saw Corugedo's finger on the trigger of the handgun, "almost the whole two hours we were there."

Corugedo climbed down from her van and walked with the gun and a machete toward a home Sandoval believed was occupied. He said he worried she was going to enter the home and "barricade herself [or] take hostages" if the home was unlocked."[11]

Solorio is heard on BWV saying, "Hey, Claudia, just drop the gun…That's it! Come on! We don't want to do this! Let's just drop the gun! That's it! Hey, andale por favor (come on, please)… Just drop the gun, let's go home…We don't want to do this."

As Corugedo approached the front door of the residence, Vege shouted, "Don't let her get to the house! Forty! Forty! Use the forty!" Sandoval heard two shots and saw her fall to the ground on the porch area of the home.[12]



Image from Surveillance Video Recording of Corugedo on the Porch of the Residence, After she was Shot, Holding the Machete in her Right Hand and the Firearm (Red Circle) in her Left Hand.

[10] Vege described four homes at the end of the cul-de-sac and said the LAPD helicopter advised him there were "cliffs" behind the homes preventing evacuation from the rear.
[11] Vege believed since it was Memorial Day and early in the morning, the residents in the cul-de-sac were more likely to be home. Additionally, he had been told by an officer that a woman and a little girl had peeked out of the window of a residence. The LAPD helicopter used its PA system to warn the residents to stay inside their homes.
[12] Officer Seo Kim was equipped with a 40mm Less Lethal Launcher and Officer Blair Spragins was armed with a beanbag shotgun. Neither officer had a clear shot at Corugedo as she approached the residence.

Officers were cautious about approaching Corugedo, because they observed her switching the handgun from her right to her left hand, several times. SWAT officers arrived and Corugedo was arrested, placed on a gurney, and treated by the LAFD TEMS paramedics.[13]

Vege said he observed what appeared to be "Three bullet holes in the windshield" and could see Corugedo sitting in the driver's seat, putting a black handgun to her head and in her mouth. Vege could also see that she was armed with a "large machete."

Vege described Corugedo as "armed with a gun and barricaded [in the van]." He was concerned about the safety of the residents at the end of the cul-de-sac when Corugedo climbed down from the roof of the van and walked toward one of the houses. Vege said, "This house [the one Corugedo walked toward] had not been evacuated, and at the time, some of the officers believed that they saw some people looking out the window."[14]

Vege told investigators, "So, I advised the team that was on the left side that if she were to go to that house…civilians within harm's way…of an unstable person carrying a firearm, they would need to act." Vege told the officers, "If she books it to the house, we have to act. Cause we can't let her go into the houses with a gun."

Vege said, "I saw Officer Solorio fire his shotgun, hitting [Corugedo] which caused her to fall down in front of the front door of the residence that had not been evacuated, with the people inside of it…She was still armed, she still had the handgun in her hand, moving it from her head to her mouth again."

Vege was concerned if they used less lethal tactics and failed, it would cause Corugedo to retaliate against the officers. Vege said, "If we were to hit her with the 40[mm] or bean bag and she either falls or doesn't fall, I did not want that to escalate…and then she points the firearm at us, which in turn would escalate to deadly force being used."

Vege said he told the officers, "You guys need to act if she turns that gun on us…I was saying that if the suspect were to start walking towards the residences…that had not been evacuated, with the officers having viewed a little girl and another lady in that house that peeked out the window, that I told them, 'We cannot let her get to that house, we have to act.' And by "act" I was meaning, that they had to act to prevent her from getting into that house, to prevent a hostage situation or injury or death to a civilian."[15]

Vege said Corugedo was "Yelling and crying. Yelling out sentences that we weren't able to comprehend. Saying that she, I believe, she wants to end it. And just screams." During the entire incident, Vege said they told her to "drop the weapon, to surrender to us, to get out of the vehicle, [and] to get down off the vehicle [and] telling her we don't want to hurt her."

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[13] LAFD Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) teams are specially trained medical practitioners who accompany law enforcement and provide immediate lifesaving medical care. In addition to the TEMS team, the Metropolitan K9 team, Behavioral Science Services (BSS), SWAT, and the Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) also responded.

[14] Residents present in the homes at the end of the cul-de-sac at the time of the incident, provided recorded video.

[15] Vege described Corugedo as "walking fast."

An officer at the scene told him that the officer believed Corugedo's gun was "jammed." Vege said, "I looked at the firearm, and I did not see that…Also, I didn't want to take that chance…involving a firearm…we have to act accordingly, because if the officer is wrong and that firearm is able to fire, we have to treat every situation the same."

FORENSIC EVIDENCE

Corugedo's Weapons

Corugedo's firearm was later determined to be a replica firearm, capable of firing metal BBs. The firearm was armed identified as a .177 BB/4.5mm caliber Glock air pistol. The weapon was examined and unloaded at the scene. It did not have an orange tip and did not contain any BBs or CO2 cartridges. Corugedo was also armed with a 22-inch blade machete during the incident.



The Replica Firearm Corugedo Held During the Incident.



The 22-Inch Blade Machete, Corugedo Carried Held When She Approached the Front Door of the Residence.

During a post-arrest search of Corugedo's van, FID investigators found nine additional replica handguns and booked them into evidence. Several of the weapons had orange tips identifying them as replicas.



Replica Firearm's Removed from Corugedo's Van.

Ballistics

Solorio fired an LAPD department approved 12-guage Benelli M4 semiautomatic shotgun twice during the incident.

Medical Report

Corugedo was treated at the Northridge Hospital Medical Center for gunshot wounds to her abdomen.

Toxicology Report

Toxicology testing conducted on Corugedo's blood detected the presence of fentanyl, amphetamine, and methamphetamine in her system at the time of the shooting.

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 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).

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(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) 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).

When Sandoval and Barientos approached Corugedo seated in the van, they observed the damaged front windshield as described by the 9-1-1 caller. Despite Sandoval giving her twin sister's name, Sandoval was able to determine Corugedo was in felony warrant status using law enforcement databases.

As a result, Sandoval had a duty to detain and arrest Corugedo on the warrants. However, when he attempted to physically detain Corugedo, she resisted and drew what he believed was a real handgun from her waistband, causing him and Barrientos to be in fear for their lives and to retreat to their patrol car.

Once Corugedo was trapped in the cul-de-sac, officers tried reasoning with her, telling her they were not there to hurt her and asking her to drop the weapons. A family member advised officers Corugedo was a methamphetamine addict with mental health issues who had brought an assault rifle into their home. Blood results taken at the time of the incident confirmed Corugedo was under the influence of methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Vege said when they saw residents inside their homes, it created additional stress among the officers because they were unable to safely evacuate them. Vege believed Corugedo was armed with a real gun and was concerned that if the officers attempted to use less lethal force, Corugedo would turn her weapon on them. As a result, several of the officers had their service weapons unholstered and pointed at Corugedo.

Vege said he told the officers, "We cannot let her get to that house, we have to act." While he said he could not tell an officer to use lethal force, he and the other officers believed the residents in the home were in imminent danger.

Corugedo's refusal to surrender to officers in the parking lot, her erratic behavior in the cul-de-sac, barricading herself in the van, climbing on top of the van, then arming herself before walking to the home further created reasonable apprehension in the officers that Corugedo would harm either them or the residents.

Vege believed based on her behavior and statements prior to the shooting, Corugedo may have been acting in a manner intended to elicit a deadly force response from law enforcement.[16] Vege told officers they could not let Corugedo enter a home with a gun and take hostages or injure a civilian.

When Corugedo approached the front door of the residence she was armed with a machete and what officers believed was a real handgun. Solorio made a split-second decision when he fired his service weapon at Corugedo, reasonably believing lives were at risk and deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent deadly threat to officers and residents inside the home.

The fact that the weapon brandished by Corugedo was later discovered to be a pellet gun does not alter this conclusion.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we find that Officer Victor Solorio acted lawfully in defense of others.

[16] Vege said he heard her say, she wants to end it and then she just screamed.