Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Samuel Conde

Los Angeles Police Department

Officer Daniel Nodes, #37878

J.S.I.D. File #25-0038

Nathan J. Hochman

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

September 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPTAIN OMAR BAZULTO
Los Angeles Police Department
Force Investigation Division
100 West First Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

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

SUBJECT: Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Samuel Conde
J.S.I.D. File #25-0038
L.A.P.D. File #F005-25

DATE: September 25, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) has completed its review of the February 11, 2025, non-fatal shooting of Samuel Conde by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer Daniel Nodes. 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.

The LADA Command Center was notified of the shooting at approximately 6:33 p.m. on February 11, 2025. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the scene and was given a briefing and walk-through by LAPD Lieutenant David Smith.

The following analysis is based on LAPD investigative reports and other materials, including recorded interviews, photographs, body worn camera video (BWV), digital in-car video systems (DICVS), surveillance video, and radio communications submitted to this office by the LAPD Force Investigation Division (FID) on April 6, 2026. Compelled statements of the shooting officer, if they exist, were not considered in this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On February 11, 2025, at approximately 9:53 a.m., LAPD received a 9-1-1 call from an unidentified community member reporting a "male possibly armed with a handgun near the intersection of Western Avenue and Lomita Boulevard" in the City of Los Angeles. Officers Jorge Blanco and Edgar Guevara responded to investigate.

At approximately 10:15 a.m., Blanco and Guevara observed a male, later identified as Samuel Conde, walking northbound on the east sidewalk of Belle Porte Avenue. Believing Conde matched the description broadcast, the officers conducted a U-turn to contact him. Guevara observed Conde become visibly nervous and noticed a pronounced bulge on the right side of

Conde's waistband. When Guevara asked whether Conde was carrying a pistol, Conde immediately began making furtive movements toward his waistband before fleeing on foot.

Guevara exited the patrol vehicle and pursued Conde on foot while Blanco followed in the patrol vehicle. During the pursuit, Guevara observed Conde remove a dark-colored revolver (hereinafter referred to interchangeably as “firearm”) from his sweatshirt. Guevara immediately broadcast Conde was armed and requested additional units.

During the pursuit, both officers repeatedly ordered Conde to stop and drop the firearm. Conde ignored their commands and continued fleeing through residential streets and alleyways for approximately one-third of a mile. Conde repeatedly placed the firearm against his head while threatening suicide if officers approached.

Conde entered the rear yard of a residence located on Belle Porte Avenue by climbing over a fence. LAPD immediately established a perimeter around the property. For approximately one hour, officers attempted to resolve the incident. Announcements were broadcast in English and Spanish directing Conde to surrender. Officers advised Conde he was surrounded and instructed him to exit with his hands raised. SWAT personnel and Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) members responded to assist with negotiations. Officers deployed a 40-millimeter launcher (40mm) against the exterior of the shed, utilized a Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV) equipped with audio capability, and attempted to establish communication through the robot.[1] Conde refused to surrender.

Conde then emerged onto the roof of the shed, holding a firearm in his right hand, pointing it at his head while telling officers he would kill himself if they did not allow him to leave.

Officer Daniel Nodes and Officer Lyes Messaoudi were assigned to a containment position near the southwest corner of the property. They were instructed to maintain their position and prevent Conde from moving through the south gate should he flee from the containment area.

At approximately 5:01 p.m., Conde moved west through the backyard and climbed onto a large pile of trash and debris located approximately thirty feet from Nodes' position. Nodes immediately shouted, "Whoa! Stop! Stop!" before firing three rounds from his department-issued Geissele GA-M4 Super Duty rifle (hereinafter referred to as “service weapon”), striking Conde. Conde yelled, "What the fuck! I'm not even shooting, and you fucking hit me!"

Following the shooting, officers continued issuing verbal commands. Conde failed to comply and repeatedly moved his hands toward his waistband. In response, officers deployed a TASER, fired beanbag rounds, and conducted a “directed deployment” of a K-9, which apprehended Conde by biting his left foot.[2]

[1] A QUGV is a four-legged robot, often called a "robot dog," built for military, law enforcement, and industrial tasks.

[2] In this context, a “K9” is dog trained for police, military, or security duty.

After Conde was secured, officers searched his person but did not locate a firearm.[3] Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) personnel arrived approximately ninety seconds later and began rendering medical aid. Conde was transported to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center where he was treated for two grazing gunshot wounds, fractures to his upper jaw and nasal bone, and injuries associated with the K-9 apprehension. Conde did not provide a statement to investigators.



LAPD Generated Overhead Map of the Foot Pursuit.

Witness Statements[4,5]

Statement of Officer Guevara

On February 14, 2025, investigators interviewed Guevara. Guevara stated he and Blanco initially contacted Conde on Belle Porte Avenue after recognizing him as the subject of the radio broadcast. Guevara observed a bulge near Conde's waistband and, when Conde fled, saw him pull a black handgun from his hoodie and run east on 254th Street. Guevara followed Conde on foot through 254th Street and Frampton Avenue and then back toward Belle Porte Avenue. Guevara stated he unholstered his firearm because Conde was armed and refusing commands. Guevara observed Conde holding a firearm in his right hand and pointing it at the right side of his head.

[3] Despite extensive searches of the property conducted over multiple days by FID detectives, K-9 officers, and criminalists, Conde's firearm was never recovered.
[4] All interviews referenced in this memorandum were recorded.
[5] All officer interviews referenced in this memorandum were compelled.

Statement of Officer Blanco

On February 13, 2025, investigators interviewed Blanco. Blanco stated he and Guevara encountered Conde on Belle Porte Avenue and attempted to detain him. When Conde fled, Blanco observed him pull a black revolver from his jacket and continue running with the firearm in his right hand. Blanco pursued Conde in a patrol vehicle, repeatedly ordering Conde to, "Drop the gun!" Blanco stated Conde repeatedly looked over his shoulder as though attempting to locate the officers, causing Blanco to fear Conde was trying to acquire a target and obtain a clear shot. Blanco unholstered his firearm and later pointed it at Conde while keeping his finger off the trigger. Blanco stated Conde never pointed or raised the firearm toward him or Guevara but twice placed it against his own head and warned the officers if they came closer, he would, "Do it!"

Statement of Officer Pultz

On February 17, 2025, investigators interviewed Officer Jonathan Pultz, a member of the SWAT team. Pultz described seeing Conde emerge from behind an SUV with a handgun in his right hand and place it against his head. During the subsequent apprehension, Pultz stated he was concerned Conde had the pistol in his waistband and did not want Conde to have an opportunity to retrieve it and shoot either the K-9 or the officers. Pultz ultimately discharged his TASER four times. He stated, in his view, officers used multiple layers of less-lethal force to resolve the incident and there could have been multiple officer-involved shootings.

Statement of Officer Hernandez

On February 26, 2025, investigators interviewed Officer Michael Hernandez. Hernandez stated after hearing the initial shots, he moved to a position where he could observe Conde and described Conde's behavior as erratic. Hernandez said he later observed a bulge in Conde's hoodie he believed was the firearm. Hernandez said he never physically saw the firearm.

Hernandez stated he believed Conde remained armed, retrieved his own rifle and prepared to act as a cover officer for a potential K-9 deployment. Hernandez said K-9 deployment was intended to prevent another use of force or further attempts by Conde to flee, which he believed would place nearby civilians in greater jeopardy.

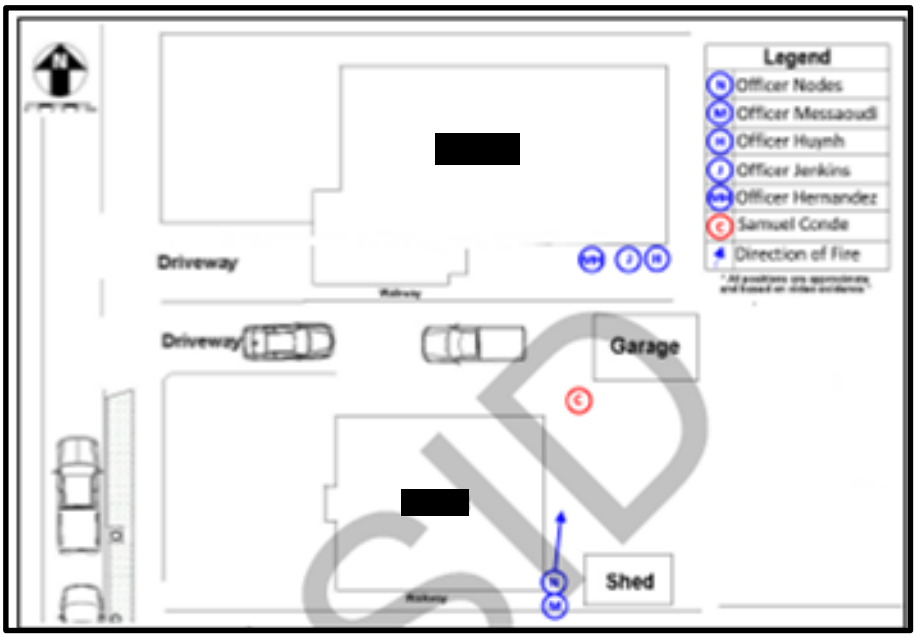
Statement of Officer Jenkins

On February 13, 2025, investigators interviewed Officer Steven Jenkins. Jenkins said Conde's firearm was a central consideration in the tactical response. He explained the potential for Conde to remain armed and escape the containment area created a risk to officers and members of the public. Jenkins described the directed K-9 deployment as an intermediate-force option intended to prevent Conde from reaching a position where the situation could deteriorate into another deadly-force encounter. Jenkins also stated he had repeatedly drawn or unholstered his firearm during the search and after the gunshots because of the perceived threat posed by Conde. Jenkins never physically saw Conde's firearm.

Statement of Officer Messaoudi

On February 12, 2025, investigators interviewed Messaoudi. Messaoudi stated he was positioned behind Nodes when he observed Conde holding a black object which appeared to be a firearm. Messaoudi said Conde briefly pointed the object toward him and Nodes before turning toward the K-9 officers.

He then observed Conde extend his arm and point the firearm toward the driveway. After the shooting, Messaoudi continued to believe Conde was armed based on his movements, including looking toward officers, concealing his hand with his sweatshirt, and manipulating something near his waistband. Messaoudi subsequently fired three beanbag rounds, because he believed Conde remained armed and he wanted to prevent another officer-involved shooting.



LAPD Diagram Depicting the Parties' Relative Positions at the moment Nodes Fired his Service Weapon.

Video Recordings

FID investigators collected and reviewed extensive digital evidence documenting the incident. The investigation included 118 BWV recordings from involved and witness officers, nine DICVS recordings, eight small unmanned aerial system recordings, residential security camera footage, and 25 cellular telephone videos.[6]

The BWV recordings capture officers' repeated efforts to resolve the incident after Conde barricaded himself within the rear yard of the residence on Belle Porte Avenue. The recordings depict officers establishing containment, issuing numerous commands directing Conde to

[6] The initial encounter with Conde was not captured on either Guevara's or Blancos's BWV because neither camera had yet been activated.

surrender, coordinating tactical operations, and utilizing specialized resources, including K-9 personnel, SWAT officers, Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) personnel, and less-lethal force options. The recordings also document the deployment of a tactical robot, repeated public address announcements in English and Spanish, and officers' continuing attempts to persuade Conde to surrender voluntarily. BWV captures Nodes' verbal commands, the rapid sequence of the shooting, less-lethal force deployments, the directed K-9 apprehension, and officers rendering medical aid after Conde was taken into custody. FID's video analysis determined Nodes discharged three rounds from his service weapon in approximately 0.494 seconds.

Security-camera footage from a residence on Belle Porte Avenue captures Conde walking through the area while holding a firearm to his head. Security-camera footage from the Rose Inn, located on Pacific Coast Highway, captures Conde emerging from the shed while holding the firearm to his head, jumping from the shed, and then walking west.



Enhanced Rose Inn Security Camera Still Depicting Conde (Center) Holding a Firearm to his Head.



Still from Nodes' BWV Depicting Conde (red oval) Moments before he (Nodes) Fired his Service Weapon.

Forensic and Physical Evidence

FID detectives, Technical Investigation Division (TID) personnel, and Forensic Science Division (FSD) criminalists processed the scene and recovered numerous items of physical evidence. Investigators documented the scene through photographs, video, diagrams, and measurements. Approximately 35 items of evidence were collected, including three discharged 5.56 mm cartridge cases associated with Nodes' service weapon, three discharged 12-gauge beanbag shotgun shells associated with Messaoudi's beanbag shotgun, and a copper-colored bullet fragment.

Following the incident, Harbor Area officers, K-9 personnel, FID detectives, FSD criminalists, and Harbor Area Community Relations officers conducted multiple systematic searches of the property on February 11, February 12, February 13, February 18, and April 18, 2025. During one search, investigators recovered a single .38 Special discharged cartridge case near the rear of a green station wagon. Despite these extensive efforts, Conde's firearm was never located.

Investigators documented ballistic impacts to nearby structures and determined the trajectories of the rounds discharged by Nodes. The analysis concluded the projectiles traveled generally from south to north and was consistent with Nodes' reported firing position and Conde's location on an elevated pile of debris.

Additional Information

On April 17, 2025, Conde was charged in case 25LBCF00230 with one count of exhibiting a firearm in the presence of an officer in violation of Penal Code section 417(C), and one count of possession of firearm with prior violent conviction in violation of Penal Code section

29900(A)(1). On July 15, 2025, Conde pled open to the court, over the People's objection, for a disposition of two years in state prison.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. 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).

The evidence establishes officers initially responded to a radio call reporting a man armed with a handgun. When Blanco and Guevara attempted to contact Conde, he immediately fled and, during the ensuing foot pursuit, removed a firearm from his clothing while continuing to evade officers. Throughout the pursuit, Conde repeatedly ignored commands to stop and disarm, holding the firearm to his own head and threatening suicide.

Following the pursuit, Conde entered the rear yard of a residence and concealed himself inside a storage shed. Rather than immediately forcing a confrontation, officers established containment and utilized numerous de-escalation techniques over a multiple-hour time period. Harbor Patrol officers requested K-9 resources, SWAT personnel, and the CNT. Officers repeatedly directed Conde to surrender through public address systems, attempted negotiations, deployed a tactical robot equipped with audio capability, and used less-lethal munitions in an effort to induce a peaceful surrender. Despite these efforts, Conde refused to surrender, repeatedly emerging while visibly armed, and continually threatening to kill himself rather than comply with officers' commands.

The critical issue is whether Nodes reasonably believed Conde posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury when he discharged his service weapon. The investigation establishes

Nodes was assigned to a containment position to prevent Conde from escaping toward Belle Porte Avenue. At approximately 5:01 p.m., Conde emerged from concealment, climbed onto an elevated pile of debris, and moved within approximately 30 feet of Nodes while still armed. Nodes shouted, "Whoa! Stop! Stop!" before firing three rounds in rapid succession.

Messaoudi, who was positioned immediately behind Nodes, stated he observed Conde holding what appeared to be a handgun, briefly directing it toward their position. Messaoudi believed Nodes was responding to the same imminent threat he observed.

Security video captures Conde carrying a firearm throughout the incident. Officers independently reported observing the firearm before the shooting, and immediately after the shooting Hernandez continued to observe what he believed was the outline of a handgun in Conde's sweatshirt. Jenkins similarly believed Conde remained armed when he ordered the directed K-9 deployment.

Subsequent events further support the conclusion that the threat had not immediately ended. After being struck by gunfire, Conde continued refusing commands to surrender, repeatedly reached toward his waistband, and required the deployment of a TASER and beanbags, as well as a directed K-9 apprehension, before officers were able to safely handcuff him.

The totality of the evidence demonstrates Nodes confronted an armed suspect who had fled from police, repeatedly refused commands to surrender, resisted prolonged efforts at resolution, and emerged from concealment while still presenting an objectively reasonable imminent deadly threat. When Conde pointed the weapon in the direction of Nodes and other officers, his belief in the need to use deadly force in self-defense and the defense of others was reasonable.

CONCLUSION

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