Non-Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Isael Orellana

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Juan Torres, #647627

J.S.I.D. File #24-0157

NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

Justice System Integrity Division

September 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	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 Isael Orellana J.S.I.D. File #24-0157 L.A.S.D. File #024-04156-1430-057
DATE:	September 25, 2026

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the May 3, 2024, non-fatal shooting of Isael Orellana by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputy Juan Torres.

We have concluded the evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Torres lacked a reasonable belief, based on the totality of the circumstances, that deadly force was necessary to defend himself or others against an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting at 3:33 a.m. on May 3, 2024. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene by LASD Homicide Bureau Lieutenant Michael Gomez.

The following analysis is based on body worn videos (BWV), 9-1-1 recordings, investigative reports, audio recordings and transcripts of witness interviews, medical records, and photographs submitted to this office by LASD Homicide Sergeant Frank Alvarado on April 10, 2025. Compelled statements were not considered as part of this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On May 3, 2024, LASD Deputies Juan Torres and Travis Graham responded to a radio dispatch regarding a domestic violence incident at the 600 block of Willow Avenue in La Puente. When the deputies arrived, they observed Isael Orellana, [redacted], [redacted] ([redacted]) and [redacted] standing near a white Nissan Altima in an open carport.

[redacted], later determined to be Orellana's long-term partner, was visibly distressed and crying. [redacted] told the deputies Orellana had been violent, had fought with his son [redacted], and had broken the windshield of the Altima. Orellana quickly approached the deputies, coming within approximately one foot of them while ignoring repeated orders from Torres to turn around. Graham reached toward Orellana, who slapped his hand away and then clenched his fists and

assumed a "fighting stance" with one foot behind the other, his body turned sideways to the deputies. Torres ordered Orellana to "Relax!" and attempted to grab his arm. Orellana grabbed Torres' hand, and Torres forcibly pulled free. Orellana again clenched his fists. When Torres ordered him to get down, Orellana instead stepped back, retrieved a metal paint roller, and advanced toward the deputies as they retreated. Torres drew his service weapon while both deputies repeatedly ordered Orellana to stop and drop the roller. Orellana raised the roller into a throwing position toward Torres. Graham deployed oleoresin capsicum spray (OC spray) which struck Orellana in the face.[1] Orellana raised the roller into a throwing position towards Graham, before repositioning it towards Torres and throwing it. Torres fired three rounds from his service weapon, striking Orellana once in the right leg. The roller struck Torres in the abdomen below his department-issued ballistic vest.

Orellana was transported to the hospital where he was treated before being cleared for booking.

9-1-1 Calls

Between 12:18 a.m. and 1:18 a.m. on May 3, 2024, seven calls were made to 9-1-1 regarding the increasingly violent behavior of Isael Orellana. The callers included [redacted], Orellana's next-door neighbor; [redacted], Orellana's long-term partner; and Orellana himself.

The calls from [redacted] described Orellana becoming increasingly paranoid and violent; Orellana believed someone had stolen a gold chain from inside his home and replaced it with a fake, he then became convinced his son, [redacted], and his partner, [redacted], had conspired with this individual and were hiding the identity of the perpetrator from him.[2]

Orellana called 9-1-1 twice to report the alleged theft. During one call, he said he had a "problem with his family" because they knew something about his missing property and refused to tell him.

[redacted] later called 9-1-1 and reported Orellana was hitting her.

Officer Involved Shooting[3]

Torres and Graham arrived at the scene at approximately 1:25 a.m. Both were equipped with their service weapons as well as OC spray. Graham told investigators they had formulated a tactical plan if force was required where Graham would be responsible for deploying less-lethal force and Torres would be responsible for lethal force if necessary.

As the deputies approached, Graham heard raised voices. Torres observed [redacted] was crying and Orellana had blood on his head, although there was no ongoing physical confrontation.

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[1] OC spray is discharged in a concentrated spray towards a target, causing irritation to the eyes, nose, mouth, skin, and lungs.

[2] [redacted] said at various points during his three calls to 9-1-1 that Orellana was "becoming violent," was "scaring his family," was "out of control," "[Orellana] wants to get a hold of his family and kind of harm them," and [Orellana's family] "are frightened."

[3] The facts in this section are derived from BWV from each deputy, as well as voluntary statements from Torres and Graham.

[redacted] told the deputies Orellana had been violent, had broken a car windshield, and had fought with his son.



Figure 1: Still from Torres' BWV Showing the Position of the Parties When Deputies Arrived at the Scene

Orellana quickly walked towards Graham and Torres without being directed to do so. Torres repeatedly ordered him to turn around. Orellana ignored the commands and continued towards the deputies. When Graham attempted to take hold of Orellana's arm, Orellana slapped his hand away.



Figure 2: Still from Torres' BWV Showing Orellana Slapping Away Graham's Hand (Circled)

Orellana stepped back, turned his body sideways, and assumed a "fighting stance" with both fists clenched. Torres told investigators he believed Orellana was preparing to fight the deputies.



Figure 3: Still from Torres' BWV Showing Orellana with Both Hands in Fists

Torres reached towards Orellana. Orellana grabbed Torres' hand, resulting in a brief struggle which ended when Torres forcefully pulled his hand free.



Figure 4: Still from Torres' BWV Showing Orellana with his Right Hand Clenched and Grabbing Torres' Hand

Torres said he felt the situation had escalated too quickly. He attempted to de-escalate by telling Orellana to "relax" and ordering him to the ground. Orellana ignored the commands, moved back several feet, quickly reached down and picked up a paint roller with a metal frame and plastic handle, and again advanced toward the deputies.



Figure 5: LEFT: Still from Torres' BWV Showing Orellana with Paint Roller (circled) Advancing on Deputies. RIGHT: Close up of Paint Roller[4]

Torres said he feared Orellana would use the paint roller to strike him or Graham so he drew his service weapon, retreated several steps to create distance, and requested additional units.



Figure 6: Still from Torres' BWV Showing Orellana Holding Paint Roller (circled), Deputy Graham with OC Spray Raised and Torres with Service Weapon Drawn

Orellana had still failed to respond verbally to any commands. He raised the paint roller over his head into a throwing position, and appeared to aim it at Torres.

[4] The roller was approximately 15 11/16 inches long, 10 ¼ inches wide, with a weight of 444 grams (.978 pounds). It consisted of a molded plastic handle attached to a metal frame bent at three 90-degree angles, upon which a 9-inch cotton roller cover was mounted.



Figure 7: Still from Torres' BWV Showing Orellana with Paint Roller in Throwing Position

Graham deployed OC spray towards Orellana, striking him in the face. Orellana lowered the roller briefly before raising it a second time, appearing to aim at Graham. Graham told investigators he believed he would be struck in the head, so he raised his left hand to protect himself while deploying another burst of the OC spray towards Orellana.

Torres saw the OC spray strike Orellana in the face, but it appeared to have no effect.

Orellana lowered the roller and then raised it a third time. He drew it back across his body and threw it towards Torres. Torres fired three rounds, striking Orellana once in the right leg. The paint roller struck Torres in the abdomen directly below his department-issued ballistic vest.

Orellana turned and ran to the front of the Altima, where he remained until backup units arrived. Orellana was then transported to Los Angeles Medical Center at 1:38 a.m., approximately 13 minutes after Torres and Graham arrived at the scene. He was treated for a gunshot wound to his right thigh and released for booking.

Orellana was subsequently charged with two misdemeanor counts of Penal Code §148(a) in case 25EMCM00704.[5]

Statement of Isael Orellana

Orellana was interviewed in the jail ward at Los Angeles County Medical Center (LACMC). After being advised of his *Miranda* rights he gave a voluntary statement.

Orellana said he had a gold necklace worth over $3,000 in his home, which had been switched with an imitation. He searched for the authentic necklace in the home and discovered the keys to his Honda Pilot were also missing. Both items had last been in his living room. Moments before they went missing, he heard footsteps and an unknown man, speaking to [redacted] in English in the living room. Orellana said he speaks very little English but understands it when it is spoken. Orellana

[5] As of the time of this writing, Orellana, aka "Manuel Cordon," had been placed on judicial diversion pursuant to Penal Code §1001.95 and ordered to complete community service. His case is currently set for proof of completion and pretrial on October 2, 2026.

concluded the unknown person had taken the items and his son, [redacted], was an accomplice to the thefts, along with [redacted]. Orellana said he concluded this unknown individual was [redacted]'s lover, so he demanded she admit she knew who the man was and have him come back to the home and return the stolen items. [redacted] dismissed his allegations. When Orellana confronted [redacted] about the thefts [redacted] made fun of him, which made Orellana angry. He asked [redacted] to call 9-1-1 and report the thefts on his behalf because he believed the unknown man, [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted] had all conspired to disable his phone from calling 9-1-1.

While Orellana waited for law enforcement to arrive he examined the gold necklace, which caused him to become increasingly angry because he was certain it had been switched with an imitation. He then grabbed a paint roller and hit the windshield of [redacted]'s Nissan Altima in anger. [redacted] exited the apartment, started punching him in the head and face, and forced him to the ground, causing Orellana to fall on his back. Orellana said he never threw a punch at [redacted].[6] [redacted] was eventually pulled off of him and taken into the [redacted]' apartment.

Orellana told investigators he was shot "Because I was aggressive towards [the deputies]." When asked what aggressive acts he had taken towards the deputies, Orellana said he had done "a lot of things" but could not identify specific conduct.

Orellana said he recalled a deputy had fired "four or five" shots at him, and he was hit once. He said he received three or four commands from the deputies to "calm down." He admitted understanding those commands, and claimed he had given up when they were issued.[7]

Orellana initially said he could not remember whether he had armed himself with a paint roller, but later admitted throwing a paint roller in the deputies' direction.

Orellana denied using illicit narcotics, but admitted going to drug rehab for nearly a year due to an addiction to "crystal."[8]

Statement by [redacted]

[redacted] said she and Orellana share a townhome on Willow Avenue with their four children.[9] [redacted] said Orellana had an approximate three-year history of methamphetamine abuse, which caused him to become angry and had led to violent outbursts in the past.[10]

[redacted] said Orellana had returned from work two days earlier acting "odd," and had not gone to his job since then, saying he was suffering from "anxiety and nervousness."

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[6] Investigators noted Orellana had abrasions on his forehead, which Orellana said were from [redacted] hitting him.
[7] Orellana did not explain the discrepancy between what he described as "giving up" and the BWV footage showing the sequence of events as described above.
[8] "Crystal" is street vernacular for methamphetamine, a powerful central nervous system stimulant.
[9] 18-year old [redacted] and 17-year old [redacted] witnessed a portion of the incident. 12-year old [redacted] and 17-year old [redacted] were sleeping at the time and did not witness the incident.
[10] [redacted] later denied the violence ever turned physical and claimed the outbursts were confined to verbal episodes directed at [redacted]. There were no calls for service from this location in the five years prior to this incident.

[redacted] said earlier that evening Orellana had accused her and [redacted] of conspiring with an unknown person to swap his gold necklace with a fake, and to take his car keys. [redacted], Orellana, and [redacted] had each made calls to 9-1-1, and as the evening progressed Orellana's demeanor had deteriorated from calm to aggressive. Orellana struck her Nissan Altima with a paint roller, causing damage to the windshield, and [redacted] had to physically restrain Orellana in order to prevent him from further damaging the vehicle.



Figure 8: Windshield of the Nissan Altima Damaged by Paint Roller Wielded by Orellana

[redacted] could not understand what the deputies were saying to Orellana when they arrived because she is a Spanish speaker, but she did recognize Orellana was being uncooperative with them.

[redacted] believed Orellana was using "crystal," and thought it was likely he had used it before his encounter with law enforcement. She described Orellana as gentle when sober, but paranoid when using methamphetamine.

Statement by [redacted]

[redacted]' account was generally consistent with [redacted]'s. He said he saw Orellana strike [redacted]'s windshield with a paint roller, cracking it, before hitting the hood with his fists, kicking the front grille, and using his knees to strike the front bumper, causing multiple dents.

[redacted] said Orellana was preparing to strike the side window of [redacted]'s vehicle with the paint roller when [redacted] jumped on him. Both men fell to the ground and exchanged punches until [redacted] pulled [redacted] away. Orellana then yelled at [redacted] to, "Tell the man to come back and to bring [his] stolen stuff!"

[redacted] said when the deputies arrived and attempted to take hold of Orellana, Orellana backed away and became combative. [redacted] said he saw Orellana hit himself with a paint roller, point the roller at deputies, and throw it. [redacted] said Orellana then turned away and began walking away from the deputies when [redacted] heard three-to-four-gun shots.

Statement of [redacted]

[redacted] ([redacted]) is Orellana's eldest son. [redacted] said sometime after midnight, he was inside his bedroom when he heard yelling coming from outside the apartment. [redacted] investigated and observed Orellana, appearing agitated. Orellana was with [redacted] and [redacted], who was unsuccessfully trying to calm Orellana down. [redacted] eventually felt Orellana needed to be physically restrained and did so by wrapping Orellana in a "bear hug," until [redacted] separated them. [redacted] said [redacted], the wife of [redacted], took [redacted] into the [redacted]' apartment afterward and he stayed there until the Sheriff's deputies arrived.

[redacted] heard Orellana speaking to a 9-1-1 operator on speaker phone, and heard him tell the operator someone had broken into their home.[11]

[redacted] said he saw the deputies arrive and heard them order Orellana to calm down, but Orellana did not comply. [redacted] said Orellana held a paint roller at his side but denied seeing him move it from that position. [redacted] said he saw Orellana run away from the two deputies before hearing three gunshots.

[redacted] denied having any knowledge of Orellana using illicit narcotics, and despite abrasions to his bottom lip and the knuckles on his right hand, denied receiving any injuries during the confrontation with Orellana.

Statement of [redacted]

[redacted] said the deputies' tone was "aggressive," when they arrived and they ordered both [redacted] and [redacted] to go into the apartment. She saw Orellana holding a paint roller and the deputies unholster their firearms. According to [redacted], Orellana walked towards the deputies and, when he was approximately seven feet away, raised the roller above his shoulder level.

[redacted] said Orellana then walked away from the deputies before suddenly turning back towards them. One of the deputies fired approximately three rounds at Orellana. Orellana then moved to the front of [redacted]'s Nissan and knelt down.

Investigator Frank Alvarado

LASD Homicide Bureau Sergeant Frank Alvarado was assigned to investigate the incident.

Alvarado reported he had specialized training and knowledge in the field of narcotics. He was aware methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant and that its effects can include insomnia, agitation, and hallucinations.

Through his investigation into this incident, Alvarado became aware Orellana's medical records recorded a trace amount of amphetamines having been detected in Orellana's blood sample while he

[11] [redacted] told investigators he was not home for a portion of the day but he saw no evidence anyone had broken into the residence.

was hospitalized after this incident, and Orellana had missed two days of work because he was feeling "anxious and nervous," per [redacted]. Based upon these facts, and interviews with witnesses to the incident, Alvarado opined Orellana had likely consumed methamphetamines after work on Tuesday, and possibly into Wednesday and Thursday. He opined, "It was feasible to believe that [Orellana's]….use of [methamphetamine] caused him to hallucinate and become confrontational and violent towards Deputies Torres and Graham."[12]

Physical Damage to Nissan Altima

The Altima sustained a circular crack on the lower passenger-side of the windshield, apparently caused by Orellana striking it with the roller he later threw at Torres (*see* Figure 8, above), a shattered window behind the driver's seat, and a bullet hole through the left-rear quarter panel, just above the taillight.



Figure 9: Shattered Driver-Side Rear Window

[12] Orellana was taken to Los Angeles General Medical Center (LAGMC). He was admitted at 2:00 a.m. on May 3, 2024, for treatment of a single gunshot wound which had both entered and exited his right thigh. Orellana was discharged the following day at 1:06 p.m. While he was undergoing treatment at LAGMC, LASD Investigators obtained a warrant to draw and test Orellana's blood, which came back presumptively positive for amphetamines. Per the medical record, Orellana was aggressive with hospital staff while being treated, "moving excessively," causing the treatment team to be unable to obtain his blood pressure or to start an intravenous (IV) line. Notes indicate he was "agitated," "combative," and "swatting at staff." Ultimately, he had to be placed in four-point restraints by the treatment provider, yet still remained "agitated and uncooperative."



Figure 10: Bullet Entrance Through Rear Taillight (Circled)

Video Evidence

Torres and Graham were both equipped with body worn video (BWV) cameras. The footage revealed no material discrepancies from their accounts. During the one minute and seven seconds between the deputies' arrival and the shooting, they issued 17 commands: "Get back!" five times; "Drop it!" five times; "Put it down!" twice; "Turn around!" three times; and, "Relax" twice. Orellana neither verbally acknowledged nor complied with those commands.

The BWV also establishes the rapid sequence of events preceding the shooting. Relevant time periods, as established by the BWV, are as follows:

1:23:56: Deputies arrive at the scene and Torres greets the parties, who are all standing around [redacted]'s Altima.
1:24:23: Orellana starts walking towards the deputies.
1:24:27: Graham reaches out to stop Orellana and Orellana slaps Graham's hand, immediately followed by Orellana grabbing Torres' hand
1:24:32: Orellana reaches for the roller.
1:24:56: Orellana pulls the roller back, aiming at Torres.
Almost simultaneously, Graham deploys OC spray.
1:24:58: Orellana pulls the roller back and is in a position to throw the roller towards Graham.
Graham raises his hands to shield his head and deploys a second burst of OC spray.
1:24:59: Orellana pulls the roller back across his body and is in a position to throw it at Torres.
1:24:59: Orellana starts his throw, releases the roller, and it strikes Torres in less than one second.

The OIS occurred a little more than one minute after the deputies arrived on scene. Only four seconds elapsed between the time Orellana started moving towards the deputies until he slapped Graham's hand. 22 seconds elapsed between the time Orellana retrieved the roller from the ground until the OIS, during which time Orellana took aim at Torres, Graham deployed OC spray, Orellana shifted his aim from Torres to Graham and back to Torres, Graham deployed OC spray a second time and Orellana threw the roller at Torres. Less than one second elapsed between the time Orellana began drawing the roller across his body and when he finally threw the roller at Torres, striking him.

Paint Roller

The paint roller was recovered at the scene. It consisted of an exposed metal frame with a cushioned paint applicator on one end and a rigid plastic handle on the other. Its dimensions were approximately 15 11/16 inches long, 10 ¼ inches wide with a weight of 444 grams (.978 pounds).



Figure 11: Roller Thrown by Orellana at Torres.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

The Law

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 …the following reason[s]: (1) to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. Penal Code §835a(c)(1)(A).

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 §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 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).

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 §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 §835a(a)(4).

Analysis

The evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Torres did not act based upon a reasonable belief that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.

Before Orellana armed himself with the paint roller, Torres was aware Orellana had been involved in a physical altercation with his son and had observed conduct demonstrating hostility towards the deputies and an unwillingness to submit to their authority. Orellana rapidly approached the deputies, ignored repeated commands, slapped Graham's hand away when Graham attempted to detain him, grabbed Torres' hand, and assumed a fighting stance with his fists clenched. After Orellana picked up the roller, he again advanced towards the deputies while they retreated and Graham prepared to deploy OC spray.

Orellana then repeatedly demonstrated an apparent intent to use the roller as a projectile. He first raised it into a throwing position directed at Torres. Graham deployed his OC spray, striking Orellana in the face. Orellana did not drop the roller but instead appeared to aim it at Graham, causing Graham to raise an arm to protect his head while deploying another burst of OC spray. The spray again failed to deter Orellana, who drew the roller back across his body, oriented towards Torres, and threw it from approximately ten feet away. Torres fired almost simultaneously.

The physical characteristics of the object are significant as to whether Torres could reasonably perceive the throw as presenting a threat of serious bodily injury. The recovered roller weighed 444 grams, approximately one pound, and measured approximately 15 11/16 inches long by 10 1/4 inches wide. It was not uniformly soft: a molded plastic handle was attached to an exposed metal frame, bent at several angles, with a cushioned roller cover mounted on one end.

As discussed above, the roller was released by Orellana and struck Torres in less than one second. From approximately ten feet away, Torres would not be able to determine which portion of the irregularly shaped object would strike him or where it would make contact. A strike from the cushioned portion of the roller to the torso presented materially different potential consequences than a strike by the exposed metal frame or rigid handle to the face, eye, head or throat. Although Torres did not know it at the time, Orellana had earlier used the same roller to crack the Altima's windshield. That fact therefore did not inform Torres' perception of the threat, but it provides objective evidence that this object was capable of causing significant damage. The relevant question remains whether, at the moment Torres fired, his perception that the incoming object presented an imminent threat of serious bodily injury was objectively reasonable.

That perception must be evaluated in light of the rapidly escalating circumstances preceding the throw. Orellana had physically resisted both deputies, ignored repeated commands, continued advancing upon them after arming himself, and persisted in attempting to throw the roller after being struck in the face with OC spray. Before Orellana threw the object at Torres, the deputies had already attempted verbal commands, tactical retreat, and less-than-lethal interventions without gaining compliance.

Under these circumstances, we cannot prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Torres lacked a reasonable belief that Orellana had the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause serious bodily injury, or that Torres was unreasonable in his belief that deadly force was necessary to defend himself from that threat.

CONCLUSION

For the forgoing reasons, we conclude there is insufficient evidence to prove Torres' use of force was unlawful.