

**Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Jessica Brown  
Los Angeles Police Department**

**Officer Kyle Golveo, #42545**

**J.S.I.D. File #23-0229**



**GEORGE GASCÓN**

**District Attorney**

**Justice System Integrity Division**

**November 13, 2024**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: CAPTAIN OMAR BAZULTO  
Los Angeles Police Department  
Force Investigation Division  
100 West First Street, Suite 431  
Los Angeles, California 90012

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

SUBJECT: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Jessica Brown  
J.S.I.D. File #23-0229  
L.A.P.D. File #F029-23

DATE: November 13, 2024

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the July 9, 2023, fatal shooting of Jessica Brown by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer Kyle Golveo. We have concluded that Officer Golveo acted in lawful self-defense at the time he fired his service weapon, reasonably believing, based on the totality of the circumstances, that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent deadly threat.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on July 9, 2023, at 10:16 a.m. The District Attorney's 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), business surveillance video, investigative reports, audio recordings and transcripts of witness interviews, and crime scene diagrams submitted to this office by LAPD FID Detective Christina Ledesma on July 25, 2024. The compelled statement of Officer Golveo was not considered as part of this analysis.

**INTRODUCTION**

On July 9, 2023, at 8:18 a.m., a witness observed Jessica Brown (Brown) cross the street and strike a woman in the head multiple times with a metal pipe. Brown walked down the street and struck a second victim in the face with the pipe. As Brown continued walking down the street, she hit two more victims in the head with the pipe.

LAPD officers from the West Valley Patrol Division responded to the call. The officers located Brown at a gas station. Brown refused to drop the metal pipe, despite numerous commands from the officers.

Brown walked towards the officers when one of the officers fired two 40-millimeter (40mm) less-lethal projectiles and hit Brown. After being struck, Brown raised the metal pipe above her head and charged at the officers, resulting in Officer Golveo firing his service weapon and

another officer discharging a TASER. Brown was struck by gunfire and transported to the Northridge Medical Center, where she was pronounced deceased.

## FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On July 9, 2023, at 8:18 a.m., [REDACTED] told investigators that she was at Reseda Boulevard and Hatteras Street when she saw a woman (later identified as Jessica Brown) wearing a gray “jumper” cross Reseda Boulevard while holding a metal pipe. [REDACTED] described the pipe as silver-colored and approximately 10-12 inches long.

[REDACTED] stated she saw a woman walking her dog in the crosswalk when Brown raised the pipe over her head and struck the woman approximately eight times in the head with the pipe.<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED] called 9-1-1 and while she was waiting to give a report, Brown waved the pipe and walked towards [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told Brown she was on the phone with 9-1-1 and was going to report her. Brown told [REDACTED] that the “police were [already] on their way” and yelled at [REDACTED] before walking away towards Burbank Boulevard. [REDACTED] reported the incident at 8:22:17 a.m.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., 84-year-old [REDACTED] was discovered on the sidewalk outside her assisted living residence on Reseda Boulevard, bleeding on the ground.<sup>2</sup> [REDACTED] told investigators that she was struck in the head one time but she could not see the person who struck her because she is blind in her right eye and only had partial vision in her left eye.<sup>3</sup> [REDACTED] told investigators that she knew the attacker was a woman based on sounds the attacker made.

Officer Kyle Golveo (Golveo) and his partner Officer Joshua Ivory (Ivory) received a broadcast call stating, “Any West Valley unit, ADW suspect, Reseda and Hatteras . . . Female, Black, 30 years, gray jumpsuit, holding a metal pipe. Assaulted a victim . . .”<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) paramedics were treating [REDACTED] when Golveo and Ivory arrived. At 8:50 a.m. BWV shows the officers speaking to [REDACTED] while she was on a gurney inside the back of the ambulance.

While the officers were getting information about [REDACTED]’s attacker, the officers were approached by a witness who told them that a person with a metal pipe had also attacked his neighbor, [REDACTED].

The LAFD paramedics left with [REDACTED] and drove south on Reseda Boulevard. However, approximately 500 feet from where [REDACTED] was assaulted, the paramedics pulled to the side of the curb. Ivory told investigators as he and Golveo went to check on the paramedics, Ivory observed 70-year-old [REDACTED] on the sidewalk bleeding from her head. (*Figure 1*)

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<sup>1</sup> The woman, later identified as [REDACTED], was immediately transported to the hospital by her neighbor. [REDACTED] was treated for a two-inch laceration to the left side of her head which required eight staples for closure.

<sup>2</sup> The distance between the incident involving [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is approximately 0.2 miles.

<sup>3</sup> Investigators interviewed [REDACTED] on the day of the incident and noted during the taped interview that [REDACTED] had “heavy swelling in [her] left eye and blood coming from the top and around it.” [REDACTED] was treated for a one-inch laceration above her left eye and a ruptured globe, resulting in permanent blindness.

<sup>4</sup> ADW is the commonly used abbreviation for assault with a deadly weapon, in violation of California Penal Code section 245(a)(1).

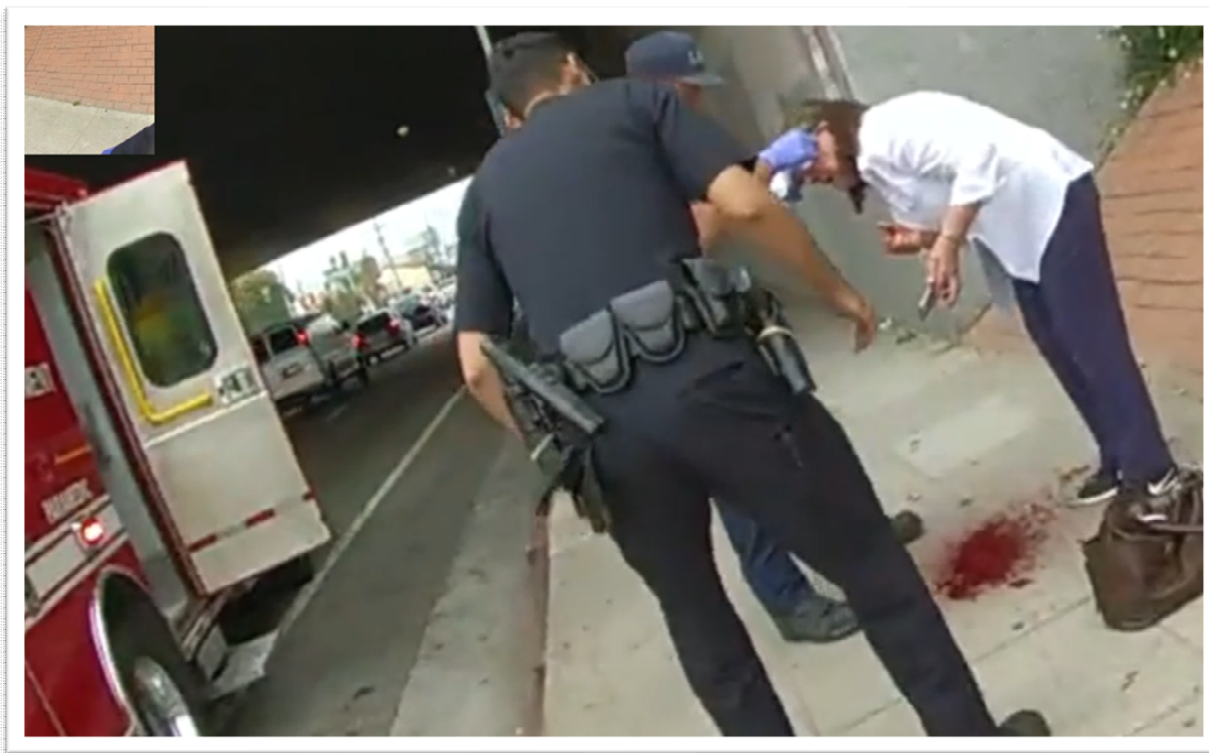


Figure 1: While transporting ██████ to the hospital, LAFD paramedics pulled over to assist ██████ another victim of assault.

██████ told the officers that the woman who hit her continued walking south on Reseda Boulevard toward Burbank Boulevard.

██████ told investigators that she was standing at the bus stop getting money out for the bus when Brown approached her and said, “Fuck you!” Then, without provocation, Brown hit ██████ with the metal pipe. ██████ told the officers that the woman who attacked her was wearing a pink robe. ██████ was treated at the hospital for a laceration to her head.

Ivory and Golveo drove approximately 400 feet south on Reseda Boulevard and turned right (west) on Burbank Boulevard looking for the attacker.<sup>5</sup> Golveo broadcast Brown’s updated description (i.e., “wearing a pink robe”) while he loaded a 40mm. As the officers drove west on Burbank Boulevard, they observed another victim, 61-year-old ██████, sitting on the sidewalk, holding her head.

██████, who was in the hospital when she spoke to the detectives, told investigators that she was buying donuts when Brown approached her saying, “[C]razy things.” ██████ stated she turned around to look at Brown when Brown hit her from behind with a metal pipe.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ivory was driving a marked black and white patrol car and Golveo was seated as a passenger. Both officers were dressed in LAPD uniforms with badges and nameplates affixed to their uniforms.

<sup>6</sup> ██████ was treated for a hematoma and two lacerations: a half-inch and a one and a half-inch lacerations to the right side of her head. ██████ required eight staples to close the wounds.



*Figure 2: BWV showing [REDACTED] on the sidewalk after being hit in the head with the metal pipe.*

After hitting [REDACTED], Brown entered a liquor store. According to witness [REDACTED], Brown “went on a four-minute monologue about crazy shit.” [REDACTED] told investigators that Brown had been a regular liquor store patron for over a year. However, [REDACTED] observed that, “[F]or the last two, three weeks [Brown] had been schizophrenic, like delusional.” [REDACTED] told investigators that Brown came into the store the day before the incident and told her, “I’m going to fuck you up.”



*Figure 3: Gas station surveillance footage shows Brown holding the metal pipe.*

Ivory told investigators that when he and Golveo exited their patrol car, a witness told them that Brown was at the gas station, armed with a pipe. Officers Albert Maya (Maya), Brandell Brants (Brants), and Jonathan Perez (Perez) also responded to the location. Perez told investigators that he took Golveo's 40mm. Perez stated he told Golveo and Ivory that they would be the "contact and cover" officers while Perez would be the "less lethal" officer.<sup>7</sup>

█ told investigators that he was fueling his car at the gas station when he saw Brown walking around "[In] all kinds of different directions." Brown came very close to █ when he heard her say something "threatening and menacing" to him about his Jewish religion.<sup>8</sup> When █ saw the officers arrive at the gas station, he heard the officers tell Brown, "[M]ore than once, 'Drop the pipe. Drop the bar.' They were very clearly telling her to drop whatever weapon she had in her-hand."

When Ivory and Golveo arrived at the gas station, both officers unholstered their service weapons when they saw Brown holding the pipe. BWV shows that Brown began advancing towards the officers as soon as they approached her. Golveo repeatedly ordered Brown to, "Drop the pipe!" Perez fired the 40mm at Brown, hitting her in the left arm. BWV shows that Brown first lowered the pipe, then raised it over her shoulder as she continued walking towards Golveo.

After hearing the officers giving Brown commands for approximately 10 seconds, █ saw Brown advance toward the officers and heard "pops." █ exited his car and saw Brown on the ground. █ told investigators that he saw a foam projectile next to his car and described the metal pipe Brown was holding as a bar used to hold "[D]umbbell[s] . . . steel heavy in metal [sic]. . . between a foot and a foot and a half long." █ stated he heard "[The officers] right away say that she needed . . . medical attention."

█ told investigators that he saw an officer shoot Brown with a "[P]lastic can rubber ball gun . . . green in color."<sup>9</sup> █ stated he saw Brown get hit but said the impact had no effect on Brown, "It's almost like nothing happened to her and she kept on going toward the other two officers . . . she got hit and she just kept going." █ heard the officers order █ to drop the weapon again and then saw her get tased. He saw Brown being treated by the fire department after she fell to the ground.

Ivory told investigators that when Perez hit Brown with the 40mm projectile, it was ineffective. Ivory observed that, "[H]er body didn't even flinch she just kept walking."

Ivory told investigators he initially unholstered his firearm because he believed that Brown was trying to kill people. Ivory stated he transitioned from lethal to less lethal because, "I wanted to tase her to avoid my partner having to use his firearm, try to preserve her life, and get her in

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<sup>7</sup> The contact officer conducts the business aspect of policing by talking to people and getting information, while the cover officer protects the contact officer by providing protection, which may include using a lethal weapon.

<sup>8</sup> █ told investigators he wears a "skull cap" and described himself as a "[N]oticeably religious Jew."

<sup>9</sup> The weapon █ described was the 40mm projectile that Perez fired at Brown.

custody without using deadly force.” Ivory stated that he was also concerned about using his service weapon because potential civilians were coming in and out of the gas station.

As Brown walked closer to the officers, Ivory observed, “[Brown] starts doing a full-on sprint closing the distance [between her and Golveo].” Ivory stated, “[Brown] was running at my partner with the pipe . . . Closing the distance in a striking stance.” That is when Ivory deployed his TASER for the first time.<sup>10</sup>

Ivory’s BWV shows Brown bringing her arm down in a striking motion toward Golveo when Ivory discharged his TASER a second time.<sup>11</sup> Ivory told investigators that, “It looked like [the first deployment] didn’t have any effect. So, I tried to use more darts to incapacitate her.”

Ivory stated that when he fired his TASER a second time, he heard Golveo simultaneously fire his service weapon. That is when Ivory saw Brown fall to the ground.

## **Forensic Evidence**

### *Weapons*

LAPD Forensic Science Division (FSD) processed the scene and collected the evidence. The metal pipe Brown used as a weapon was a 14-inch metal dumbbell bar weighing 410.20 grams (0.90 pounds). (*Figure 4*)



*Figure 4: The metal dumbbell bar that Brown used to assault the victims.*

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<sup>10</sup> Ivory was approximately nine feet away from Brown when he fired his TASER the first time.

<sup>11</sup> Ivory fired his TASER twice. The first deployment at 8:54:44.499 did not result in a complete circuit. The second deployment was 1.248 seconds later and made a complete circuit.

### *Body Worn Video*

BWV showed that Golveo backing up and moving to his right while Brown held the metal pipe above her head. Brown was approximately eight feet away from Golveo when he fired the first round from his service weapon.

After being shot, Brown continued running towards Golveo as he continued backing up. As Brown raised the pipe Golveo fired his second round from approximately four feet away.



*Figure 5: Golveo's BWV depicting Brown after she was shot running towards Golveo. The wire from Ivory's TASER is visible in the photograph.*

After being shot twice, Brown continued to run towards Golveo with the metal pipe raised above her head. Golveo was backing up and moving laterally as Brown swung the pipe in a downward motion. Golveo fired the third round from approximately one and a half feet away. (Figure 5)

### *Ballistics Report*

Forensic analysis determined that Golveo fired three rounds in 0.742 seconds from a decreasing distance of eight feet to one and a half feet as Golveo backed away from Brown.

### *Autopsy Reports*

On July 19, 2023, Los Angeles County Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Lawrence Nguyen performed the postmortem examination of Brown's remains. Dr. Nguyen classified the manner of death as a homicide and ascribed the cause of death as multiple gunshot wounds.



Dr. Nguyen identified three gunshot wounds. The first gunshot wound identified was a through and through gunshot wound that entered Brown's left chest and penetrated intermediary soft tissue. The bullet path went from left to right and downward. The wound was determined to be non-life threatening.

The second wound entered and exited the left triceps and reentered the left chest before perforating the liver. The bullet path went from left to right and downward. This wound was determined to be immediately life-threatening.

The third gunshot wound entered and exited the left hand and reentered the right chest, perforating the right lung. The bullet path was from front to back. This wound was also determined to be immediately life-threatening.

### *Toxicology*

Toxicology results were finalized on August 28, 2023, by Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner Coroner Supervising Criminalist Sarah Buxton de Quintana. The analysis did not identify the presence of any drugs or alcohol in Brown's blood at the time of the incident.

## **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 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).

The evidence in this case shows that while armed with a 14-inch metal bar, Brown attacked four different victims, hitting each of them in the head. The officers observed each of the bloodied victims before they located Brown at the gas station.

They ordered Brown to drop her weapon at gunpoint. Ivory told investigators that when Brown refused to drop the pipe, he initially unholstered his service weapon because, “[W] believe[d] that she [was] trying to kill people.”

When Brown refused to drop the pipe, the officers attempted to gain control over her by using less lethal weapons. None of the less lethal weapons were effective. Even after being shot with multiple less lethal weapons, Brown ran towards Golveo and swung the pipe. Brown closed the distance between her and Golveo and was within one and a half feet from him when he fired the third round. Ivory’s BWV shows Golveo attempting to back away from Brown as she swung the metal pipe towards his head and body.

Despite Golveo’s efforts to back up and get away from Brown, Brown appeared intent on hitting him with the pipe, leaving Golveo with no other option than to fire his service weapon at Brown. At the time Golveo fired his service weapon, it was reasonable for him to believe that Brown was trying to kill him.

Under these circumstances, the evidence supports a reasonable belief that Golveo’s use of deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself or another person.

## **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, we find that Officer Golveo acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of others.