

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

October 18, 2018

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TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FID NO. 081-17

Honorable Members:

The following is my review, analysis, and findings for Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), Force Investigation Division (FID) No. 081-17. A Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) was convened on this matter on October 1, 2018. I have reviewed and adopted the recommendations from the UOFRB for this incident. I hereby submit my findings in accordance with Police Commission policy.

SUMMARY

On December 23, 2017, at approximately 1912 hours, Officer [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], Gang Enforcement Detail (GED), Topanga Area, was in full uniform, driving a marked black and white police vehicle. Communications Division (CD) broadcast a radio call for a *415 fight at [REDACTED] Fairchild Avenue*. Comments of the call indicated that a *female was screaming for help and the suspect was fighting in front of the location on De Soto Avenue*.

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] was near the radio call location and advised CD [REDACTED] was *Code-Six in the area*. [REDACTED] *circled the area* and was unable to locate the subjects of the radio call. [REDACTED] then requested further information from CD, and while waiting for a response [REDACTED] was *flagged down* by a male, later identified as [REDACTED], in front of [REDACTED] De Soto Avenue.

Note: The investigation revealed that as Officer [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] updated [REDACTED] location with CD.

Additionally, at approximately 1909 hours, a radio call for an *Ambulance Battery in Progress* at [REDACTED] was broadcast. A review of Officer [REDACTED] Body Worn Video (BWV) captured CD broadcasting that the two radio calls may be related as Officer [REDACTED] was initiating contact with [REDACTED]

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] later identified as J. Murillo, *threw [REDACTED] to the ground, pointed a knife at [REDACTED], and threatened [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] attempted to*

[REDACTED]

intervene in a dispute between Murillo and Murillo's sister. [REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED] shoulder was injured due to the assault.

Note: A review of Topanga base frequency revealed Officer [REDACTED] requested an *additional unit for a possible ADW (Assault with a Deadly Weapon) suspect in the house*, and also requested an *RA (Rescue Ambulance) (Additional Tactical Debrief Topics – Weapons other than firearms)*.

The investigation revealed that Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel were already responding to the location due to the radio call and arrived simultaneous to Officer [REDACTED] request.

According to Officer [REDACTED], as LAFD personnel walked [REDACTED] to the RA, [REDACTED] *heard kids and a woman screaming inside the residence*. Believing people were being *harmed or stabbed*, Officer [REDACTED] pushed open the front gate, entered the front yard, and *started to approach* the residence to *render aid*, when simultaneously, Murillo exited the front door of the residence.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo exited the residence while wearing a *gas mask* and holding a *machete* in his left hand. *Both Murillo's arms were at his side* until he *saw* Officer [REDACTED]. Murillo then stopped and raised his arms *above his shoulders*. Officer [REDACTED] *backed up*, drew [REDACTED] service pistol and advised Murillo *several times to drop the knife (Drawing/Exhibiting and Additional Tactical Debrief Topics – Holding Service Pistol in Right Hand and Hand-Held Radio in Left Hand)*.

Note: The investigation revealed that the weapon was later determined to be a 16 ½" long, 3" wide, flat metal, pull bar tool used for installing wood floors.

Additionally, LAFD personnel stated they observed Murillo holding a hammer. A review of Officer [REDACTED]'s BWV depicted Murillo holding the pull bar in his left hand and a hammer in his right hand.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo took a *step toward* [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] *yelled "drop the knife"* again. Murillo then ran north across the front yard, jumped over a wrought iron gate and proceeded west in an alley.

Note: The east/west alley was adjacent to the north side of the residence. The alley then turned into a north/south alley that intersected Strathern Street.

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] holstered [REDACTED] service pistol, ran to the mouth of the alley to *keep eyes on* Murillo, and *broadcasted a help call for a male armed with a machete*. [REDACTED] observed Murillo jump the fence *into* the backyard of the residence. Concerned that Murillo could re-enter the residence, Officer [REDACTED] *ran to the front of the house* and drew [REDACTED] service pistol **(Drawing/Exhibiting)**.

Note: The investigation revealed that after Murillo exited the residence, LAFD personnel loaded all occupants of the residence into their RA and left the location.

Officer [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], Pilot, and [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], Tactical Flight Officer, Air Support Division, responded to the help call and searched the area for Murillo.

Note: Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were not substantially involved in the incident and therefore, did not receive findings.

According to Officer [REDACTED], they orbited over the area and observed Murillo *casually walking* south in the north/south alley toward Strathern Street. Officer [REDACTED] broadcasted to CD that the suspect was *walking south* in the alley and was wearing a *gas mask*.

Sergeant [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED] GED, Topanga Area, responded to the help call, arriving at [REDACTED] De Soto Avenue where [REDACTED] was briefed by Officer [REDACTED].

According to Sergeant [REDACTED] *directed* officers that were arriving at the scene to Strathern Street to *apprehend the suspect*.

Officers [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], Topanga Patrol Division, were in full uniform, driving a marked black and white police vehicle when they responded to the help call (**Additional/Equipment – Department Badge**).

According to Officer [REDACTED], while enroute, additional information was broadcast that a *possible suspect was inside the residence armed with a machete, inflicting mayhem on the family within the dwelling*.

According to Officer [REDACTED] when the additional unit request was upgraded to a help call, Officer [REDACTED] broadcast the suspect was *in the progress of attacking victims with a weapon inside the location* and [REDACTED] believed the weapon to be a *machete*.

According to Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], the air unit broadcasted that a possible suspect was walking south in the alley. They then responded to Strathern Street to set up *containment* at the mouth of the alley.

According to Officer [REDACTED], as [REDACTED] drove west on Strathern Street toward the alley, [REDACTED] observed the area illuminated by the air unit's *light, implying* to [REDACTED] that Murillo was *near the mouth of the alley*.

According to Officer [REDACTED] *turned the vehicle wide, stopping just west of the alley* in order to give *time to react* due to Murillo being *armed with a knife* and [REDACTED] knowledge that suspects can *close distances rapidly*. [REDACTED] then observed Murillo *walking casually* south in the alley *carrying a machete-type of instrument*. As [REDACTED] was placing the vehicle in park, Murillo *looked* in the officers' direction and began *sprinting* directly in their direction.

According to Officer [REDACTED], they were driving west on Strathern Street, approaching the mouth of the alley, when [REDACTED] observed Murillo in the alley wearing a *gas mask*, while *yielding a hammer* in his right hand, and a *machete or some type of edged weapon* in his left hand.

According to Officer [REDACTED], *before [REDACTED] was even out of the car*, Murillo advanced in a *full-blown sprint* with *both weapons in each hand, flailing them above his head as he ran* in [REDACTED] direction. Officer [REDACTED] exited [REDACTED] vehicle, assuming a position behind [REDACTED] open passenger door, and drew [REDACTED] service pistol (**Drawing/Exhibiting**).

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] exited the vehicle, drew [REDACTED] service pistol, and observed Murillo *charging* them. Officer [REDACTED] noted Murillo was running *towards* them and *not away* from them (**Drawing/Exhibiting**).

According to Officer [REDACTED], as the police unit arrived [REDACTED] observed Murillo approaching the mouth of the alley. Murillo *immediately started running*, at a *full sprint*, *towards the officers*.

According to Officer [REDACTED] Murillo was reaching the mouth of the alley when the officers arrived. Murillo then *began running* and *was right on them* [the officers], *within seconds*.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo was approximately *30 feet* from [REDACTED] and *closing fast*. Fearing Murillo was *actually closing the distance* and was going to use either the *impact or edged weapon* against [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] told Murillo to *stop*, acquired [REDACTED] *front sights*, *took a couple steps back to redeploy*, and fired five rounds at Murillo to stop the lethal threat (**Lethal Use of Force**).

According to Officer [REDACTED], after the third shot, Murillo appeared to *deviate his path of travel*, as if *flanking* [REDACTED], and had *closed the distance* to approximately *10 to 15 feet*. Officer [REDACTED] feared if Murillo *flanked* [REDACTED] it would leave [REDACTED] with *no cover*, and Murillo could use the *impact device or edged weapon as a throwing object*.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo was *closing the distance rapidly* and *appeared to go wide* on Officer [REDACTED], *possibly going around the door* to gain better access to [REDACTED] partner and use the weapon against [REDACTED]. Believing [REDACTED] partner was in *imminent danger of being hacked up* by Murillo's *machete*, Officer [REDACTED] stepped to the front engine block of [REDACTED] vehicle and fired two rounds at Murillo to stop the lethal threat (**Lethal Use of Force**).

According to Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Murillo then fell to the ground and dropped the *machete*. Officer [REDACTED] then broadcasted a *help call* for *shots fired*.

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] approached Murillo, used [REDACTED] foot to kick the weapon out of Murillo's reach, and then redeployed behind a parked vehicle (**Additional Tactical Debrief Topics – Tactical Planning and Preservation of Evidence**).

Additional personnel arrived at the scene, a plan to approach was formulated, and Murillo was taken into custody without further incident (**Additional Tactical Debrief Topics – Profanity**).

Note: The investigation revealed that during a search of Murillo, a hammer was recovered from inside his zipped-up jacket.

Sergeant [REDACTED] responded to the scene of the OIS and assumed the role of Incident Commander (IC). [REDACTED] requested a RA and separated, monitored and obtained a Public Safety Statement (PSS) from Officer [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], Topanga Patrol Division, responded, separated, monitored and obtained a PSS from Officer [REDACTED].

LAFD personnel responded and transported Murillo to Northridge Hospital Medical Center. Murillo failed to respond to medical treatment at the hospital and was pronounced deceased by Doctor [REDACTED].

FINDINGS

Tactics – Tactical Debrief, Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Drawing/Exhibiting – In Policy, No Further Action, Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Lethal Use of Force – In Policy, No Further Action, Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ANALYSIS

Detention

An officer responded to a radio call where the suspect assaulted a victim. The suspect emerged from the residence armed with a weapon and fled from the officer. Additional officers responded to the help call, where the suspect then charged at them with a weapon and an OIS ensued. The officers' actions were appropriate and within Department policies and procedures.

Tactics

Department policy relative to Tactical Debriefs is: "The collective review of an incident to identify those areas where actions and decisions were effective and those areas where actions and decisions could have been improved. The intent of a Tactical Debrief is to enhance future performance" (Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Volume 3, Section 792.05).

The evaluation of tactics requires that consideration be given to the fact that officers are forced to make split-second decisions under very stressful and dynamic circumstances. Tactics are conceptual and intended to be flexible and incident specific, which requires that each incident be looked at objectively and the tactics be evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances.

[REDACTED]

Tactical De-Escalation

Tactical de-escalation involves the use of techniques to reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect and enable an officer to have additional options to gain voluntary compliance or mitigate the need to use a higher level of force while maintaining control of the situation (Use of Force - Tactics Directive No. 16, October 2016, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques).

Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromise his or her safety or increase the risk of physical harm to the public. De-escalation techniques should only be used when it is safe and prudent to do so.

In this case, when the suspect exited the residence armed with a weapon, the officer gave multiple commands to drop the knife. The suspect ignored the officer's commands, ran down an alley, and out of the officer's line of sight. The suspect then exited the mouth of the ally, running directly towards officers with the weapon in his right hand.

Faced with an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death, the officers utilized lethal force to stop the deadly threat.

During a review of the incident, the following Additional Tactical Debriefing Points were noted:

Additional Tactical Debrief Topics

Weapons other than firearms – The investigation revealed that when Officer [REDACTED] requested an additional unit for a possible ADW suspect, [REDACTED] did not broadcast that the weapon involved was an edged weapon. Officer [REDACTED] is reminded of the importance of advising CD when an edged weapon is involved, as it ensures a field unit with a beanbag shotgun or other available less-lethal munitions and a supervisor are dispatched to the call. I will direct that this be a topic of discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

Holding Service Pistol in Right Hand and Hand-Held Radio in Left Hand – The investigation revealed that Officer [REDACTED] drew [REDACTED] service pistol in [REDACTED] right hand while holding [REDACTED] hand-held radio in [REDACTED] left hand. Officer [REDACTED] is reminded of the tactical disadvantage of having a service pistol in one hand and an additional piece of equipment in the other hand. In this case, it is understandable because the situation was rapidly evolving and Officer [REDACTED] needed to broadcast information while simultaneously being concerned about the potential for a deadly threat. This necessity for multi-tasking by a lone officer is the very reason we encourage single officer units to wait for additional units prior to arriving on the scene of a potentially violent radio call. While it was unavoidable in this case, I will direct that this be a topic of discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

Profanity – A review of Officer [REDACTED]'s BWV captured [REDACTED] using profanity while giving Murillo commands. Officer [REDACTED] is reminded that profanity may unnecessarily escalate the situation. I will direct that this be a topic of discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

Tactical Planning – The investigation revealed Officer [REDACTED] approached the suspect immediately after the OIS to kick the weapon away from the suspect without first formulating a tactical plan or arrest team. Officer [REDACTED] is reminded that it is preferable to formulate a tactical plan to ensure minimal exposure to the officers. I will direct this topic be discussed during the Tactical Debrief.

Preservation of Evidence – The investigation revealed that Officer [REDACTED] used [REDACTED] foot to move the weapon away from Murillo to prevent him from re-arming himself. Officer [REDACTED] is reminded, whenever tactically feasible, it is preferable to leave evidence undisturbed until FID investigators can properly document and preserve the scene. In this case, it is understandable because the risk of the suspect re-arming himself outweighed the benefits of leaving the evidence in place. While it was unavoidable in this case, I will direct that this topic be discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

Command and Control

Sergeant [REDACTED] responded and assumed the role of IC, requested an RA, separated, monitored and obtained a PSS from Officer [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED] responded, separated, monitored and obtained a PSS from Officer [REDACTED].


The actions of these supervisors were consistent with Department supervisory training and met my expectations of field supervisors during a critical incident.

Tactical Debrief

Each tactical incident also merits a comprehensive debriefing. In this case, there were identified areas where improvement could be made and a Tactical Debrief is the appropriate forum for the involved personnel to discuss individual actions that took place during this incident.

Therefore, I will direct that Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attend a Tactical Debrief and that the specific identified topics are discussed.

Note: Additionally, the Tactical Debrief shall also include the following mandatory discussion points:

- Use of Force Policy;
 - Equipment Required/Maintained;
 - Radio and Tactical Communication (including Code Six);
 - Tactical Planning;
 - Tactical De-Escalation;
 - Command and Control; and,
 - Lethal Force.
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General Training Update (GTU)

On January 3, 2018, Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended a GTU. All the mandatory topics were covered.

Drawing/Exhibiting

Department policy relative to drawing and exhibiting a firearm is: "An officer's decision to draw or exhibit a firearm should be based on the tactical situation and the officer's reasonable belief there is a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified" (Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Volume No. 1, Section 556.80).

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo exited the residence while wearing a gas mask and holding a machete in his left hand. Both Murillo's arms were at his side until he saw Officer [REDACTED]. Murillo then stopped and raised his arms above his shoulders. Officer [REDACTED] backed up, drew [REDACTED] service pistol and advised Murillo several times to drop the knife.

After Murillo fled in the alley, Officer [REDACTED] holstered [REDACTED] service pistol, ran to the mouth of the alley to keep eyes on Murillo, and broadcast a help call for a male armed with a machete. [REDACTED] observed Murillo jump the fence into the backyard of the residence. Concerned that Murillo could re-enter the residence, Officer [REDACTED] ran to the front of the house and drew [REDACTED] service pistol.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

He was wearing a gas mask ...he held in his left hand what I believed to be a long knife; appeared to look like a machete and he was holding it up in a stance with both arms held out to his sides above his shoulders ...He was grunting; didn't say any words...as he approached me I did back up towards the wrought iron gate and I did draw my weapon out and point it at him.

I did unholster when I came back around to the front of the house to cover the front door...I believe that he could have possibly jumped the back wall and come back through the rear of the residence and come out the front and I believed he was still armed because I did not see him drop...any weapon or the machete and if he comes back through the front door then I would have had to engage him at that point.

According to Officer [REDACTED] observed Murillo in the alley wearing a gas mask while wielding a hammer in his right hand and a machete or some type of edged weapon in his left hand. Before [REDACTED] was even out of the car, Murillo advanced in a full-blown sprint with both weapons in each hand, flailing them above his head as he ran in [REDACTED] direction. Officer [REDACTED] exited, assuming a position behind [REDACTED] open passenger door, and drew [REDACTED] service pistol.

[REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

...the suspect is now already in a full-blown sprint in my direction. And he's got both weapons in each hand and he's almost flailing them above his head as he's running in my direction ...obviously, I'm in fear ...when I exited my vehicle, I deployed my - - my firearm, department firearm, based on the tactic situation and my reason to believe ...that situation might escalate to the point where deadly force is necessary. █

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] observed Murillo walking casually south in the alley carrying a machete-type of instrument. As [REDACTED] was placing the vehicle in park, Murillo looked in the officers' direction and began sprinting directly in their direction. Officer [REDACTED] exited the vehicle, drew [REDACTED] service pistol, and observed Murillo charging them, noting that Murillo was running towards them and not away from them.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

As I turned the vehicle wide, I observed the suspect walking southbound carrying a long, slender object that appeared to me to be some sort of blade or a machete type of instrument...as I was placing the vehicle in park, the suspect turned, looked in our direction, obviously identified that we were police officers and began to run directly in our direction. At that time my partner and I deployed out of the vehicle and drew our weapons...based on the scenario...rising to the level of deadly force, possibly, based on the suspect being armed with the machete, closing the distance and having caused harm to people inside of the location, per the broadcast of the gang officer █

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the UOFRB determined, and I concur, that an officer with similar training and experience as Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], while faced with similar circumstances, would reasonably believe there was a substantial risk the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified.

Therefore, I find Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s Drawing/Exhibiting to be In Policy, No Further Action.

Note: In addition to the above listed employees, there were additional personnel that either drew or exhibited firearms during the incident. This Drawing/Exhibiting was appropriate and requires no specific findings or action in regard to these officers.

Lethal Use of Force

Law enforcement officers are authorized to use deadly force to:

- *Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury; or,*

[REDACTED]

- Prevent a crime where the subject's actions place person(s) in imminent jeopardy of death or serious bodily injury; or,
- Prevent the escape of a violent fleeing felon when there is probable cause to believe the escape will pose a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others if apprehension is delayed. In this circumstance, officers shall, to the extent practical, avoid using deadly force that might subject innocent bystanders or hostages to possible death or injury (Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Volume No.1, Section 556.10).

Officer [REDACTED] – 9mm, five rounds in a northerly direction from an approximate decreasing distance of 28-14 feet.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo was approximately 30 feet from [REDACTED] and rapidly closing the distance. Fearing Murillo was going to use either the impact or edged weapon against [REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED] told Murillo to stop, acquired [REDACTED] front sights, took a few steps back to redeploy, and fired five rounds at Murillo to stop the lethal threat.

According to Officer [REDACTED], after the third shot, Murillo appeared to deviate his path of travel, as if flanking [REDACTED] and had closed the distance to approximately 10 to 15 feet. Officer [REDACTED] feared if Murillo flanked [REDACTED], it would leave [REDACTED] with no cover. Murillo could then use the impact device or edged weapon as a throwing object.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

...he's running at me, he's closing the distance...with an edged weapon and an impact device flailing them as he's running towards me. I'm in fear that he's going to be able to close that distance which was approximately, like, 30 feet and closing fast, that he's going to use either the impact or edged weapon against me. So I fired my service weapon to...protect myself from eminent threat, serious bodily injury and /or death that this guy may - - may cause - - inflict upon myself...I fired three shots as he's running directly at me in closing that distance.

From that third to fifth shot, he's [Murillo's] the closest he had gotten to me. And, again, like I said, even though he's now changed direction, I mean...that's common tactic to outflank your enemy or opposing threat. Outflanking them to - - to reengage them...And, again, with this edged weapon and even the impact device now he's in a closer proximity to me 10, 15 feet, whatever that was approximately where now you have a better chance of hitting your target with those impact devices or that other edged weapon...I feared at any given time, absolutely, he could have thrown that in my direction and still caused serious bodily injury to myself.

Officer [REDACTED] – .45 caliber, two rounds in a northerly direction from an approximate distance of 22 feet.

[REDACTED]

According to Officer [REDACTED], Murillo was closing the distance rapidly and appeared to go wide on Officer [REDACTED], possibly going around the door to gain better access to [REDACTED] partner and use the weapon against [REDACTED]. Believing [REDACTED] partner was in imminent danger of being hacked up by Murillo and the machete, Officer [REDACTED] stepped to the front engine block of [REDACTED] vehicle and fired two rounds at Murillo to stop the lethal threat.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

At this time the suspect was now exiting the alley towards us not away from us which did not lead me to believe that he was fleeing from us. And closing the distance between my partner and himself...At this time I believe that my partner was in eminent danger of being hacked up by this guy and the machete. So I ended up engaging him with my handgun approximately one to two rounds.

As he was coming towards my partner, he began to, what appeared to me to go wide on my partner in a tactical way of getting [REDACTED] -- getting [REDACTED] side. Based on my partner's position, the way that we deploy for training and experience, normally we try and put a barrier between suspects. It appeared to me that this suspect was either trying to get around the barrier and go wide, so to speak, or possibly charge other officers behind us...Based on the fact that this suspect was closing the distance rapidly on my partner, and I believe my partner was about to get attacked by a suspect with a machete, I then engaged him with my pistol.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the UOFRB determined, and I concur, that an officer with similar training and experience as Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], would reasonably believe Murillo's actions presented an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury and that the Use of Lethal Force would be objectively reasonable.

Therefore, I find Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s Use of Lethal Force to be objectively reasonable and In Policy, No Further Action.

Additional/Equipment

GED Unit Deployment – The investigation revealed that Officer [REDACTED], assigned to GED, was assigned as an L-unit. In this instance, Officer [REDACTED] was appropriately serving as a resource enhancing a patrol operation. Nevertheless, the UOFRB determined, and I concur, that the GED unit and Sergeant [REDACTED] should assign three officers to a car, with approval from the Commanding Officer, or assign one officer to administrative duties when there is an odd number of gang officers working. This issue was addressed with Sergeant [REDACTED] by Captain [REDACTED] Serial No. [REDACTED], Commanding Officer, Topanga Area. As such, I deem no further action necessary.

[REDACTED]

Equipment (Department Badge) – The investigation revealed that when Officer [REDACTED] responded to the help call, [REDACTED] left [REDACTED] Department badge secured to [REDACTED] jacket at Topanga Station. I will direct this topic be discussed during the Tactical Debrief.

Crossfire – The investigation revealed that after the OIS, multiple officers deployed on the sidewalk east of Murillo, creating a potential crossfire situation. A review of officers BWV captured the officers identifying the potential crossfire, and tactically redeploying to positions of cover. Captain [REDACTED] addressed the issue with the officers. As such, I deem no further action is necessary.

Hazardous Material Exposure – The investigation revealed that after officers detected a gas leak at the residence, they turned off the exterior gas line, and then entered and searched the residence without allowing time to ventilate and minimize their exposure to the gas. This issue is being discussed via roll call training with Topanga and West Valley Division personnel. As such, I deem no further action necessary.

Audio/Video Recordings

Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS)/BWV– Topanga Division vehicles were not equipped with DICVS at the time of the incident. Topanga Division personnel were equipped with BWV at the time of this incident. Officer [REDACTED]'s BWV captured screams coming from inside the residence, Murillo's actions upon exiting the residence, and him fleeing the location. Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s BWV captured Murillo running out of the alley and the OIS.

Outside Video – A cellular telephone recording by [REDACTED] captured the air unit orbiting, the sound of gunfire and then Murillo lying on the ground. It did not capture video of the OIS.

Respectfully,


MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Date: 10-18-18