

21-3520

Supplement No
0025

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002

Report Type
OAA

Reported Date
04/01/2021

Officer
ESPARZA, R

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information

Agency Santa Barbara County Sheriff	Report No 21-3520	Supplement No 0025	Reported Date 04/01/2021	Reported Time 07:25	Status Offense
Report Type Outside Agency Assist	Location N H ST/E WALNUT AV				
City Lompoc City	ZIP Code 93436	Rep Dist L155	Area 3	Beat LO	From Date 03/28/2021
Officer 3541/ESPARZA, R	Assignment CID DETECTIVES	Entered by 3541	Assignment CID DETECTIVES		
Confidential LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INVOLVED	RMS Transfer Successful	Prop Trans Stat Successful	Approving Officer 3495		
Approval Date 04/26/2021	Approval Time 15:08:43				

Summary Narrative

This report will document Cpl. White's statement as well as the certification of the transcript.

Victim as Law Enforcement Officer 1: WHITE, ANDREW

Involvement Victim as Law Enforcement Officer	Invl No 1	Type Individual			
Name WHITE, ANDREW	MNI 1041128	Race White	Sex Male	DOB [REDACTED]	Age 36
Type Work/Business	Address 107 CIVIC CENTER PLZ			City Lompoc City	
State California	ZIP Code 93436	Date 04/01/2021			
Type Operator License	ID No [REDACTED]	OLS California			
Phone Type Business	Phone No [REDACTED]	Date 04/01/2021			

Property

Item 1	Agency Santa Barbara County Sheriff	Report No 21-3520	Original Incident 21-3520	Original supplement 0025	Involvement Evidence
Invl Date 04/01/2021	In Custody? Yes	Security No	Tag No 09070658	Item No 1	Value \$0.00
Description CD - Interview				Typ A	Cat Other
Article Miscellaneous items	Entered Date 04/26/2021	Entered Time 14:04	RMS Transfer Successful	Control 3541 0426211405	

Narrative

CONTINUATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS :

Original transcriptions of Cpl. White's interview were scanned and attached via E-Files as well as the certified, reviewed and edited transcriptions. NOTE: Editing was primarily spelling of Officer's names.

EVIDENCE:

Interview was captured with my department issued digital recorder as well as Detective Kohli's recorder. Both recordings were transferred onto a CD and booked into evidence.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff**Narrative****NARRATIVE:**

On Wednesday, 3-31-2021 at approximately 1125 hours, Detective Kohli and I conducted an interview with Corporal Andrew White from the Lompoc Police Department at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, located at 1201 N. H Street in Lompoc, Ca. The interview took place in a conference room located within the hotel. Corporal White was present with his attorney Michael Selyem from Castillo Harper.

NOTE: Prior to commencing the interview, we were advised by Lompoc P.D. Detective Sergeant Magallon that Corporal White as well as Officer Calderon had already been given access to and viewed the patrol vehicle Watchguard videos from the shooting incident, the 9-1-1 call and radio traffic. We were also advised that both officers had met with the Chief earlier this morning.

The following is a summary of the interview (Refer to audio recording and transcript of the interview for further details).

I started the interview by confirming with Corporal White that he wanted to provide a voluntary statement and he stated he did. I then asked Corporal White to describe his background and experience in law enforcement. Corporal White stated he had been a Police Officer with the Lompoc Police Department for approximately 14 years. During his time with Lompoc P.D., he has held assignments as a Field Training Officer, Gangs Narcotics Officer, K-9- handler and is currently a patrol Corporal.

I asked Corporal White some preliminary questions about events leading up to the incident. At the time of the incident, Corporal White was working nightshift, 1900 hours to 0700 hours. His work days were Saturday, Sunday, Monday and every other Tuesday. Corporal White recalled he slept for approximately seven hours prior to his shift on Sunday, 3-28-2021. Corporal White stated he did not consume any alcohol prior to the incident and he was not on any medications that would affect his ability to perform his job. Corporal White carries a 9-millimeter Glock sidearm. He carries it with one round in the chamber and 16 rounds in the magazine.

Prior to asking Corporal White to provide a statement, I asked if he had previously viewed or listened to any of the patrol vehicles Watchguard videos, 9-1-1 call or radio traffic and he said yes. Corporal White stated he and his attorney viewed the dash cam videos, a street camera video and listened to the 9-1-1 call and radio traffic prior to coming to the hotel. I inquired if he had met with either his Captain or Chief prior to viewing the videos and he said no. Corporal White stated he briefly met with Captain Martin prior to this interview. They spoke about the department acquiring equipment, but nothing related to the OIS. He then spoke with the Chief, but it was only for him to sign some paperwork.

I asked Corporal White to detail the incident that occurred on Sunday, 3-28-21, that led up to the OIS (Officer Involved Shooting) and he told us the following: After concluding their squad briefing, Dispatch broadcasted a call of a subject with a gun, last seen walking northbound in the 100 block of "George Henry alley". He was not sure but believed Officer Carrillo and Officer Mendoza were the Officers who were initially dispatched to the call. As he was leaving the parking lot, he heard responding officers advise that they were searching the area, but were unable to locate the subject. Upon arriving in the area, Officer Carrillo advised that he had located the subject, later identified as Krys Brandon Ruiz, matching the description, wearing a blue jacket and black pants.

Cpl. White heard Officer Calderon coordinating how they were going to approach Ruiz, who possibly had a gun. Officer Calderon talked about waiting at the north end of the alley, offset from the alley, and to have Officer Carrillo push him out towards the street.

Officer Carrillo was providing updates on the radio that Ruiz was noncompliant and still walking away from him. During this time, Cpl. White arrived and parked next to Officer Calderon's vehicle which was parked in the 100 block of East Walnut, just prior to the "George Henry" alley access. It was also during this time that Officer Carrillo put out that Ruiz was walking west through the field. Cpl. White described the area as being a vacant lot, just north of the old theatre.

After Officer Carrillo put out that information, he peeled away from Officer Calderon's location, moved west in order to see if he could see Ruiz. From his position, he was able to see a silhouette in the middle of the field, walking around. Cpl. White got into his patrol vehicle and turned on the vehicle's spotlight in order to attempt to get a better view. The spotlight was ineffective due to there being a large bush in the way so he got out and used

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his flashlight to try to illuminate Ruiz. During this time, Cpl. White made an announcement to Ruiz, "Lompoc Police, show us your hands, show us your hands." Ruiz briefly put his hands in the air. Cpl. White said Ruiz was wearing long sleeves, which appeared to be pulled over his hands, which made it impossible for him to see Ruiz' hands. After Ruiz place his hands up, he brought them back down.

Cpl. White stated Ruiz was acting in a "weird" way. He described the weird way as Ruiz pacing around, "kinda anxiety looking". Ruiz began to look back at Officer Carrillo, who was south of his location then look at Cpl. White's location, then back towards Officer Carrillo. Ruiz then started walking towards his and Officer Calderon's location at a "brisk pace", more or less towards Officer Calderon. Cpl. White continued to give Ruiz commands and also took out his duty weapon, due to the mention of Ruiz possibly having a gun. As he was giving Ruiz commands to show his hands, Ruiz started running towards Officer Calderon in a full-on sprint.

As Ruiz was running towards Officer Calderon's location, Ruiz was flailing his arms in a windmill style. Due to Cpl. White not being able to see a gun in Ruiz' hands, he decided to holster his weapon in order for him to deliver a front kick or a distraction strike to throw Ruiz off his course. As he began to holster his weapon, he kept his eyes on Ruiz' hands and with the reflection of the light, he saw Ruiz was holding a knife in his right hand.

Cpl. White described the knife as being large with a distinct kind of metal. As soon as he saw the knife, he unholstered his weapon. As he brought his weapon back up, he heard a shot from his left. He then began shooting at the threat until Ruiz fell and landed on his back and was not moving.

Officers then began coordinating efforts to place Ruiz in custody so they can begin providing medical care. Cpl. White had AMR standing by in the area, waiting for the scene to be safe for them to enter. After Ruiz was placed in handcuffs, other supervisors arrived and took over the scene.

After Cpl. White provided his narrative, Detective Kohli and I asked some follow-up questions for clarification. The following is a summary of his responses:

He did not see Ruiz' face due to Ruiz wearing some type of clown mask.

He had not logged on the patrol vehicle computer, so his "mic" had not been synched. He explained that in order for the in-car camera to capture the audio communication, he would have had to sign in and synched the mic to the computer. Cpl. White was not carrying any other recording devices other than a digital recorder, which he did not activate.

The street lights illuminated the area of Walnut, but the alley where Ruiz was at was dark, with no lighting other than the light the responding officers were using.

When he was identifying himself and directing Ruiz to show his hands, Ruiz never responded verbally. Ruiz was moving side to side, looking at the patrol vehicles and their lights.

I asked him what was going through his mind when he saw Ruiz running towards his partner. Cpl. White stated because he initially did not see any weapon, he was thinking of holstering his weapon and moving to a different force option. Initially, he was thinking of giving Ruiz a distraction strike or kick. Ruiz also had a baggy jacket on so a taser was not an option. The less lethal 40 millimeter was in his car, but due to the urgency, he was not able to return to his patrol vehicle.

Once Ruiz got within 10 yards of Officer Calderon, was when he saw the knife in Ruiz' hand. Cpl. White felt that with Ruiz closing the distance between him and Officer Calderon, Ruiz was either going to seriously hurt or kill Officer Calderon, then go after him.

I asked if he had used any de-escalation tactics during the incident. He initially attempted to communicate with Ruiz by identifying himself as the police and asking Ruiz to show his hands. After Ruiz started charging and he identified the knife, he realized it was an imminent threat that was closing in fast.

After the shots were fired, he moved his way to Officer Calderon, grabbed him and had the units who were parked down the alley to come up with their vehicle to provide a shield between Ruiz and them. Once in position, he directed Officers Carrillo and Strong to pie off the right side of Ruiz in order to check for the knife, but they did not see one. He then developed a plan to have two officers approach Ruiz, grab his wrists and pull him away from

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where the knife could be. Once the officers pulled Ruiz away, he observed a large knife where Ruiz' right hand would have been prior to him being moved.

No lifesaving steps were attempted due to the severity of the wound and Ruiz being obviously deceased. He described the back of Ruiz' head being blown out.

After the scene was clear, Sgt. Morgan approached him and asked him for his digital recorder. Sgt. Morgan turned the recorder on and asked the safety questions.

Cpl. White said he had discussed the incident with his attorney and his wife.

We took a break and returned with a few follow-up questions. I asked Cpl. White if he could provide more description on the path Ruiz took when he started running towards Officer Calderon. He said Ruiz was in the middle of the field and he (Cpl. White) was directly north of Ruiz. He estimated Ruiz was approximately 30 to 40 yards south of his location. Once Ruiz started running towards Officer Calderon, it appeared that he took a straight path towards Officer Calderon.

We thanked Cpl. White and concluded the interview.

CASE DISPOSITION:

Follow-up report taken, investigation ongoing