

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002

Report Type
OAA

(805) 681-4100

Reported Date
05/10/2021

Officer
ESPARZA, R

Administrative Information

Agency Santa Barbara County Sheriff	Report No 21-3520	Supplement No 0036	Reported Date 05/10/2021	Reported Time 11:06	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
From Time 20:04	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 05/12/2021	Approval Time 14:39:31				

Summary Narrative

This supplemental report contains an overall investigative summary of the Lompoc Police Department officer involved shooting that occurred on Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Narrative

RELATIONSHIPS:

Krys Brandon Ruiz is the suspect/decedent in this investigation.

Corporal White and Officer Calderon are the Lompoc Police Department Officers who fired their firearms during the Officer Involved Shooting (O/S) when they encountered the suspect, Krys Brandon Ruiz.

EVIDENCE:

See the original report and all supplemental reports which list numerous items of evidence collected during this investigation

NARRATIVE:

On Sunday, March 28, 2021, two Lompoc Police Department Officers, (Corporal A. White and Officer Calderon) were involved in an Officer Involved Shooting (O/S) in the 100 block of East Walnut Avenue, in the city of Lompoc, Ca. with the suspect, Krys Brandon Ruiz. Once the scene was secured, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) Detectives and Forensics personnel responded and investigated the circumstances leading up to the Officer Involved Shooting.

During the course of this investigation, several interviews were conducted, along with the review of in-car video footage, 911 call, and an examination of physical evidence. For complete details of the investigation, refer to the original report and supplemental reports 01 through 35.

The following is a summary of the investigation.

On Sunday, March 28, 2021, at approximately 2004 hours, LPD Dispatch received a 9-1-1 call from a subject who was later identified as the suspect, Krys Brandon Ruiz, about a subject wearing dark clothing, holding a gun. In the beginning of the 9-1-1 call, the Dispatcher asked what the emergency was. The caller reported seeing a subject with an object that looked like a gun in the area of the Lompoc theater. When the Dispatcher inquired if it was the theater by 100 N. H Street, the caller said yes. The caller described the subject as wearing dark clothing and possibly wearing a mask. The caller reported seeing the subject walking down the alley, but was unable to provide any further details (refer to 911 call audio for details- supplemental 18).

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Based on the 9-1-1 call, a call for service was generated and dispatched to Officer Carrillo. The initial details provided to responding officers via radio indicated that there was a subject with a gun in the area of the 100 block of North H Street, near the old theatre, wearing all dark clothing. Dispatch updated the call as the subject possibly walking in the George/Henry alley.

Officer Carrillo and his entire squad, Sgt. Morgan, Cpl. White, Officer Calderon and Officer Strong responded to the area. Officer Carrillo arrived and positioned himself northbound behind the old theatre with Officer Strong behind him. Cpl. White and Officer Calderon drove to the 100 block of E. Walnut Avenue. Sgt. Morgan was the last one to arrive and positioned his patrol vehicle in the area east of Cpl. White and Officer Calderon's location.

Officer Carrillo advised Dispatch that he had located a subject, wearing black sweatpants and a blue sweatshirt, later identified as Ruiz, walking northbound in the alley. Officer Carrillo believed it was the subject of the call because there was no one else in the alley. He began giving Ruiz commands to show officers his hands. Ruiz ignored the commands and continued walking northbound. Ruiz then walked west, across the alley and into an open space adjacent to the alley. Officer Carrillo lost sight of Ruiz because there were bushes which obstructed his view. Officer Carrillo did not see Ruiz again until after the shooting (*refer to the audio of Officer Carrillo's interview and supplemental 14 for complete details*).

Officer Calderon recalled hearing Officer Carrillo broadcasting over the radio that Ruiz was walking northbound in the alley. Since Ruiz was supposed to be armed with a handgun, Officer Calderon deployed his department issued patrol rifle (AR-15). Officer Calderon loaded a round in the chamber of the rifle and started to walk toward the alley.

Officer Calderon encountered Ruiz, as described by Officer Carrillo earlier. Ruiz was wearing black bottoms and blue sweatshirt. Officer Calderon was not able to see the Ruiz' hands. Officer Calderon identified himself as a police officer and ordered Ruiz to show his hands. Ruiz looked at Officer Calderon and started to walk away from him. Officer Calderon yelled, "Show me your hands. Police." Ruiz stopped, turned around, and started walking towards Officer Calderon. Officer Calderon ordered Ruiz to "stop." Ruiz glanced up at Officer Calderon, and he noticed Ruiz was wearing a clown mask on his face. Officer Calderon recalled getting a chill down his entire body, after he saw the mask. Ruiz brought his hand up, and started running toward Officer Calderon. Officer Calderon estimated Ruiz was approximately 20-25 feet away from him, when he noticed Ruiz had a knife in his hand. Ruiz was running straight towards Officer Calderon. Officer Calderon feared Ruiz was going to stab and kill him. Fearing for his own life, Officer Calderon fired his rifle. Officer Calderon estimated Ruiz was approximately 15-20 feet away from him when he fired. Officer Calderon knew Ruiz was shot since he saw him flinch, but Ruiz was still coming at him. Officer Calderon fired a few more shots, and saw Ruiz fall down. Once Ruiz fell down, Officer Calderon stopped firing and he noticed Ruiz was not moving. Officer Calderon and other officers developed a plan to approach Ruiz and place him into handcuffs, prior to providing medical care. However, Officer Calderon noticed Ruiz had sustained a gunshot wound to the head and was deceased (*refer to the audio of Officer Calderon's interview and supplemental 26 for complete details*).

Cpl. White heard Officer Carrillo 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 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

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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.

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 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 (*refer to the audio of Corporal White's interview and supplemental 25 for complete details*).

Audio/Video of the incident:

I reviewed several in-car video footages that was provided by LPD. The video footage does not contain any audio due to the responding officers not syncing their mics in the patrol vehicle in-car video system.

I reviewed Officer Carrillo's in-car video and noted the following: Officer Carrillo drove his vehicle up to Ocean Avenue and turned left, continued Eastbound and turned right onto G Street. It then turned left into the alley that led to the old Lompoc Theatre. Upon reaching the theatre, Officer Carrillo turned right into the alley. He turned the driver side spotlight on and illuminated a subject that was later identified as Krys B. Ruiz. Ruiz looked back at Officer's Carrillo's location and began to walk northbound, away from his vehicle. Ruiz continued to walk and looked back at Officer Carrillo before walking westbound into the open lot, out of sight from Carrillo's camera view.

At 20:09:03, a black marked SUV is seen driving westbound on Walnut Avenue. Seconds later, Officer Calderon is seen walking westbound near the southern sidewalk on Walnut Avenue. He is seen holding the patrol rifle as he walked next to Corporal White, who had exited the black marked SUV. At 20:09:27, Corporal White and Officer Calderon begin to step backwards, followed by firing their weapons. At this time, Ruiz is seen coming into view, running towards the officers and ultimately falling after being struck by several fired rounds.

I reviewed Cpl. White's in-car video and noted the following: Cpl. White is seen driving on E. Walnut Avenue and park the patrol vehicle facing south, in front of the open lot. Cpl. White activated the driver side spotlight and illuminated a subject later identified as Ruiz, standing in the open lot area. Ruiz moved eastbound and went out of view due to a large bush.

Approximately ten seconds later, Ruiz is seen walking in a north/east direction, towards Officer Calderon's possible location. Ruiz placed his hands up, but immediately put them down. He then began to run in the north/east direction. As he was running, a flashlight appeared to have illuminated Ruiz as he passed some bushes and continued running, but due to the camera positioning, nothing else was seen.

I reviewed Officer Calderon's in-car video and noted the following: Officer Calderon drove westbound on Walnut Avenue and stopped on the south curb line, between 112 E. Walnut Avenue and 139 N. G Street and turned off the vehicle's headlights. Approximately 40 seconds later, Officer Calderon moved the vehicle up to the front of 112 E. Walnut Avenue.

Officer Calderon exited his vehicle and walked westbound on Walnut Avenue. Cpl. White is seen driving past Officer Calderon's vehicle and parked his vehicle facing south towards the open lot with the spotlight on.

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Both officers are seen walking south in the direction of the open lot. At 20:09:27 of the video, both officers begin to walk back 2-3 steps before beginning to fire their firearms. An object that appears to be a subject is seen falling, but due to large bushes and the building (112 E. Walnut), nothing else was seen (*refer to booked DVD's and supplemental reports 15 and 18 for complete details*).

Review of note located inside Ruiz' pants pocket:

As the Forensics' Technicians were photographing Ruiz, they noticed "Reach in my pocket" written on his right arm. Ruiz was searched and a folded-up note was located inside a "Ziploc" plastic bag. The note was in his left front pants pocket, and it had the following written on it:

My name is Krys Ruiz, I am a transgender male
[REDACTED]

My mother's name is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My phone code is [REDACTED]

My date of birth is [REDACTED]

I was around much longer than I should have been. Its not anybody's fault but my own

I am giving my mom & sister Jillian everything because they know what things have most value

I also want to be cremated so I don't bankrupt my family

signed, Krys Ruiz

The other side of the note read:

"I hope my death makes more sense than my life"

(*refer to supplemental 35 for complete details*).

Throughout the course of this investigation, I reviewed numerous LPD reports that detailed their contacts with Ruiz dating back to 2017. The following are summaries of reports I believe are pertinent to this investigation:

Lompoc P.D. case # 1704-2756

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lompoc P.D. case # 1711-1484

[REDACTED]

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Lompoc P.D. case # 1807-2561

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lompoc P.D. case # 1909-3048

[REDACTED]

Round count by Officer:

The two Officers involved in the OIS were transported to the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, located at 1201 N. H Street in Lompoc, Ca and were processed by Forensic Personnel during which time their firearms were taken as evidence. During the subsequent interviews with CIB Detectives, they provided details about how they load their weapons and magazines prior to their shift. Based on the rounds left in their magazine and their statement of how their weapons were loaded, the following round count was determined for each involved deputy

Corporal White: 4 rounds of 9mm

Officer Calderon: **NOTE:** Officer Calderon did not fire his issued Glock 17 firearm. He deployed the AR-15 from inside the patrol vehicle, which due to not having time, he did not inventory the loaded rounds, but recalled firing 4-5 rounds at the suspect. During Forensics processing of the scene, four shell casings were located, and seized as evidence.

Conclusion:

After a thorough review of this incident, it appears as though the involved Officers fired their weapons in fear of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or to their fellow Officers. This is based on Corporal White and Officer Calderon's statement, witness interviews, and recorded video footage that shows Krys Brandon Ruiz refusing to comply with Officer's commands and charging Officers with a knife in his right hand.

CASE DISPOSITION:

Investigation Complete. Forward to Senior Deputy District Attorney Anne Nudson