

# Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

## Office of Public Information

400-B S. Martin L. King Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89106

Office (702) 828-3394 Fax (702) 828-1550



Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

April 4, 2016

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director Carla Alston  
Sergeant Jeff Clark  
Officer Laura Meltzer  
Officer Larry Hadfield  
Officer Jesse Roybal  
Officer Michael Rodriguez

## Undersheriff Kevin McMahill Discusses March 31, 2016 O.I.S.

Undersheriff Kevin McMahill met with the media today to discuss additional details of the March 31, 2016 officer involved shooting. At approximately 11:46 a.m. LVMPD patrol officers were dispatched to a neighborhood located in the 9800 block of Fast Elk Street to investigate multiple reports of shots fired and two people possibly injured. It was also reported that a male, later identified as 31-year-old James Simpson, was walking down the street holding a gun.

Arriving officers located Simpson standing in the middle of the intersection of Fast Elk Street and Crazy Bull Avenue, and holding a firearm. Officers attempted to establish communication with Simpson, and eventually Simpson dropped his firearm, but refused to comply with orders to step away from the weapon. An arriving K9 sergeant deployed K9 Nicky to apprehend Simpson. Simpson immediately retrieved his gun from the ground and ran north, away from the officers. As Simpson was running, he turned and fired one round at officers. Two officers returned fire, but Simpson was not hit.

Simpson continued to flee north and wrestled with Nicky as the K9 bit and held onto him. The other officers continued to pursue, and Simpson turned and pointed his gun towards one of the officers. Several officers then fired numerous rounds, and Simpson was struck multiple times. Simpson was then taken into custody and transported to the UMC Trauma Center where he continues to receive treatment for his injuries. It was discovered that K9 Nicky was hit by one of the officer's rounds and was deceased at the scene.

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Officers then went to the residence that Simpson had come out of and located an adult male and an adult female who were deceased inside of the garage from apparent gunshot wounds.

James Simpson was booked in absentia on the night of the incident for the following charges:

- Murder with a deadly weapon (2 counts)
- Attempted murder with a deadly weapon
- Shooting into an occupied structure (3 counts)
- Kidnapping

This is an ongoing criminal investigation and there is a possibility of additional charges being filed.

A video of today's press briefing can be viewed by clicking on the following link:  
[https://youtu.be/pn2\\_sUuRQV0](https://youtu.be/pn2_sUuRQV0)

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> officer involved shooting of 2016. The LVMPD Force Investigation Team is currently investigating the officers' use of force in this incident. Their findings will be forwarded to the Clark County District Attorney for review.

An examination of this incident is also being conducted by the LVMPD Critical Incident Review Team. This review will focus on policy, tactics and training as it relates to this use of force.

This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with any information is urged to contact the LVMPD Force Investigation Section at 702-828-8452. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 702-385-5555, on the internet at [www.crimestoppersofnv.com](http://www.crimestoppersofnv.com), or text CRIMENV plus tip information to 274637 (CRIMES). Message and data rates may apply.

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