

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

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Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

July 15, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Undersheriff Kevin McMahill Discusses July 10, 2015 Officer Involved Shooting

Undersheriff Kevin McMahill met with the media today, July 15, 2015 to discuss additional details of the July 10, 2015 officer involved shooting. At approximately 9:30 a.m., Officer Carlos Luna initiated a vehicle stop on Edmond Street north of Sahara Avenue on a gold Jeep Grand Cherokee for an inoperative taillight. The vehicle came to a stop at the 5600 block of West Sahara Avenue just west of Lindell Avenue.

Upon stopping the vehicle, the driver, later identified as 54 year old James Todora immediately exited the driver side door and began shouting at Officer Luna to shoot him. Todora was ordered to come back to the officer's vehicle, which he disregarded and returned back to Jeep's driver seat and sat down. At that point, the Officer Luna quickly approached the driver side of the vehicle and began explaining the reason for the vehicle stop.

While this was occurring, Officers Jonathan Lipinski and Brian Kroening were conducting a vehicle stop of their own on Sahara Avenue just west of Officer Luna's vehicle stop. Officer Kroening had observed Todora's actions and began to walk east to Officer Luna's vehicle stop to assist.

Meanwhile, Officer Luna was attempting to de-escalate the situation with Todora who was very agitated about an incident that took place a day prior involving the police. During the conversation with Todora, he stated had a rifle inside of the vehicle. Officer Luna asked Todora to exit the vehicle due to weapons being present and his aggressive attitude. Todora refused to exit and stated he was going to shoot himself. Todora then

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retrieved a Ruger 9mm P95 handgun that was concealed underneath a blanket in the passenger seat and pointed it at Officer Luna's head. The handgun made a click, but did not discharge. Officer Luna retreated to the rear of the Jeep to a position of cover.

Todora then fired a round from inside of the vehicle which struck Officer Evan Hogue who was exiting a marked unit that had just arrived to assist. Officer Kroening, who was now at the passenger side of the Jeep, began to engage Todora with his duty weapon. Officer Kroening fired three rounds striking Todora. Officer Kroening subsequently retreated to a position of cover and waited for additional units to arrive. An arrest team was formed and took Todora into custody. Medical personnel were immediately summoned and Todora was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Officer Hogue was transported to UMC Trauma by a marked patrol unit and treated for a grazing wound to his neck and released later that day.

Body camera footage of the incident was also played for the media. It can be accessed via the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/-1vOxHMP6Bw>

Based on the fact that the suspect in this incident is deceased and this video will not be used for prosecutorial purposes, the Department is able to release the body camera footage.

This is the 4th officer-involved shooting and second suspect fatality of 2015.

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