

Office Of Internal Oversight Review
KEY CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF A CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENT
Officer-Involved Shooting—4124 Pennwood Avenue—February 8, 2013

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to publicize a synopsis of the incident, the outcome of the administrative and criminal investigations, the decision rendered by the District Attorney, as well as the findings of the Use of Force Review Board. The goal of the review is to improve both individual and agency performance.

Synopsis of Event:

On February 8, 2013, officers from the Bolden Area Command Problem Solving Unit (PSU) and detectives from the Repeat Offender Program (ROP), along with their supervisors, shared information and developed a plan to locate Roberto Torres, an attempt murder suspect.

Officers had received information Torres was known to frequent an apartment in the 4100 block of Pennwood Avenue. PSU officers initiated surveillance at the location and witnessed a male matching the description of Torres. ROP detectives were notified and were requested to take over surveillance.

While ROP detectives were arriving in the area a subject, later identified as Torres, exited an apartment and walked westbound on Pennwood Avenue. Sergeant Valenta (ROP) broadcasted Torres' direction of travel as he approached two individuals and a vehicle. Sergeant Valenta advised officers to take Torres into custody and not allow Torres to return to the apartment or enter into the vehicle.

Officers Parra and Villanueva (PSU) and Detective Thomas (ROP) moved from their location in the alleyway of the 4100 block of Pennwood Avenue. As they were moving in on the suspect, Officer Parra reached over a block wall and identified himself as a police officer and ordered Torres not to move. Torres disregarded commands, reached into his pocket, drew a handgun and fired at Officer Parra. Officer Parra returned fire and took cover behind the block wall.

Detective Thomas observed Torres fire at Officer Parra and moved into the street to gain a better angle toward Torres. As Torres fired a second round at Officer Parra, Detective Thomas discharged his firearm at Torres. Officer Villanueva did not fire his handgun.

Torres was hit multiple times and subsequently fell to the ground.

Following the incident, investigators learned Torres had contacted the seller of an automobile he located on Craig's List. Prior to Torres exiting the apartment the seller telephoned and advised Torres she and an acquaintance had arrived in the area with the automobile. Torres exited the

Office Of Internal Oversight Review
KEY CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF A CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENT
Officer-Involved Shooting—4124 Pennwood Avenue—February 8, 2013

apartment and the preceding incident occurred. At the time of the incident, officers did not have any knowledge reference the connection between Torres and the two individuals.

The seller was grazed in the foot by one of Detective Thomas' rounds that ricocheted off the ground, and ultimately entered the left front tire of the seller's automobile. The seller's acquaintance was struck by Officer Parra's round.

Medical responded and transported Torres and the seller's acquaintance to UMC. Torres was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The seller's acquaintance was treated for the gunshot wound and released from the hospital several days after the incident. The seller was treated for the graze wound at the scene and refused any further medical treatment.

For a detailed narrative of the incident, please reference the LVMPD Force Investigative Team (FIT) Officer's Report under Event Number 130208-1694.

The Criminal Investigation:

LVMPD FIT conducted the criminal investigation of this incident. Their investigation was submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review. In their examination of the FIT case submission, the District Attorney's Office determined that, "Based on the review of the available materials and application of Nevada law to the known facts and circumstances, it has been determined that the actions of the officers were reasonable and legally justified."

LVMPD's Use of Force Review Board:

1. The matter involving Officer Parra and Detective Thomas was heard by the Use of Force Review Board on January 30, 2014. The Board's finding for each involved officer was "Administrative Approval." The Use of Force Review Board determined the officers' actions were within policy. The Sheriff approved the Board's recommendation.
2. The internal Tactical Review Board concluded the officers' performance was in accordance with Department standardized tactics and training.