

**Office Of Internal Oversight Review**  
**KEY CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF A CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENT**  
**Officer-Involved Shooting — 4233 North Rancho Drive — July 11, 2017**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to publish key conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's (LVMPD) internal review of this incident. There are a variety of actions that can be taken administratively in response to the Department's review of a deadly force incident. The review may reveal no action is required or determine additional training is appropriate for all officers in the workforce, or only for the involved officer(s). The review may reveal the need for changes in department policies, procedures or rules. Where departmental rules have been violated, formal discipline may be appropriate. The goal of the review is to improve both individual and the agency's performance.

**Synopsis of Event:**

On July 11, 2017, at approximately 1308 hours, LVMPD dispatch received a call from a person reporting an attempt robbery in front of the Super Pawn located at 4111 North Rancho Drive. The details stated the suspect, later identified as Caleb Blaylock, was armed with a ten-inch knife and attempted to take a vehicle by force and stab the victim. The victim armed himself with a hammer and struck Blaylock who ran south on Rancho Drive. The victim left the Super Pawn in a burgundy Chevrolet Silverado.

Officer Pollock was assigned to the call and responded to the Super Pawn. Upon Officer Pollock's arrival, the person reporting waited in the parking lot and relayed Blaylock had walked northbound towards Rancho Drive. Officer Pollock saw Blaylock and updated his description over the radio.

Officer Pollock drove north in the southbound lanes of Rancho Drive attempting to stop Blaylock. As Officer Pollock drove closer to Blaylock, he issued verbal commands over the Patrol Vehicle Public Address System for Blaylock to stop. Blaylock refused to stop. Officer Pollock observed Blaylock with a knife in his hand as he began to stab his own neck, causing superficial wounds. Officer Pollock ordered Blaylock to drop the knife and he ran northbound on the west sidewalk of Rancho Drive.

Officer Pollock continued to drive north in the southbound lanes of Rancho Drive with his driver's side door open. Blaylock suddenly changed direction, raised the knife in his right hand and advanced toward Officer Pollock who was sitting in the driver's seat of his patrol vehicle with his door open. Officer Pollock fired rounds from his handgun, striking Blaylock. Officer Pollock exited his vehicle and took Blaylock into custody. Blaylock was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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**The Criminal Investigation:**

The LVMPD Force Investigation Team (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, "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 Critical Incident Review Process and Internal Review:**

1. The matter involving Officer Pollock was heard by the Critical Incident Review Process/Use of Force Review Board on May 24, 2018. The Board's finding was "Administrative Approval." The Use of Force Review Board determined the officer's actions were within policy. The Sheriff approved the Board's recommendation.
2. The internal Tactical Review Board concluded the officer's performance, with some exceptions, was in accordance with Department standardized tactics and training.

Below are the conclusions from the internal review and the Use of Force Review/Tactical Review Board.

**1) Radio Traffic/Communication**

The overall radio traffic conducted during this incident was kept to a minimum and the information provided was vital and necessary.

- CIRT concluded all radio traffic was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

CIRT reviewed Officer Pollock's Body-Worn Camera (BWC) and radio traffic, and determined Officer Pollock updated the event on the area command radio channel providing important information to other responding units.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's information sharing for this incident was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

The dispatcher broadcasted pertinent information that assisted Officer Pollock's approach to the violent crime. The dispatcher advised officers of the time lapse of the attempt robbery, Blaylock's

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description and direction of travel including the type of weapon used in the crime. The dispatcher also requested the air unit, additional patrol units and advised the area sergeant of the call.

- CIRT concluded the dispatcher performed within standardized LVMPD training and policy.

## **2) Officers Approach**

Officer Pollock was informed about the attempt robbery over the radio channel as he responded to 4111 North Rancho Drive. Officer Pollock broadcasted on the radio channel that he arrived in the area. Officer Pollock requested the air unit and planned to make contact with the witnesses at the scene. Upon Officer Pollock's arrival, a witness advised him of Blaylock's location.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's initial approach to the Super Pawn located at 4111 North Rancho Drive was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

During this incident, Officer Pollock attempted to approach Blaylock three separate times in quick succession. Officer Pollock approached Blaylock the first time while sitting in his patrol vehicle. Officer Pollock ordered Blaylock to drop the knife while Blaylock continued to run down the street, stabbing himself in the neck. During the second approach, Officer Pollock remained in his patrol vehicle while continuing to follow Blaylock. During the third approach, Officer Pollock remained in the patrol vehicle and maneuvered himself to a position where he was parallel with Blaylock. Blaylock, with the knife in his hand, charged from a distance of twenty-four feet toward Officer Pollock. Officer Pollock fired six rounds at Blaylock.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's first and second approach to Blaylock were within LVMPD tactics and training. However, Officer Pollock's third approach to Blaylock and the placement of his patrol vehicle at 4233 North Rancho Drive exposed him as a hazardous approach to a high risk encounter and was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.
- The Tactical Review Board concluded Officer Pollock's first and second approach to Blaylock were within LVMPD tactics and training.

## **3) Tactics and Use of Force**

Officer Pollock's final approach to Blaylock, exposed him to a deadly threat when he positioned himself parallel to Blaylock while having no cover. During the incident, Officer Pollock remained in

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his vehicle throughout the entire incident giving him no avenue of escape or an opportunity to create distance.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's use of cover and concealment was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.
- The Tactical Review Board concluded Officer Pollock's third approach to Blaylock and the placement of his patrol vehicle at 4233 North Rancho Drive exposed him to a hazardous approach to a high risk encounter therefore limiting his use of cover and concealment which was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

When Officer Pollock drew his firearm, he had knowledge of Blaylock being the suspect in an attempt robbery from the information broadcasted on the radio. Officer Pollock confirmed Blaylock was the suspect from a witness at the scene. Officer Pollock believed Blaylock was armed with a butcher's knife based on the description provided by a witness. Blaylock ignored Officer Pollock's numerous requests to stop and drop the knife.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's drawing of his firearm when he attempted to conduct a person stop on Blaylock was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

Officer Pollock was aware nothing was in his backdrop after the first volley of two rounds were fired at Blaylock. Officer Pollock, while sitting in his patrol vehicle with the driver's side door open, fired the second volley of four rounds at Blaylock who was attempting to stab him.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's assessment of backdrop, target identification and isolation were within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

Officer Pollock observed Blaylock when a witness pointed at Blaylock as the suspect in the attempt robbery. Officer Pollock attempted to conduct a person stop on Blaylock who had a knife in his hand and continued to run from him. When Officer Pollock was parallel with Blaylock while in his patrol vehicle, Blaylock charged at him with the knife in his right hand. Officer Pollock fired six rounds from his firearm to stop Blaylock, who was charging after him with a knife.

- CIRT concluded Officer Pollock's threat assessment was reasonable.

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**4) Supervisor (Command and Control)**

In evaluating the supervision (command and control) of this incident, CIRT noted:

A patrol sergeant was advised of the call and immediately went en route to the call. A patrol lieutenant responded immediately and established incident command. Patrol Detectives and supervisors arrived on scene to assist in the preliminary investigation and they all worked together and managed the scene.

- CIRT concluded the Incident Management was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.