

Office Of Internal Oversight Review
KEY CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF A CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENT
Officer-Involved Shooting — 1928 Bookbinder Drive — June 24, 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 June 24, 2017 at 2145 hours, a citizen called 9-1-1 to report a domestic disturbance. The person reporting, who lived in the area of Assembly Drive and Bookbinder Drive, received a knock at their door from a woman who was bleeding from a gunshot wound on her arm. The woman advised her boyfriend was trying to kill her. The person reporting relayed the woman's boyfriend, George Tillman, along with their young child were inside of their residence located at 1928 Bookbinder Drive.

Several patrol units and a patrol sergeant immediately responded to 1928 Bookbinder Drive, at which time, Tillman fired rounds from inside the residence. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team was requested to respond and assist. Patrol officers were able to confirm the woman had been shot by Tillman and their child was inside the residence with Tillman. Officers learned Tillman made statements he would shoot officers if they entered the residence.

Tillman later fired additional rounds at officers who were positioned near the front of the residence. SWAT arrived and made entry into 1928 Bookbinder Drive. Upon entry into the residence, Tillman fired shots from a rear bedroom. As Officer Carrasco and Officer Thompson entered the bedroom, Tillman fired rounds at them. Officer Carrasco fired his handgun and Officer Thompson fired rounds from his rifle, striking Tillman. The child was rescued and Tillman was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

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

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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 Officers Carrasco and Thompson was heard by the Critical Incident Review Process/Use of Force Review Board on June 28, 2018. The Board’s finding 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, 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

In review of the radio traffic conducted during this incident, CIRT determined a patrol officer provided initial information as they started to approach the residence. The officer and his partner did not provide additional information to responding units regarding their approach and the location of the front door.

- CIRT concluded the officer and his partner’s radio traffic was not within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.
- The Tactical Review Board determined the decision of the patrol officer’s partner not to provide additional information over the radio was reasonable and appropriate.
- CIRT concluded all other radio traffic was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

A communications specialist received a second call from the person reporting who updated their address and advised the location of the incident was 1928 Bookbinder Drive. The communications specialist updated the person reporting’s address, but did not change the location of occurrence to 1928 Bookbinder Drive. The communications specialist inquired if the woman needed medical attention. The person reporting advised the woman did need medical attention and it had been

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requested during the first call to 9-1-1. The communications specialist did not conference the call with medical due to medical already being requested.

- CIRT concluded the communications specialist's performance was not within standardized LVMPD training and policy.

A dispatch specialist received a third call from the person reporting, who updated the woman had been shot by Tillman. The dispatch specialist immediately updated the call. This update changed the priority of the event and the event was broadcasted immediately for a police response.

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

The dispatch specialist received information Tillman was armed with several guns and a child was in the residence. The dispatch specialist did not ask further questions about the guns and did not initiate a Supervisor Tactics for Armed Subject Response (STAR) Protocol.

- CIRT concluded the dispatch specialist's performance was not within standardized LVMPD training and policy.

2) Officers Approach

As the first patrol officer arrived on Bookbinder Drive, he parked next to 1928 Bookbinder Drive. The officer exited the patrol vehicle, deployed a shotgun and started to approach the residence. The officer positioned himself at a neighboring residence for cover.

- CIRT concluded the patrol officer's initial approach was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.
- The Tactical Review Board determined the patrol officer's approach was reasonable and appropriate.

An additional patrol officer arrived on Bookbinder Drive and parked several houses away from 1928 Bookbinder Drive. The officer deployed a rifle to assist in the event.

- CIRT concluded the patrol officer's initial approach to the incident was within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

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As additional patrol officers arrived they ran directly in front of the residence at 1928 Bookbinder Drive. One of the officers arrived on the call used a truck parked in front of the residence for partial cover as they moved in front of the residence.

- CIRT concluded both patrol officers' approach to the area of 1928 Bookbinder Drive was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

Two additional patrol officers arrived on the call to assist and arrived near 1928 Bookbinder Drive. They moved toward the backyard of the address to cover the rear of the residence. A short time later, Tillman fired two shots out the rear of the residence. The officers realized they were too close and moved to a neighboring backyard away from Tillman.

- CIRT concluded both of the patrol officers' initial approach to the area of 1928 Bookbinder Drive was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

As the SWAT Team arrived in the area, they formulated a plan for entry into 1928 Bookbinder Drive.

- CIRT concluded SWAT's approach to the residence was within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

A patrol sergeant arrived and ordered the units which were utilizing a neighboring residence as cover to move behind a patrol vehicle which was parked in the street of Bookbinder Drive. As SWAT units arrived, they used the armored vehicles and other residences in the area for cover prior to making entry into 1928 Bookbinder Drive.

- CIRT concluded all of the officers' cover and concealment were within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

3) Tactics and Use of Force

When officers arrived, Tillman came to the front door armed with a handgun, then closed the front door. Tillman fired multiple rounds which exited the residence. Patrol officers drew their handguns and deployed shotguns and rifles due to the deadly threat posed by Tillman. As SWAT made entry into the residence, they had their weapons drawn due to the deadly threat posed by Tillman.

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- CIRT concluded the officers' drawing of their firearms was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy.

CIRT determined Officer Carrasco and Officer Thompson were aware of their target and backdrop from their respective positions around Tillman.

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

In this incident, as Officer Carrasco entered the room, he observed Tillman point a handgun at him and fire. Officer Thompson perceived his partner was being shot at and observed Tillman with a handgun in his hand.

- CIRT concluded Officer Carrasco and Officer Thompson's threat assessment was reasonable.

In review of this incident, CIRT found Officer Carrasco and Officer Thompson both discharged three rounds from their firearms to stop the threat of Tillman firing his weapon toward them.

- CIRT concluded Officer Carrasco and Officer Thompson's use of force was reasonable.

4) Supervisor (Command and Control)

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

A patrol sergeant immediately assigned himself to the call, requested additional information on the location of the suspect and arrived on scene as officers approached 1928 Bookbinder Drive. The patrol sergeant took command of the units and had them retreat to a vehicle parked in the street. The patrol lieutenant responded to the scene and made the decision to allow the three sergeants on scene to manage the incident with their supervision. The patrol sergeant immediately requested SWAT after Tillman fired shots at arriving officers. The patrol sergeant established containment of the inner perimeter.

- In reviewing supervisory response, CIRT concluded the patrol sergeant and the patrol lieutenant managed the incident to an LVMPD standard.

The SWAT lieutenant was notified of the incident and responded to 1928 Bookbinder Drive. The SWAT lieutenant advised the SWAT sergeant to prepare for entry into the residence. The SWAT

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sergeant prepared the necessary resources to make entry into the residence. The SWAT lieutenant made the decision to make entry into the residence. After entry was made and the OIS occurred, the SWAT sergeant made contact with Officer Carrasco and Officer Thompson, secured the scene and requested medical for Tillman.

- In reviewing supervisory response, CIRT concluded the SWAT supervisors managed the incident to an LVMPD standard.