

# Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

## Office of Public Information

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Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officer Jose Hernandez  
Officer Larry Hadfield

## UNDERSHERIFF DISCUSSES JANUARY 31, 2014 OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

Undersheriff Jim Dixon met with the media today to discuss additional details concerning the first LVMPD officer involved shooting of 2014. This incident occurred near a convenience store located at 3675 Needles Highway in Laughlin, Nevada at approximately 11:00 p.m. on the night of January 31, 2014.

Patrol officers had responded to that location to investigate a reported armed robbery which, according to the caller, may have been committed by the same suspect who had robbed the business on at least two prior occasions.

Officers Christopher Crawford and Samuel Solorio arrived at the scene at approximately the same time in different vehicles. As he was arriving Officer Solorio observed a white male adult matching the suspect's description emerge from behind the business and begin walking Northbound on James Bilbray Parkway. Officer Solorio initiated a person stop on the individual, who was later identified as Zachary Andrews, 28 years of age. Andrews was initially compliant and moved to the front of the officers marked patrol unit as requested.

As Officer Solorio moved to a position behind the suspect, Andrews abruptly removed a .38 caliber handgun from his jacket pocket and placed the barrel of the weapon against his own head. Andrews then began moving towards the officer stating "I'm not going back – you're going to have to kill me".

As Officer Solorio was backing down the street away from the suspect Officer Crawford began paralleling them, diverting vehicle traffic which was in the area.

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Officer Solorio continued retreating backwards while commanding Andrews to drop the weapon and surrender. When Officer Solorio's retreat was stopped by a high block wall and the suspect continued to advance, the officer fired two rounds striking Andrews and incapacitating him. Arriving medical personnel pronounced Andrews deceased at the scene.

LVMPD is conducting a Critical Incident Review of this event. The results of the internal investigation will be forwarded to the Clark County District Attorney's Office for review.

The number of LVMPD officer involved shootings has significantly declined over the past several years. In 2013 LVMPD Officers were involved in 13 O.I.S.'s, and in 2012 only eleven. By contrast in 2010 there were 25 O.I.S.'s, more than the last two years combined.

When looking at the number of O.I.S.'s in the context of the number of LVMPD Commissioned Employee's, both 2012 and 2013 mark the lowest number of officer involved shootings per 1,000 Officers since 1999 when the Department began tracking these statistics.

Undersheriff Dixon credited the improvement to the Departments increased focus on training, improvement of key policies, and working collaboratively with national organizations such as C.N.A.(The COP's Office) as well as our local community partners.

To view the Undersheriff's remarks please access the video link:  
<http://youtu.be/bvDoZ-OyuUE>

The investigation into this incident remains ongoing. Anyone with any information concerning this event is urged to contact the LVMPD Homicide Section at 828-3521 or Crime Stoppers by phone at 385-5555 or on the internet at [www.crimestoppersofnv.com](http://www.crimestoppersofnv.com).

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