

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

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Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

June 5, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director Carla Alston
Sergeant Miguel Garcia
Officer Larry Hadfield
Officer Aden OcampoGomez
Officer Alejandra Zambrano

Assistant Sheriff Christopher Jones Discusses June 1, 2020 OIS

Assistant Sheriff Christopher Jones provided additional details of the officer involved shooting that occurred June 1, 2020 at 333 South Las Vegas Boulevard. Officers observed Jorge Gomez protesting on Fremont Street with a rifle slung over his shoulder and a holstered handgun on his hip. Dispersal orders were given at that location and Gomez left the area and moved south.

Meanwhile, a large crowd had also assembled in front of the Federal Courthouse located at 333 South Las Vegas Boulevard. Officers assigned there were advised that some of the protestors in the crowd were carrying baseball bats. Dispersal orders were announced at this location and protestors were warned that remaining in the area would subject them to arrest.

Due to the size of the crowd, additional officers arrived on Las Vegas Boulevard and created a skirmish line to move the crowd south. As the crowd was being moved, Gomez was observed walking on the sidewalk towards the steps of the Federal Courthouse and was behind the skirmish line. Officers began approaching Gomez to conduct an arrest for failing to disperse.

An officer armed with a less-lethal shotgun saw Gomez armed with what he thought was a baseball bat, when in fact was a rifle and fired several bean bag rounds striking Gomez who began running. As this was going on, Sergeant Ryan Fryman, and Officers Andrew Locher, Dan Emerton and Vernon Ferguson were driving by and got out of their vehicles. They observed Gomez raising the rifle towards the arrest team and discharged their firearms striking him multiple times. Gomez was transported to UMC Trauma where he was pronounced deceased.

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A video of the briefing can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/MEINUDu45bQ>

Google Drive link to items for media.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EpZcPB6b9iPMpKyImAy26QM6gv2Hi_DF?usp=sharing

This is the 9th officer involved shooting of 2020. The LVMPD Force Investigation Team is conducting the investigation into the officer's use of force in this incident. The findings will be forwarded to the Clark County District Attorney's Office for review.

An examination of this incident is being conducted by the LVMPD Critical Incident Review Team. This review focuses on policy, tactics and training as it relates to this use of force.

This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with any information about this incident is urged to contact the LVMPD Force Investigation Team at 702-828-8452. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 702-385-5555, or on the internet at www.crimestoppersofnv.com.

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