

**ROMO OID Fact Sheet**  
CPRC Meeting Date of January 23, 2013  
Version 1

**Date Occurred:** November 16, 2011  
**Time of Occurrence:** 0717 Hours  
**Decedent:** Alfred Delatorre Romo  
**Location:** Tyler Springs Apartments, 10406 Indiana Ave., Apt. #Q242, Riverside

**Officer(s) Involved:** Detective Laura Ellefson #1080  
Detective Phil Fernandez #618  
Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers #301

**Witness Officer(s):** Detective Rita Cobb #484  
Detective Jeff Jones #1340

The fact sheet is numbered and designed to point you to important factual information located in the criminal case book that will help guide you in your review process. It is not designed to take the place of a cover to cover review. It is up to you to review the "fact sheet" data before or after a cover to cover review. The endnotes will direct you to a specific "Tab," page, paragraph and/or "line number" on reports that have each line of the narrative numbered.

1. Sgt. Ramaekers, Detectives Phil Fernandez, Laura Ellefson, Rita Cobb, and Jeff Jones were working as plainclothes detectives assigned to the RPD Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit.<sup>1</sup>
2. Sergeant Ramaekers, Detectives Phil Fernandez, Laura Ellefson, Rita Cobb, and Jeff Jones were at the Tyler Springs Apartments, 10406 Indiana Ave., #Q242, to serve a search warrant regarding a 288PC investigation (Child Sex Abuse). All five personnel were wearing police radio vests with RPD badges and the word "police" on the front and back of the vests to identify them as police officers.<sup>2</sup>
3. Detective S. Christianson canvassed several apartments. Witness Tim McClenaghan was in his apartment and heard five gunshots, one gunshot, then 3-5 rapid gunshots and then one more. He did not see anything.<sup>3</sup>
4. Detective S. Christianson canvassed several apartments. Witness Cornelia Clomera was in her apartment when she heard 9-12 "bangs" she felt were gunshots. She did not see anything.<sup>4</sup>
5. Detective S. Christianson canvassed several apartments. Eight apartments were checked for witnesses. Only two, McClenaghan and Clomera, heard shots. The others did not see or hear anything.<sup>5</sup>
6. Detective Dodson canvassed apartments and evacuated tenants. Six tenants were contacted. Three heard what sounded like gunshots. Karen Simpson heard 15-20 "pops." Alta Langsdorf heard 3-4 "pops." Margie Swan heard 5-6 loud "pops." The other three tenants neither heard nor saw anything.<sup>6</sup>
7. Detective Ryder canvassed apartments. Located one witness that heard what sounded like gunshots. Witness Gloria Engebretson stepped out of her apartment at approximately 7 AM and saw three police officers wearing vests standing in front of the

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Romo apartment. The front door of Romo's apartment was open. She went back inside. She heard at least 15 gunshots that sounded like "pops."<sup>7</sup>

8. Detective Crutchfield canvassed apartments and located two tenants that were home, but neither saw nor heard anything.<sup>8</sup>
9. Detective Arnold canvassed apartments. Checked eight apartments and located only three tenants that heard anything. Ida Watkins heard 6-10 noises that sounded like someone banging the trash dumpster doors. Saw nothing. Doris Ruby heard several popping sounds. Saw nothing. Barbara Williams hear five gunshots, a pause, then one shot, a pause, then one more shot.<sup>9</sup>
10. Detective Dehdashtian canvassed apartments. Checked several apartments but only located two tenants that lived in the same apartment together. Witnesses Alonzo and Graciela Barraza did not see or hear anything.<sup>10</sup>
11. Detective Nelson canvassed apartments. Checked four apartments and located only one tenant that heard something. Edmundo Rebagay was in his apartment when he heard five gunshots. He looked out a window and saw several police officers running toward apartment building Q. He did not see anything.<sup>11</sup>
12. Detective Soria canvassed apartments. Checked four apartments and located only two tenants that heard something. Witness Gloria Stuart did not see or hear anything, but received a phone call from family member who told her someone was running around the complex with a gun. Witness Curtis Green heard "a bunch of fireworks" and afterward saw police officers running through the complex.<sup>12</sup>
13. Detective Wheeler canvassed apartments. Contacted two tenants that heard something. Witness Wortness Atkins heard 5-6 bangs, then saw officers arrive at the downstairs apartment. Witness Joyce Atkins was asleep and awakened by banging noises. She got up and heard 15 gunshots coming from the downstairs apartment. She went out to her balcony and saw several people in civilian clothes by the downstairs apartment. She then went back inside.<sup>13</sup>
14. Detective James Dana of the Technical Support Unit arrived on scene to deploy and operate a Remote Operational Vehicle (ROV) inside Romo's apartment. In doing so, evidence was observed on the floor as well as Mr. Romo's body.<sup>14</sup>
15. Detective Aaron Brandt of the Technical Support Unit arrived on the scene to assist in the deployment and operation of an ROV. Noted that the time and date stamp on the DVR that records this information was not properly timed. He did not reset the time and date stamp in order to maintain accurate elapsed time on the video.<sup>15</sup>
16. Detective Hopewell interviewed M. Romo, the wife of decedent. Det. Hopewell requested permission of M. Romo to search the apartment and her vehicle. Although there was a search warrant for the apartment concerning the alleged molest, another search warrant or permission to search was necessary in regarding to the shooting incident. M. Romo signed a permission to search document.<sup>16</sup> M. Romo informed Det. Hopewell that she and decedent owned a .25 cal semi-auto pistol and shotgun that were inside the apartment. She did not know whether or not they were loaded.<sup>17</sup>

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17. Detective Medici's interview of Detective Ellefson. Det. Ellefson described the entry to the apartment. She saw decedent Romo come forward holding a shotgun with both of his hands. Det. Fernandez ordered him to raise his hands and put down the shotgun. She heard Romo say, "No." Ellefson heard a shot go off. Ellefson said she perceived a clear and obvious threat to her life. Ellefson returned fire and ducked behind a couch. Romo was approximately 7'-10' away from her at the time. Ellefson continued to fire at Romo and ducked behind the couch until her magazine was empty. She exited the apartment and at the same time saw Romo fall to the ground.<sup>18</sup>
18. Detective Sanfilippo's interview of Detective Fernandez. Det. Fernandez said he and Det. Ellefson were at the front door, Detective Cobb and Sgt. Ramaekers were behind them as the "knock and notice" to enter was made.<sup>19</sup>
19. Detective Sanfilippo's interview of Detective Fernandez. Det. Fernandez saw the interior light on upon their arrival, but after the knock and notice, it went off. Det. Fernandez heard Sgt. Ramaekers state that someone (silhouette) had approached the door after the knock and notice was made, but moved away when the light went out. After there was no response by the occupant, Det. Fernandez used a "door bang" device to force the door open. Det. Fernandez noticed there was a couch in front of the door, preventing it from opening.<sup>20</sup>
20. Detective Sanfilippo's interview of Detective Fernandez. Det. Fernandez pushed the door open that moved the couch inward. Det. Fernandez and Det. Ellefson entered the apartment. Det. Fernandez could see the living room, dining room and kitchen. He could not see Romo. Det. Fernandez and Ellefson yelled out for Romo to come out and show his hands. Det. Fernandez had his handgun pointing in the direction of the hallway that leads to the rear of the apartment.<sup>21</sup>
21. Detective Sanfilippo's interview with Detective Fernandez. Det. Fernandez saw Romo appear in the hallway holding a rifle or shotgun and walking in his (Fernandez') direction. Fernandez said he knew at this point he had to fire at the suspect because he wasn't following commands. Fernandez felt he had no cover and was exposed at the threshold of the door. Fernandez said he was scared for Det. Ellefson's and his own safety. There was an exchange of gunfire. Fernandez fired rounds through the open door in the direction of Romo. Fernandez heard another shotgun round fired from within the apartment.<sup>22</sup>
22. Detective Sanfilippo's interview of Detective Fernandez. Det. Fernandez was not sure how many rounds he fired at the time, but knew he fired 3-4 through the open front door. Fernandez couldn't tell the difference in the caliber of the guns at the time the shooting took place. Fernandez did not see Romo's face because his attention was focused on the barrel of the rifle.<sup>23</sup>
23. Detective Brandt's crime scene investigation. Located two (2) S/W Winchester .40 cal. shell casings lying along the north / south sidewalk by the north east corner of Romo's apartment.<sup>24</sup>

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24. Detective Brandt's crime scene investigation. Located a black metal "door bang" (for purposes of forced entry to breach the front door). Two (2) additional S/W Winchester .40 cal. shell casings were found on the sidewalk between Romo's apartment and apartment #243.<sup>25</sup>
25. Detective Sanfilippo's interview with Sergeant Ramaekers. Sgt. Ramaekers took up a position by the sliding glass door of Romo's apartment so he could see inside while Det. Ellefson knocked on the apartment door and announced their presence. Sgt. Ramaekers saw the silhouette of a person move toward the door and then back away out of sight. An interior light was on upon arrival, but it went off as the person inside moved away from the door.<sup>26</sup>
26. Detective Sanfilippo interview with Sergeant Ramaekers. Watched Det. Ellefson continue knocking on the apartment door with no response. Det. Fernandez used a "bang" on the door to open it. It opened slightly. There was a sofa in front of the door that prevented the door from opening all the way. Detectives Ellefson and Fernandez entered the apartment by a few steps and called out to someone inside. Sgt. Ramaekers then heard Ellefson and Fernandez yelling "see your hands, see your hands." Sgt. Ramaekers then heard a lot of gunshots. Fearing for Ellefson's safety, Sgt. Ramaekers pointed his gun into the apartment and pulled the trigger. He could not tell whether or not his gun fired. Prior to pulling the trigger, Sgt. Ramaekers "racked" his gun. This was to ensure there was a round in the chamber.<sup>27</sup>
27. Detective Sanfilippo's interview of Sergeant Ramaekers. Sergeant Ramaekers saw Detectives Ellefson and Fernandez firing their guns into the apartment, but never saw Romo or anyone. The room was too dark. Sgt. Ramaekers could not decipher the difference between the gunfire from Romo and the detectives.<sup>28</sup>
28. Detective Wheeler's interview of Detective R. Cobb. Detective Cobb approached the front door of Romo's apartment behind Detectives Ellefson and Fernandez. Ellefson knocked on the door and did not announce who it was in order to try a low key approach. There was no answer. Ellefson knocked again loudly and rang the doorbell. No response. Ellefson knocked loudly and in a clear and distinctive voice announced, "Riverside Police Department. We have a search warrant." This was done twice with no response. Detective Fernandez then used a door bang to breach the door. He did this 2-3 times before it opened.<sup>29</sup>
29. Detective Wheeler's interview of Detective R. Cobb. Detective Cobb could see the door open and Detective Ellefson entered the apartment. Ellefson had to push a large couch out of the doorway to get in. Detective Ellefson and Fernandez both entered the apartment and both were heard calling out to whoever was inside to come out into the open with hands visible. Detective Cobb said it was very dark inside the apartment. Detective Cobb could see around Detective Fernandez and toward a hallway leading to the southern part of the apartment. Detective Cobb then saw what she thought was the barrel of a long gun (rifle) being held in a "high carry" position. She could not see who was holding the rifle. She could see the barrel leveled toward the front door where Ellefson and Fernandez were located. Detective Cobb then heard several gunshots fired

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by both Ellefson and Fernandez. Detective Cobb could also hear gunfire coming from within the apartment. An exchange of gunfire occurred 2-3 times between the person inside and Ellefson and Fernandez. At one point, Ellefson, Fernandez, and the person inside fired at the same time.<sup>30</sup>

30. Detective Brandt's crime scene investigation. The front door had bullet strikes on it. One projectile was removed from the front door.<sup>31</sup>
31. Detective Brandt's crime scene investigation. Walls, furniture and appliances within the apartment had bullet holes in them. Particles of wood, paint, etc., littered the floor. Blood was located on the carpet and there was a hole and black soot near the barrel of the shotgun where it appeared the shotgun had been fired close to the carpet. (Romo's shotgun).<sup>32</sup>
32. Detective Brandt's crime scene investigation. Evidentiary items were located inside Romo's Apartment. Living room – shells casings, bullet strikes (Page 3, Paragraphs 2 & 3). Dining Room – bullet strikes on furniture, bullet casings, projectiles, and a shotgun (Page 4, Paragraphs 1 – 4). Location of Romo's body (Page 5, Paragraphs 1 – 4). Office – Located a loaded Sterling .25 cal. semi-automatic pistol and loaded magazine.<sup>33</sup>
33. Evidence Log – Tab 105, Pages 2 – 21. Submitted by Crime Scene Technician S. Lane. Logging, tracking, and photographing evidence is critical in a shooting case. The specific locations of shell casings, bullet strikes, and blood are important because it helps determine where participants in the shooting were standing and / or moving to. This information is used to corroborate statements by the officers as to where they were when they fired their firearms.
34. Charting of handgun used by Detective Ellefson. Carrying Department-issued .40 cal. Glock Model 23 semi-auto pistol, loaded with (13) .40 cal. live rounds in magazine and none in the chamber. She had no spare magazines. Also had a "Airlight" .357 magnum revolver fully loaded with (5) live .38 rounds. This gun was carried as "back-up" and worn on the left ankle in an ankle holster.<sup>34</sup>
35. Charting of handgun used by Detective Fernandez. Carrying a Department-issued .40 cal. Glock, Model 23, fully loaded with (13) live .40 cal. rounds in the magazine and one in the firing chamber. One spare magazine that contained (4) live .40 cal. rounds.<sup>35</sup>
36. Charting of handgun used by Sergeant Ramaekers. Carrying a Department-issued .40 cal. Glock, Model 23 with (13) live .40 cal. rounds in the magazine and one in the firing chamber. Two (2) spare magazines on his belt which were fully loaded with (15) live .40 cal. rounds.<sup>36</sup>
37. Autopsy. Detective Rick Cobb attended the autopsy and documented the wounds sustained by Romo. Romo had (11) bullet wounds and appeared to have been shot (4) times. Romo sustained one graze wound. Wounds were sustained to the shoulder, hip, and legs.<sup>37</sup>
38. Autopsy. Detective Rick Cobb attended the autopsy. The coroner did not list a cause of death at the autopsy, but did state that Romo likely bled to death.<sup>38</sup>

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- 39. Tab 112 – California Department of Justice – Forensic Unit. Independent examination of firearms from Romo and Detectives Ellefson and Fernandez.<sup>39</sup>
- 40. Tab 114 – Search Warrant affidavit for Romo’s apartment. Obtained by Detective Ellefson.

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum By Detective Sanfilippo – Tab1, P.2, para1  
<sup>2</sup> Memorandum By Detective Sanfilippo – Tab1, P.2, para1  
<sup>3</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Christianson - Tab 84, p2 narr., 3<sup>rd</sup> para  
<sup>4</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Christianson - Tab 84, p.2 narr., 4<sup>th</sup> para  
<sup>5</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Christianson - Tab 84, p.3 narr.  
<sup>6</sup> Supplemental Report, Det.. Dodson – Tab 85, p.4  
<sup>7</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Ryder – Tab 86, p.2, para.2  
<sup>8</sup> Supplemental report, Det. Crutchfield – Tab 87, p.2, para. 2&3  
<sup>9</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Arnold – Tab 88, p.1 para. 2, p.2 para 4, p.3 para 1  
<sup>10</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Dehdashtian – Tab 89, p.3 lines 13-19  
<sup>11</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Nelson – Tab 90, p.2, para 3  
<sup>12</sup> Supplemental Report, Det Soria – Tab 91, p.2, para 2&3  
<sup>13</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Wheeler – Tab 92, p.2 lines 13-18 & 23-29  
<sup>14</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Dana – Tab 93, p.2, narr. 2<sup>nd</sup> para  
<sup>15</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Brandt – Tab 95, p.1 narr, last line and continued onto top of p.2  
<sup>16</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Hopewell – Tab 96, p.3, para 2 under “interview of M. Romo  
<sup>17</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Hopewell – Tab 96, p.5, para 8 and p.8  
<sup>18</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Medici – Tab 97, p.3, last para, cont’d on p.4 and then para 2 and 3  
<sup>19</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 99, p.2, 3<sup>rd</sup> para, last sentence  
<sup>20</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 99, p.2, 4th para  
<sup>21</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 99, p.2, 5th para  
<sup>22</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 99, p.2, 6<sup>th</sup> para and continued top of p.3  
<sup>23</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 99, p.3, 1<sup>st</sup> para  
<sup>24</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Brandt – Tab 104, p.3, 1<sup>st</sup> para  
<sup>25</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Brandt – Tab 104, p.3, 2<sup>nd</sup> para  
<sup>26</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 100, p.2, para 3  
<sup>27</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 100, p2, para 4-5  
<sup>28</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Sanfilippo – Tab 100, p.3, para 3  
<sup>29</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Wheeler – Tab 101, p.2, para 4  
<sup>30</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Wheeler – Tab 101, p.2 lines 30-44 and p.3 lines 1-8  
<sup>31</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Brandt – Tab 104, p.3, 4<sup>th</sup> para, last sentence  
<sup>32</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Brandt – Tab 104, p.3, para 5  
<sup>33</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. Brandt – Tab 104, p. 4-5  
<sup>34</sup> Supplemental Report, Detective David Smith - Tab 107, p.2, para3 (under “Narrative”).  
<sup>35</sup> Supplemental Report, Detective David Smith - Tab 107, p.2, para 4 (under “Narrative”).  
<sup>36</sup> Supplemental Report, Detective David Smith - Tab 107, p.3, para 5 (under “Narrative”).  
<sup>37</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. R. Cobb – Tab 109, p.2  
<sup>38</sup> Supplemental Report, Det. R. Cobb – Tab 109, p.3  
<sup>39</sup> Supplemental Report, DOJ Senior Criminalist Michele Nichols – Tab 112, two 2-page reports