



MEMORANDUM

Riverside Police Department

Investigations

DATE: November 16, 2011

FROM: Detective Ron Sanfilippo

SUBJECT: SUMMARY-OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING P11-169-228

DATE OF INCIDENT: November 16, 2011

TIME OF INCIDENT: 0717 Hours

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 10406 Indiana Street # Q242 (Tyler Springs Apartments)
Riverside CA

INVOLVED OFFICERS: Detective Laura Ellefson # 1080
Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Unit
Centralized Investigations Bureau

Detective Phil Fernandez #618
Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Unit
Centralized Investigations Bureau

Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers #301
Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Unit
Centralized Investigations Bureau

WITNESS OFFICER: Detective Rita Cobb # 484
Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Unit
Centralized Investigations Bureau

Detective Jeff Jones #1340
Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Unit
Centralized Investigations Bureau

OFFICER INJURIES:

Detective Jeff Jones sustained a broken left ankle while on a perimeter position during this incident.

Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers had a complaint of pain to his right knee and lower back.

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Both officers were transported by police vehicle to Inland Empire Occupational Medicine where they were treated for their respective injuries.

SUSPECT: Romo, Alfred, Delatorre, [REDACTED]
5'7, 155, black hair, brown eyes
10406 Indiana #242
Riverside, CA
CDL# [REDACTED]

SUSPECT'S INJURIES: Gunshot wounds (Deceased)

CRIMINAL HISTORY: [REDACTED]

RELATED FILE #: P11169201 (SACA Search Warrant)

Summary of Incident & Interviews:

On 11/16/11, Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers, Detective Laura Ellefson, Detective Phil Fernandez, Detective Rita Cobb, and Detective Jeff Jones were working plainclothes duty assigned to the Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Unit (SACA.) All personnel were serving a search warrant at 10406 Indiana # Q242 (Tyler Springs Apartments,) in reference to a 288 PC investigation. All personnel were wearing police raid vests with a cloth RPD badge and "Police" displayed on the front and back of the vest to identify them as police officers.

Detective's Ron Sanfilippo and Mike Medici interviewed Detective Laura Ellefson, Detective Phil Fernandez, and Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers at the RPD Magnolia Street Station. Attorney Russell Perry (Lackie, Dammeier & McGill APC) represented the officers during their interviews. Detective Greg Rowe interviewed Detective Jeff Jones and Detective Rick Wheeler interviewed Detective Rita Cobb. Numerous civilian witnesses were interviewed after the incident, but none of these witnesses actually witnessed the incident. None of the civilians interviewed had any information that was conflicting to the officer's statements.

At approximately 0717 hours the aforementioned SACA personnel approached the front door of 10406 Indiana #242 to serve a search warrant. Detective Laura Ellefson conducted the knock and notice and Detective Phil Fernandez was responsible for the door breach. Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers was assigned radio duties and Detective Rita Cobb was the hand's on / arrest officer. Detective Jeff Jones was assigned to a perimeter position towards the rear portion of the apartment south of the front door location.

Detective Laura Ellefson knocked on the apartment door and advised the police were outside of the apartment and had a search warrant. Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers saw what appeared to be a silhouette of a person inside the apartment as it approached the apartment door. Sergeant Ramaekers stated the silhouette then walked away from the door area and the lights inside of the apartment went off. Detective Laura Ellefson stated she then knocked louder on the door and activated the doorbell to the apartment announcing RPD presence. At this point, Detective Phil Fernandez said he used the metal bang (breach tool) and struck the apartment door in an attempt to make entry.

Detective Fernandez said the first strike had minimal effect, so he struck the door two more times. At this point the door partially opened and Detective's Ellefson and Fernandez noticed a couch had been placed against the door to block entry. Detective Laura Ellefson stated after pushing the apartment door partially open she entered to her left and, turned on the interior light. Detective Ellefson said she had pushed the couch further away from the apartment door.

Detective Phil Fernandez stated he also pushed on the apartment door as he stood in the threshold of the doorway. Detective Ellefson and Fernandez both stated after entry was made they continued to yell out commands to whoever was in the apartment to come into the open and show their hands. At this point Detective's Laura Ellefson, Phil Fernandez and Rita Cobb stated they observed Alfred Romo walking in their direction from a hallway area carrying a long barrel shotgun. Detective Laura Ellefson advised she ducked down behind the couch and Detective Phil Fernandez said he went down to a kneeling position at the threshold of the door.

Detective Phil Fernandez stated he fired his handgun at Alfred Romo as he was rounding the corner of the hallway into the family room area with the shotgun. Detective Phil Fernandez estimated Alfred Romo was approximately 10 feet away when Alfred Romo fired at him. Detective Phil Fernandez stated he was holding onto the front door and using it as cover/concealment while firing his handgun at Alfred Romo. Detective Laura Ellefson said she fired her handgun at Alfred Romo and described her actions as quick peeks, looking over the couch, firing her weapon, and then ducking back down. Detective Laura Ellefson said she fired numerous rounds at Alfred Romo but couldn't understand why he wouldn't go down to the ground.

Detective Phil Fernandez said he observed Alfred Romo flanking toward the left into the kitchen area, so he fired his weapon through the front door at Alfred Romo for safety purposes. Detective Laura Ellefson advised she heard a loud "thud," and looked up from behind the couch and observed Alfred Romo on the ground. Detective's Laura Ellefson and Phil Fernandez said they agreed to back out of the apartment and take up a position of cover outside. Detective Laura Ellefson advised she backed out of the apartment first while Detective Phil Fernandez covered from the doorway. Detective Laura Ellefson used her police radio and put out the first call for help. Detective Phil Fernandez advised when he backed out of the apartment he took up a position of hard cover and awaited responding units. Detective Fernandez said he heard a shotgun blast coming from inside the apartment as they were setting up a perimeter outside the apartment. Detective's Ellefson and Fernandez admitted to firing their handguns.

Detective Jeff Jones advised he was positioned on the perimeter of Alfred Romo's apartment south of the apartment's front door. Detective Jeff Jones said he heard Detective Phil Fernandez and Detective Laura Ellefson announce themselves numerous times as they forced open the apartment door. Detective Jeff Jones said he heard a volley of gunshots and he then ran up to the area of the apartment door and observed his fellow detective's outside the apartment securing a perimeter around the apartment until back-ups arrived. Detective Jeff Jones said he didn't fire his handgun.

Detective Rita Cobb said she was present during the Officer Involved Shooting while her RPD SACA Unit was in the process of serving a search warrant at 10406 Indiana Ave. #Q242. Detective Rita Cobb said while at the apartment door she was lined up behind Detective's Laura Ellefson and Phil Fernandez with Sgt. Wayne Raemakers

behind her. Detective Rita Cobb stated she heard Detective Laura Ellefson knock on the door and announce "Riverside Police Department we have a search warrant" several times. Detective Rita Cobb stated while making the knock and notice Sergeant Ramaekers yelled out that the apartment light had been turned off. Detective Rita Cobb said after the apartment door was forced open she observed a barrel of a long gun being held high by a person she was unable to see in the hallway of the apartment. Detective Rita Cobb then saw the barrel being pointed toward the apartment door and investigators. Detective Rita Cobb heard Detective's Ellefson and Fernandez yell out "drop the gun" several times before the exchange of gunfire with the person inside the apartment. Detective Rita Cobb stated she didn't fire her weapon. Detective Rita Cobb said she assisted with the perimeter of the apartment until being relieved by patrol officers. Detective Rita Cobb said she heard a single gunshot from inside the apartment as they were setting up their perimeter outside the apartment.

Sergeant Ramaekers said he was in a position behind Detective's Ellefson, Fernandez and Cobb and was assigned radio duties. Sergeant Ramaekers stated after Detective Ellefson gave the initial "knock and notice" he observed a silhouette walk towards the apartment door. Sergeant Ramaekers said as the silhouette moved away from the apartment door the light inside the apartment went off. Sergeant Ramaekers said he was relaying this information on to the Detective's as Detective Fernandez forced open the apartment door by using the breach tool. Sergeant Ramaekers stated he told Detective's Ellefson and Fernandez to have Alfred Romo come out to them and he heard them yell out "let me see your hands, let me see your hands". Sergeant Ramaekers stated he then heard gunfire breakout and he believed he fired his weapon in the direction of the apartment doorframe opening where he believed Alfred Romo was. Sergeant Ramaekers knows he pulled the trigger but isn't sure if his weapon actually fired. Sergeant Ramaekers stated he fired in that direction based on the information Detective Fernandez was passing on reference the location of Alfred Romo movements inside the apartment. Sergeant Ramaekers said he heard no more gunfire after they moved away from the apartment and took up a position on the perimeter until relieved.

Upon arrival of back-up units a perimeter was secured around Alfred Romo's apartment. Detective's Aaron Brandt (TSU) and James Dana (TSU) presence was requested at the scene to provide the use of the Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV). The ROV made entry into the apartment and maneuvered around a couch, chairs and shelving units. The ROV positioned itself so Detective James Dana could observe a shotgun, shell casings and Alfred Romo lying face down away from the ROV in the hallway. Detective James Dana advised there was no movement detected from Alfred Romo therefore the ROV backed away and the RPD Metro Team made entry to determine Alfred Romo's condition. The CD of the video footage was placed into evidence.

Margie Romo, the wife of Alfred Romo was interviewed by Detective Roberta Hopewell the morning of the incident. Margie Romo said she and her husband had recently talked to an attorney reference an allegation of molestation by [REDACTED] against her husband (Alfred Romo). Margie Romo said the attorney told her and her husband (Alfred Romo) that the police secretly recorded a conversation recently between Alfred Romo and [REDACTED] reference the molestation. Margie Romo stated the attorney told her and her husband (Alfred Romo) the police would be coming to their apartment soon to arrest Alfred Romo. Margie Romo said her husband (Alfred

Romo) was very depressed and said he didn't want to go to jail. Margie Romo was aware of the shotgun and the .25 caliber handgun inside the apartment but she hasn't seen them in a long time.

Crime Scene:

The Officer Involved Shooting took place inside Alfred Romo's apartment (Q242). This apartment is a downstairs apartment located in the south/east portion of building Q, which is located in the southwest portion of the complex. The wood front door faces north.

Detective's Jim Simons and Jim Brandt along with Forensic Technicians Sue Lane, Carlton Fuller and Tim Ellis investigated the crime scene. Sergeant Dave Amador was the crime scene supervisor.

Sixteen .40 caliber expended shell casings were located inside the apartment, near the apartment front door and along the north wall. These casings are believed to be from both Detective Ellefson and Detective Fernandez's firearms. Detective Ellefson's field of fire appears to have been in a south/west direction. Detective Fernandez's field of fire appears to have been in a southerly direction.

Seven .40 caliber expended shell casing were located along the walkway leading to the apartment front door and a planter that borders that walkway. These casings appear to be from Detective Fernandez's firearm.

One .40 caliber round was located in a planter along the walkway leading to the apartment. The round was at the north/east corner of apartment #Q242 patio area. This round appears to be from Sergeant Ramaekers firearm.

One Remington shotgun was collected from the living room / dining room area of the crime scene, this weapon had possible blood located on it. There was a handwritten note on a yellow post it affixed to the shotgun that read: "loaded ready to go safety on". There were also two shotgun wads and pellets collected from the living room area.

One Sterling .25 call handgun collected from the office of Alfred Romo.

There were numerous projectiles collected from the living room, dining room and hallway areas from the handguns fired by Detective's Ellefson and Fernandez.

Several notes and printouts were collected from Alfred Romo's office. These included:

I'm still here hun. 11-14-11 It's now 14 days without a warrant for my arrest. I hope it stays that way. The only thing it gets hard when you leave for work. Trying to keep busy. Today I cleaned my shotgun. It's ready to go. My Sterling 300 .25 gun is next.

"Hi Hon- Counting my days left. Sun 11-13-2011. It's now days 353/13 day alive. We went to church to receive host (Body of Christ) said my confession to God by myself. I don't feel anything I'm still in shock, numb, very depress, scared when someone

knocking on door to arrest me. At this point they won't take me alive. My guns are loaded. I didn't think it would ever come to this".

"Both are loaded. Use .25 gun if I don't have time to get to the shotgun. For instant they break-in. If they knock on door for warning and go away this gives me time to use shotgun on myself. MM can not be in room w/me. She has to warn me & talk to police from window if they try to arrest me that I have a loaded gun & will use it".

There are printed articles from the internet reference the correct way to kill yourself with a handgun. There is also a print out on the right and wrong areas of the brain to shoot yourself while committing suicide.

There was an additional printout of the 10 Commandments dated 11-10-2011 hand handwritten next to #6 (You shall not Murder) was "Kill myself".

There are also several notes in reference to the sexual assault investigation and the "pretext call".

These notes / printouts and others were collected and placed into evidence.

Video/Audio/Recordings:

There is a video of the ROV inside Alfred Romo's apartment from when the ROV made entry. There is also video from the crime scene investigators processing the crime scene. There were no audio or video recordings from any of the involved Detective's.

Charting of Duty Weapons:

Detective Laura Ellefson had her assigned duty weapon charted. The pistol had no round chambered and the magazine held no live rounds. Her additional two magazines were each loaded to capacity with 13 live rounds. The charting confirmed that 14 rounds were fired.

Detective Phil Fernandez had his assigned duty weapon charted. The pistol had one live round chambered and the magazine held 2 live rounds. His additional two magazines each loaded to capacity with 13 live rounds. The charting confirmed that ten rounds were fired.

Sergeant Wayne Ramaekers had his duty weapon charted. The pistol had one live round in the chamber and the magazine held 14 live rounds. His additional two magazines were each loaded to capacity with 15 live rounds. The charting confirmed that one round was missing from his weapon (collected at scene outside of apartment). No rounds were fired.

Detective Rita Cobb had her assigned duty weapon charted. The pistol had one live round chambered and the magazine held 13 live rounds. Her additional two magazines were each loaded to capacity with 13 live rounds. The charting confirmed that no rounds were fired.

Detective Jeff Jones had his assigned duty weapon charted. The pistol had one live round chambered and the magazine held 15 live rounds. His additional two magazines were each loaded to capacity with 15 live rounds. The charting confirmed that no rounds were fired.

All weapons were charted by Detective Dave Smith and Supervising Evidence Technician Carlton Fuller.

Autopsy:

The autopsy took place on 11-17-2011 and was performed by Dr. Hunt. Alfred Romo had eleven bullet wounds and it appears he had been shot four times. Alfred Romo also received a graze wound to his left hip area. Alfred Romo was struck in the left shoulder, left hip and right leg. The gunshot to the left shoulder traveled in a downward angle. The bullet exited the left arm and re-entered the body near the arm pit and traveled through the chest cavity. The bullet stopped in the lower back near the spine. The left hip gunshot wound damaged many blood vessels and lodged in the pelvis area. Dr. Hunt noted the cause of death as "pending" although feels that both the shoulder wound and the hip/pelvis wound likely caused death. Dr. Hunt advised Alfred Romo most likely bled to death from both wounds.

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