

05-26-2020

LASD Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) at 1149 West 109th Place, Los Angeles

The following information is based on facts determined from an investigation into the incident described. The investigation is ongoing and as witnesses are interviewed, evidence is analyzed and reports are reviewed, our understanding of the facts may change. The details described below accurately reflect the facts as we currently know them.

On May 26, 2020, at approximately 5:15 pm, a team of plain clothes deputies from the Operations Safe Streets Gang Surveillance Unit tracked a wanted murder suspect to a residence in the 1100 block of West 110th Street. The suspect was identified as Robert Avitia, an 18 year-old, who lived in Los Angeles. An arrest warrant had been issued by the Court for a murder which had occurred on May 1, 2020 at a nearby location on New Hampshire Street in Los Angeles.

After surrounding the house, detectives ordered Suspect Avitia to come outside and surrender himself. Instead, Robert Avitia fled from the rear door and climbed a fence to the north to escape capture. Deputies positioned behind the house saw the suspect walking on 109th Place, with a pistol in his hand and summoned help from assisting deputies.

Responding deputies contained Avitia on the north sidewalk of 109th Place and ordered him to drop his gun. Robert Avitia used a cellphone to call his mother and say goodbye, before he raised the pistol, with his finger on the trigger. A Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) occurred and Avitia was struck by the deputies' gunfire.

Robert Avitia was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department Paramedics. Avitia sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his torso and was pronounced dead at the scene. No deputies or civilians were injured in the incident.

A loaded, Ruger 9mm, semi-automatic handgun was recovered from Avitia.

LASD Homicide investigators responded to the scene to conduct interviews, follow up and process the scene. Representatives from the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) also responded to view the incident scene.

Once completed, the criminal investigation will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office to determine if the force used by the involved personnel violated any criminal laws. Once completed, the LASD will evaluate the actions of the personnel within the application of policy, procedures and tactics.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call Sheriff's Homicide at 323-890-5500. Anonymous tips may be received through CRIMESTOPPERS at 800-222-8477.