

04-19-2020

LASD Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) at 1101 West Avenue I, Lancaster

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 are accurate with the facts as we know them.

On April 19, 2020, at approximately 4:19 pm, Lancaster Station deputies received information from a security guard, that he had encountered a vandalism suspect who claimed to have a gun and acted as if he possessed a gun inside his jacket. The suspect had last been seen near Fern Avenue and Jackman Street.

Lancaster Station deputies began checking the area for the suspect, using the description provided by the witness.

A few minutes later, deputies observed Richard Sean Lugo Jr., a 36 year old Quartz Hill resident, in front of a nearby liquor store, near 10th Street West and West Avenue I. Deputies recognized that he resembled the description provided by the witness. After seeing the deputies, the suspect ran across 10th Street West and around the commercial buildings. Assisting units responded to the scene and attempted to contain the suspect. As Deputies encountered the suspect near the businesses, Suspect Lugo threatened to "kill" and "shoot" deputies. As the suspect was yelling this, he had his right hand inside his jacket, simulating as if he was holding a firearm.

Deputies took cover behind their vehicles and gave the suspect verbal commands to surrender. The suspect continued to yell, "I got a gun! I will shoot you!" as he simulated having a firearm with his right hand inside of his jacket pocket, pointed at deputies.

The suspect ultimately ran west through the alley, as deputies gave chase on foot. As the suspect rounded the corner of a building, he suddenly turned back towards deputies with his right hand inside his jacket pocket. Deputies feared the suspect was retrieving a firearm and a Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) occurred. The suspect was struck by gunfire and was detained by deputies.

Deputies immediately provided medical care to the suspect until Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics arrived and continued to provide life-saving measures. The suspect was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

No weapon was located on the suspect. No deputies or civilians were injured in the incident.

It was determined that the suspect had a no bail arrest warrant for parole violation, as well as a \$5,000 misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. Narcotics and a glass pipe were recovered from the suspect.

LASD Homicide investigators responded to the scene to conduct interviews, follow up and process the scene. Representatives from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), 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. After conclusion of the District Attorney's review, 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.