

02-12-2021

## **LASD Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) at 11503 Mapledale Street, Norwalk**

***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 February 12, 2021, at approximately 6:07 pm, two deputies assigned to Norwalk Sheriff's Station saw a 2004 Ford Mustang driving erratically, in the area of Elaine Avenue and Hopland Street in the city of Norwalk. When the driver failed to yield for a traffic stop, the deputies initiated a pursuit and were quickly joined by an additional deputy in another patrol car. During the pursuit, deputies saw the driver throw an object (later identified as a loaded firearm) from inside of the car, to an adjacent yard.

Following the short vehicle pursuit, Abraham Esquivel, a 34 year-old Bellflower resident exited the vehicle and fled on foot. A deputy chased Esquivel until he attempted to enter a side gate at 11503 Mapledale Street. As the lone deputy attempted to detain Esquivel at gunpoint a Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) occurred, in which the deputy fired three rounds.

Abraham Esquivel sustained two gunshot wounds to his lower torso and left leg. He was immediately detained. Paramedics from Los Angeles County Fire Department responded and provided emergency medical attention. Esquivel was transported to a local hospital and treated for non-life threatening injuries. He was subsequently cleared for booking. No deputies or other civilians were injured in the incident.

A loaded handgun was recovered in the area where the deputies observed it thrown from the vehicle. A black cellular telephone was recovered from the scene of the shooting, which Esquivel was believed to be holding when the deputy involved shooting occurred.

**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 and monitored the investigation.**

**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 the District Attorney's Office investigation is 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.**

**\*\*\* UPDATE \*\*\***

The employee involved in the deputy involved shooting has been identified as Deputy Juan Bendezu.