

03-03-22

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 17400 block of Downey Avenue, Bellflower

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 March 3, 2022, at approximately 12:10 AM, deputies assigned to Lakewood Sheriff's Station were at the intersection of Downey Avenue and Artesia Boulevard in the city of Bellflower regarding a call of 30 to 40 vehicles who had taken over the intersection doing burnouts. While dealing with the vehicles, deputies were flagged down by a victim who was standing at a nearby gas station. The victim stated he had just been stabbed in the back by a Male Hispanic armed with a large garden tool. The male Hispanic was later identified as Edgar Ortiz, a 32-year-old resident of Bellflower.

Deputies observed Ortiz as he walked into an apartment complex holding an approximate three-foot-long garden claw which had six metal spikes on one end. Deputies gave Ortiz orders to stop but he refused to comply. Ortiz ran towards the rear parking area of the apartment complex and eventually back out onto Downey Avenue. Ortiz began to run in the middle of the street while still armed with the garden claw.

Deputies again gave Ortiz commands to drop the garden claw but he refused to comply. Ortiz ran towards a deputy with the garden claw raised above his head, with the spiked end pointed towards the deputy, at which time a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Ortiz was struck by gunfire, fell to the ground and dropped the garden claw next to him. Deputies approached and began to render medical aid to him until the arrival of Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics, who were staged nearby due to a traffic collision at the intersection from the original call for service.

Ortiz was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The victim that was assaulted by Ortiz was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics for puncture wounds to the back.

There were no other persons injured during the incident.

An approximate three-foot-long garden claw with six approximate four-inch spikes on one end was recovered at the scene.

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 employees involved in the deputy-involved shooting were identified as Deputy Erin Herring and Deputy Gabriel D'Souza.