

03-13-22

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 6900 block of Jack Rabbit Way, Palmdale

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 13, 2022, at approximately 6:06 PM, deputies assigned to Palmdale Sheriff's Station were driving to a residence in the city of Palmdale to attempt to locate a domestic violence suspect from an earlier incident. Two deputies, each driving their own marked black and white patrol vehicles, were driving towards the residence when they observed a vehicle pull away from the front of the location. Believing the individual driving the vehicle might be the suspect involved in the domestic violence investigation, the deputies began to follow the vehicle. It was later learned the male driving the vehicle was not the domestic violence suspect and identified as 26-year-old Samuel Nunez.

Nunez drove eastbound on Jack Rabbit Way towards the cul-de-sac and conducted an abrupt U-Turn at the end of the street. Nunez began to travel westbound Jack Rabbit Way, at which time he rammed the front end of one of the deputies' vehicles. Nunez then drove his vehicle in reverse and collided with the second deputies' vehicle.

Both deputies exited their vehicles and gave Nunez commands to stop. Nunez refused to comply and again rammed the front end of a patrol vehicle. Nunez revved the engine and as the vehicle began to move, a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Nunez was struck by gunfire and the vehicle slowly rolled backwards before coming to a stop at the curb. A few minutes later, the vehicle rolled back until it collided with the front wall of a residence.

Assisting deputies were requested and once sufficient personnel were on scene, deputies made a tactical approach. Deputies removed Nunez from the vehicle and assessed his injuries. Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics arrived and administered medical aid to Nunez, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

There were no other persons injured during the incident.

It was later determined that Nunez was driving a stolen vehicle. Additionally, a loaded Polymer 80, "Ghost gun," 9mm semi-automatic handgun was recovered inside the vehicle.

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 Chad Melton.