

11-16-22

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the Santa Clara Riverbed located near the 23000 block of Bridgeport Lane, Santa Clarita.

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 November 16, 2022, at approximately 9:35 PM, Santa Clarita Station deputies responded to a restaurant located in the 23000 block of Valencia Boulevard, in Santa Clarita, regarding a call of a possible burglary. Additional information indicated a male wearing a black hoodie and dark blue jeans was responsible for the possible burglary and was walking southbound on Valencia Boulevard toward Creekside Road.

Deputies arrived and located a male, who matched the description of the male described in the call, wearing a dark blue hoodie and blue jeans along the Santa Clara River South Fork Trail behind the 23000 block of Creekside Road. The male was later identified as 40-year-old Thomas Phan.

Deputies contacted Phan, at which time he brandished a knife. The deputies told Phan to put down the knife but he did not comply. Deputies deployed a taser; however, it had no effect. Phan fled on foot from the deputies northbound through the Santa Clara Riverbed and out of view.

The deputies coordinated a containment of the area and an airship to assist in searching for Phan. Deputies searched the Santa Clara Riverbed on foot and located Phan who was armed with two knives, one in each hand. The deputies told him to drop the knives, but Phan ignored their orders. Deputies deployed a taser, but it had no effect. Phan raised the knives in a throwing motion toward the deputies and a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Phan was struck by gunfire and fell to the ground. Deputies approached and rendered aid to Phan until the arrival of Los Angeles County Fire Department. Phan was subsequently pronounced dead at the scene.

No other persons were injured during this incident.

Two folding knives, with approximate four-inch blades, were recovered at the scene.

Investigators later determined Phan was not the suspect in the burglary call.

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 LASD employees involved in the deputy-involved shooting were identified as Deputy Carlos Martinez and Deputy Grayson Fernandez-Jordane.