

12-21-22

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 2500 block of East 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 accurately reflect the facts as we currently know them.***

December 20, 2022, at approximately 11:44 PM, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop of a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed northbound 14 freeway north of Golden Valley Road. The driver, later identified as 24-year-old Fernando Fierro, failed to yield, and a vehicle pursuit ensued. During the pursuit, Fierro placed a 911 call to Lancaster Sheriff's Station and stated he was armed with a gun and he would not stop until he arrived home. He made several threatening statements directed toward the pursuing CHP officers and his infant son, who was a passenger in the vehicle.

CHP attempted a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver, which was unsuccessful. Fierro fired multiple gunshots at the pursuing CHP officers. The pursuit terminated in the 2500 block of East Avenue I, Lancaster, where Fierro exited his vehicle holding a gun to his son's head. Fierro then ran into his residence and barricaded himself.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) personnel, including the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB), responded to assist CHP with the containment of the residence. During an approximate 18-hour long hostage situation, LASD personnel along with members of the Crisis Negotiation Team attempted to contact Fierro but were unsuccessful.

While attempting to communicate with Fierro, SEB deputies saw Fierro at the front door of his residence. Fierro placed a gun to his son's head, at which time a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Fierro was struck by deputy gunfire. SEB deputies made entry into the residence and rescued the infant. Fierro was treated by SEB Emergency Services Detail paramedics at the scene and was subsequently pronounced dead.

The infant was not injured during the incident. He was transported to a local hospital for a medical assessment.

There were no other persons injured in the incident.

A loaded 9mm semiautomatic handgun 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 employee involved in the deputy-involved shooting was identified as Deputy Robert Maas.