

12-22-22

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 1800 block of West 145th Street, Gardena.

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 December 21, 2022, at approximately 7:46 AM, Gardena Police Department (GPD) officers responded to the 1800 block of West 145th Street, Gardena regarding a call of an assault with a firearm. GPD Officers learned an individual, later identified as 61-year-old Willie Pendleton, shot at the victim with a handgun and subsequently barricaded himself inside a residence. GPD officers, with assistance from other local law enforcement agencies, conducted a barricaded suspect operation at the residence. During an approximate 31-hour long operation, which included the use of call outs, various crisis negotiation techniques, and less lethal ordinance, Pendleton refused to surrender.

GPD officers requested the assistance of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB). On December 22, 2022, at approximately 3:15 PM, SEB deputy personnel responded and assumed command of the barricaded suspect operation. During the operation, SEB deputies utilized a variety of resources in order to gain Pendleton's compliance, which included callouts, communication with members of the Crisis Negotiation Team, and less lethal ordinance; however, Pendleton refused to surrender. After several hours, SEB deputies and K-9 "Jack" made entry into the residence, where they encountered Pendleton.

Pendleton was armed with a firearm and shot at SEB deputies and the K-9, at which time a deputy-involved shooting occurred. The unleashed K-9 ascended the stairs and engaged Pendleton on the second-floor landing. SEB deputies made a tactical approach to the second floor of the residence, where the K-9 and Pendleton were located. Pendleton shot the K-9 and then pointed his firearm at SEB deputies, and a second deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Pendleton was struck by deputy gunfire and was treated by SEB Emergency Services Detail paramedics at the scene. Pendleton was subsequently pronounced dead.

SEB K-9 "Jack", sustained gunshot wounds, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

There were no other persons injured during the incident.

A .38 caliber revolver, which contained five expended cartridge casings in the cylinder, 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 Erving Francois and Deputy Stephen Williams.