

12-04-23

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 2100 block of East Avenue J-8, 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.

On December 4, 2023, at 6:08 p.m., Lancaster Station deputies responded to an apartment in the 2100 block of East Avenue J-8 in the city of Lancaster, regarding a domestic violence call. A female called 9-1-1 and reported that her boyfriend would not leave her alone and then screaming and sounds of a struggle could be heard. The female was later identified as 27-year-old Niani Finlayson of Lancaster.

Deputies arrived on scene and approached the front door of the apartment; they could hear people arguing and yelling inside. As they attempted to make forced entry into the apartment, a female adult opened the front door, armed with a large kitchen knife.

Finlayson told deputies she was going to stab her boyfriend for pushing her daughter. Finlayson retreated into the apartment toward the area where her boyfriend was sitting. Deputies entered the apartment, where Finlayson grabbed her boyfriend while holding the knife in an apparent attempt to stab him, and a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Finlayson was struck by gunfire, fell to the floor, and dropped the knife. Deputies rendered first aid to her until Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics arrived and continued to provide medical aid. Finlayson was transported to a local hospital, where she was pronounced deceased.

A kitchen knife with an approximate eight-inch blade was recovered at the scene.

There were no other people injured during the incident.

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.

The employee involved in the deputy-involved shooting was identified as Deputy Ty Shelton.