

02-06-24

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 43500 block of 20th Street West, 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 February 6, 2024, at 9:28 a.m., Lancaster Station deputies responded to a business in the 43500 block of 20th Street West, Lancaster, regarding a call of a business disturbance. The caller stated a male, armed with a machete, was at the location. The male was later identified as 38-year-old Jonathan Scott Foster of Lancaster.

Deputies located Foster standing outside the front entrance to the business with a machete in his hand and an additional machete affixed to his waistband. He was given numerous commands to drop the machete but refused to comply. After several minutes Foster walked into the open business which was occupied by numerous customers. Deputies on scene fired a taser multiple times and launched several 40MM foam batons at Foster, but they had minimal effect. After the deployment of a third less-lethal weapon attempt, Foster charged at deputy personnel while still armed with the machete and a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Foster sustained several gunshot wounds to his upper and lower torso. Deputies rendered first aid until the arrival of Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics. Foster was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Two machetes, approximately 24 inches in length, were recovered at the scene.

There were no other people injured in the incident.

During the investigation, investigators discovered that earlier in the day Foster burglarized a local gas station in the city of Lancaster. During the incident, Foster shattered the front glass door to the business and attacked a female employee with the machete. The victim suffered a severe laceration to her hand and was treated at a local hospital.

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 employees involved in the deputy-involved shooting were identified as Deputy Eric Torres, Deputy Kyle Deluca and Deputy James Alvarado.