

01-27-24

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 11000 block of Rosecrans Avenue, Norwalk.

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 January 27, 2024, at 5:40 p.m., Norwalk Station deputies responded to a business in the 11000 block of Rosecrans Avenue, Norwalk, regarding a call of a robbery in progress. The caller stated a male, armed with a rifle, was stealing merchandise. The male was later identified as 38-year-old Jerald Hardcastle of Lake Elsinore.

Deputies located Hardcastle standing between several parked vehicles in the rear parking lot of the business. He was given numerous commands to place his hands on his head and walk toward deputy personnel, but he refused to comply. After several minutes, deputies formed a tactical plan to approach Hardcastle. As deputies moved toward Hardcastle's position, he retrieved a shotgun, faced the deputies, and a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Hardcastle sustained a gunshot wound to his left hand. As deputies went to detain Hardcastle, he began to resist and was taken down to the ground and subsequently tased. Deputies rendered first aid until the arrival of Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics. Hardcastle was transported to a local hospital where he received medical treatment and was medically cleared for booking.

It was later determined Hardcastle had entered the business and had pointed a shotgun at the employees. During the incident, Hardcastle stole U.S. currency from the register, and merchandise from the business.

A loaded shotgun was recovered at the scene. In addition, Hardcastle was in possession of two assault rifles.

There were no other persons injured in the incident.

Subsequent to this incident, Hardcastle was charged with robbery, assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, and three counts of felon in possession of a firearm.

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 Daniel Rodriguez, Deputy Juan Cruz, Deputy Richard Simms, and Deputy Aaron Agajanian.