

02-23-24

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 13100 block of Pearblossom Highway, Unincorporated Pearblossom.

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 23, 2024, at 6:32 a.m., Palmdale Station deputies responded to a gas station in the 13000 block of Pearblossom Highway, Unincorporated Pearblossom, regarding a call of an assault with a deadly weapon. The caller stated a male was armed with a sharp object, threatening to stab the victim if she didn't call the police. The male was later identified as 30-year-old Joseph Westley Henson from the Pearblossom area.

Deputies located Henson walking eastbound away from the business with a sharp object in his hand. They gave Henson multiple commands to show his hands and drop the weapon, but he refused to comply. The deputies followed Henson in their vehicle as he walked eastbound toward another business.

Deputies continued to speak to Henson giving additional verbal commands to gain his compliance. Henson stated repeatedly, "You're going to have to shoot me." At one point during the encounter, Henson advanced toward the deputies while concealing his right hand inside the front left chest area of his jacket, simulating a weapon, at which time a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

After the deputy-involved shooting, Henson ran away from the deputies. The deputies engaged in a short foot pursuit of Henson to the front entrance of the business, where he fell to the ground.

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

A precision pick/hook was recovered at the scene.

There were no other persons injured in 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.

*****UPDATE*****

The employee involved in the deputy-involved shooting was identified as Deputy Aram Derderian.