



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Report on the Investigation into the
Death of Brandon Salgado on April 26, 2024**

Los Angeles County AB 1506

October 2026

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INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

BACKGROUND—AB 1506

Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 1506 (AB 1506), the California Department of Justice is required to investigate all incidents of an officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of an unarmed civilian in the state. Historically, these critical incidents in California had been primarily handled by local law enforcement agencies and the state's 58 district attorneys.

AB 1506, signed into law on September 30, 2020, and effective July 1, 2021, provides the California Department of Justice (DOJ) with an important tool to directly help build and maintain trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve by creating a mandate for an independent, statewide prosecutor to investigate and review officer-involved shootings of unarmed civilians across California. DOJ investigates and reviews, for potential criminal liability, all such incidents covered under AB 1506, as enacted in California Government Code section 12525.3. Where criminal charges are not appropriate, DOJ is required to prepare and make public a written report, like this one, communicating:

- A statement of facts, as revealed by the investigation;
- An analysis of those facts in light of applicable law;
- An explanation of why it was determined that criminal charges were not appropriate; and
- Where applicable, recommendations to modify the policies and practices of the involved law enforcement agency.

Recommendations to modify policies and practices of the involved law enforcement agency will be based on the facts of the incident, any known policies and practices of the relevant law enforcement agency, and the experience and expertise developed by DOJ personnel.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

This report includes redactions of the names and other identifying information of witnesses and any family members of Brandon Salgado. The public interest in such information is limited, as it is not necessary to gain an understanding of the incident. Thus, the interest in nondisclosure outweighs any public interest in disclosure.

For reasons related to privacy, as well as readability of this report, the witnesses and key locations will be identified as follows:

- Location #1 – residence in the 6800 block of Cerritos Avenue, Long Beach, California
- Witness 1 (W-1) – female resident of Location #1
- Witness 2 (W-2) – male resident of Location #1
- Witness 3 (W-3) – 17-year-old grandson of W-1 and W-2
- Witness 4 (W-4) – neighbor bystander
- Witness 5 (W-5) – Mr. Salgado’s next of kin

INTRODUCTION

On April 26, 2024, Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) Officer Marco Lopez responded to a call of an “armed home invasion robbery.” Brandon Salgado engaged in an hour-long standoff with LBPD officers where he repeatedly stated he was armed and pointed what appeared to be a gun at himself and eventually at the officers, causing Officer Lopez to fire one shot that killed Mr. Salgado. After the shooting, it was discovered that Mr. Salgado’s gun was a replica gun.

DOJ investigated and reviewed the OIS pursuant to Government Code section 12525.3 (enacted by Assem. Bill No. 1506 (2019-2020 Reg. Sess.)). This report is the final step in DOJ’s review of the fatal OIS of Mr. Salgado and is limited solely to determining whether criminal charges should be brought against the involved officer. The review does not encompass or comment on any potential administrative or civil actions. It does, however, include policy and practice recommendations as required by Government Code section 12525.3, subdivision (b)(2)(B)(iii). Upon thorough examination, and as discussed in detail below, we conclude that no criminal charges will be filed because the evidence is insufficient to prove that Officer Lopez committed a crime.

CAUTION: The images and information contained in this report may be graphic and disturbing. Therefore, reader discretion is advised, especially for young children and sensitive individuals.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT¹

On April 26, 2024, at approximately 8:22 PM, Mr. Salgado wore a mask and approached the front door of Location #1 with a crowbar. Ring video footage from Location #1 shows Mr. Salgado using the crowbar to open the gated front door and then entering the home.



Still photo of Mr. Salgado approaching Location #1 and holding a crowbar in his left hand.

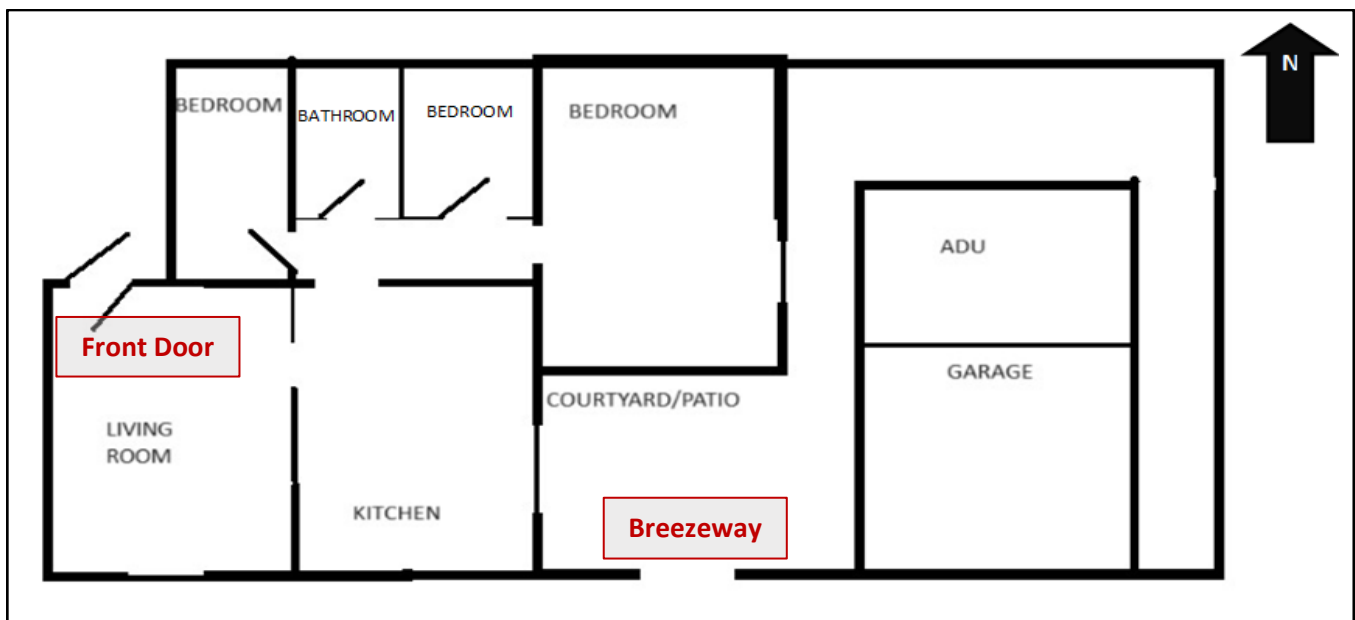


Still photo of Mr. Salgado using the crowbar to open the gated front door.

¹ This report generally includes information about facts and circumstances leading up to the OIS, even if some of the facts were unknown to the officers, in order to explain and give context to the entire incident.

W-3 was inside watching television in the living room when Mr. Salgado entered and pointed what appeared to be a black gun at him. W-1 and W-2 heard W-3 arguing with Mr. Salgado and went to the living room to investigate. Mr. Salgado pointed the gun at W-1, W-2, and W-3, and demanded jewelry. W-1 went to the bedroom, called 911, and reported that W-2 was arguing with an unknown man who was armed with a gun. Mr. Salgado called for W-1 to return to the living room and she hung up. Mr. Salgado demanded cell phones, wallets, and jewelry from W-2 and W-3. Mr. Salgado and W-2 went to another bedroom in the house, and W-1 called 911 again.

At approximately 8:36 PM, LBPD Officer Carlos Nava was dispatched to Location #1 in response to a call of “a person with a gun.” The call was then changed to “armed home invasion robbery.” Officer Nava entered the residence, and W-2 said that Mr. Salgado exited through a bedroom window to the backyard.



Layout of Location #1.

Officer Nava informed other responding officers of Mr. Salgado’s possible direction of travel and searched for Mr. Salgado along the outside of the residence. Officer Nava saw Mr. Salgado in the breezeway that separated the residence and the garage. The breezeway had a gated entrance separating it from the street facing East 68th Street.



Location #1 in the 6800 block of Cerritos Avenue



Still photo from Officer Nava's body worn video from when he saw Mr. Salgado hiding in the breezeway.

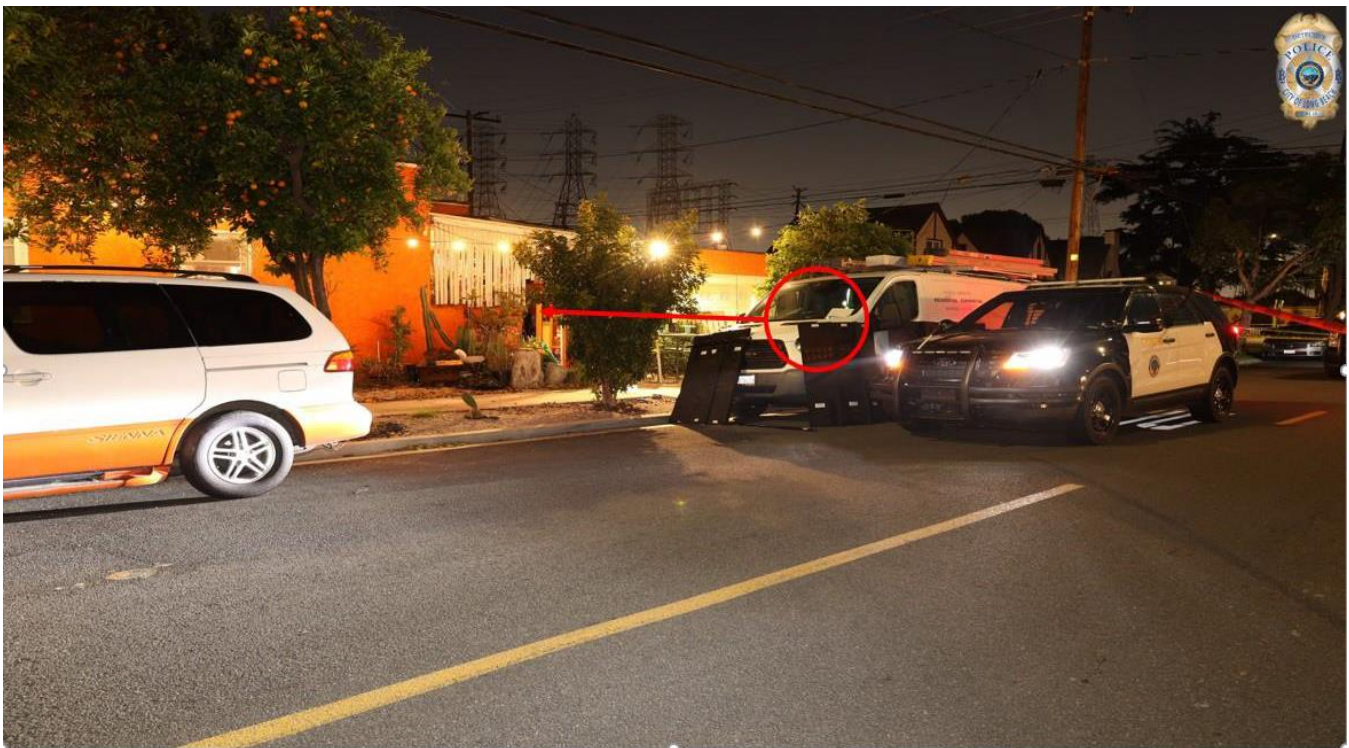
Mr. Salgado can be heard on body worn camera video telling Officer Nava to “back up!” and yelling “I have a gun!” Officer Nava told Mr. Salgado, “Put your hands up, drop the gun.” Officer Nava identified

himself as LBPd and repeatedly told Mr. Salgado to drop the gun. Mr. Salgado responded, "Fuck no!" Officer Nava radioed to other responding officers that Mr. Salgado carried what looked like a "black pistol." Officer Nava told Mr. Salgado that he did not want to hurt him.

At 8:47 PM, LBPd Officer David Chamberlain arrived on scene and was informed by Officer Nava that Mr. Salgado was pointing a gun at his own head. Officer Chamberlain stood behind a white van parked on East 68th Street in front of the breezeway and began negotiating with Mr. Salgado. Meanwhile, LBPd Officer Marco Lopez arrived on scene and evacuated W-1, W-2, and W-3 from the residence.

For approximately 48 minutes, Officer Chamberlain negotiated with Mr. Salgado, who remained in the gated breezeway. Officer Chamberlain repeatedly told Mr. Salgado to put his gun on the ground, that the officers wanted to help him, and that nobody wanted to hurt him. Mr. Salgado said his name was "Rip Van Winkle." Mr. Salgado said that he wanted the officers to shoot him, and Officer Chamberlain responded, "None of us wants to do that." Officer Chamberlain relayed to the other officers that Mr. Salgado wanted to "either shoot himself or have us do it." Mr. Salgado said that he did not want to kill the officers, and Officer Chamberlain said they did not want to hurt him either. Mr. Salgado said he did not want to go to jail, and Officer Chamberlain offered to take Mr. Salgado to a hospital instead. Officer Chamberlain said he did not want to see Mr. Salgado hurt himself.

Officer Lopez stood next to Officer Chamberlain behind the white van while Officer Chamberlain negotiated with Mr. Salgado. Officer Lopez and Officer Chamberlain discussed that Officer Lopez would provide lethal cover. Officer Lopez pointed his patrol rifle and mounted light at the breezeway where Mr. Salgado was standing. Mr. Salgado acted erratically, alternating between pointing the gun at himself, the residence, and the ground.



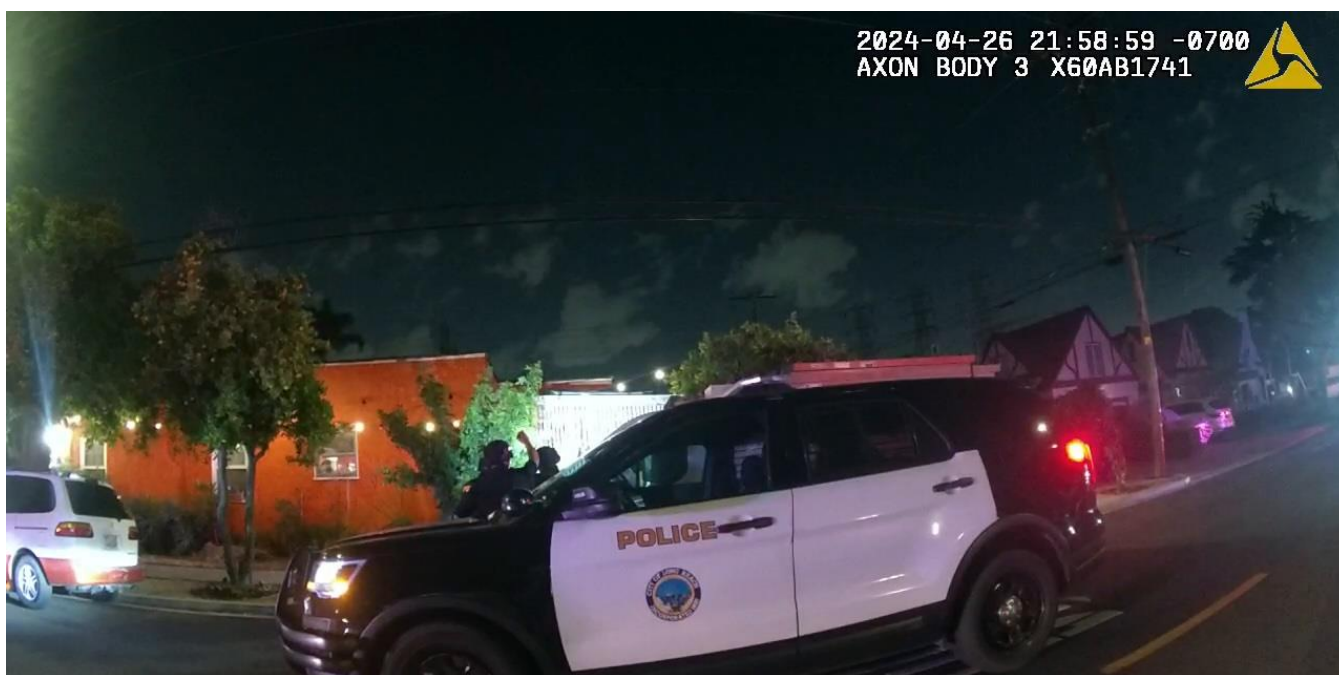
LBPd photograph depicting where Officers Lopez, Chamberlain, and Rosas stood on East 68th Street when they negotiated with Mr. Salgado, who was in the breezeway of Location #1.

Mr. Salgado said he wanted alcoholic drinks and Officer Chamberlain said he had none. When Mr. Salgado asked for water, Officer Chamberlain said he could give Mr. Salgado a water bottle if Mr. Salgado put the gun on the ground. Mr. Salgado put the gun on the ground, and Officer Chamberlain threw a water bottle over the fence to Mr. Salgado. Mr. Salgado then found “New Mix” alcoholic drinks in the breezeway and began to drink them.

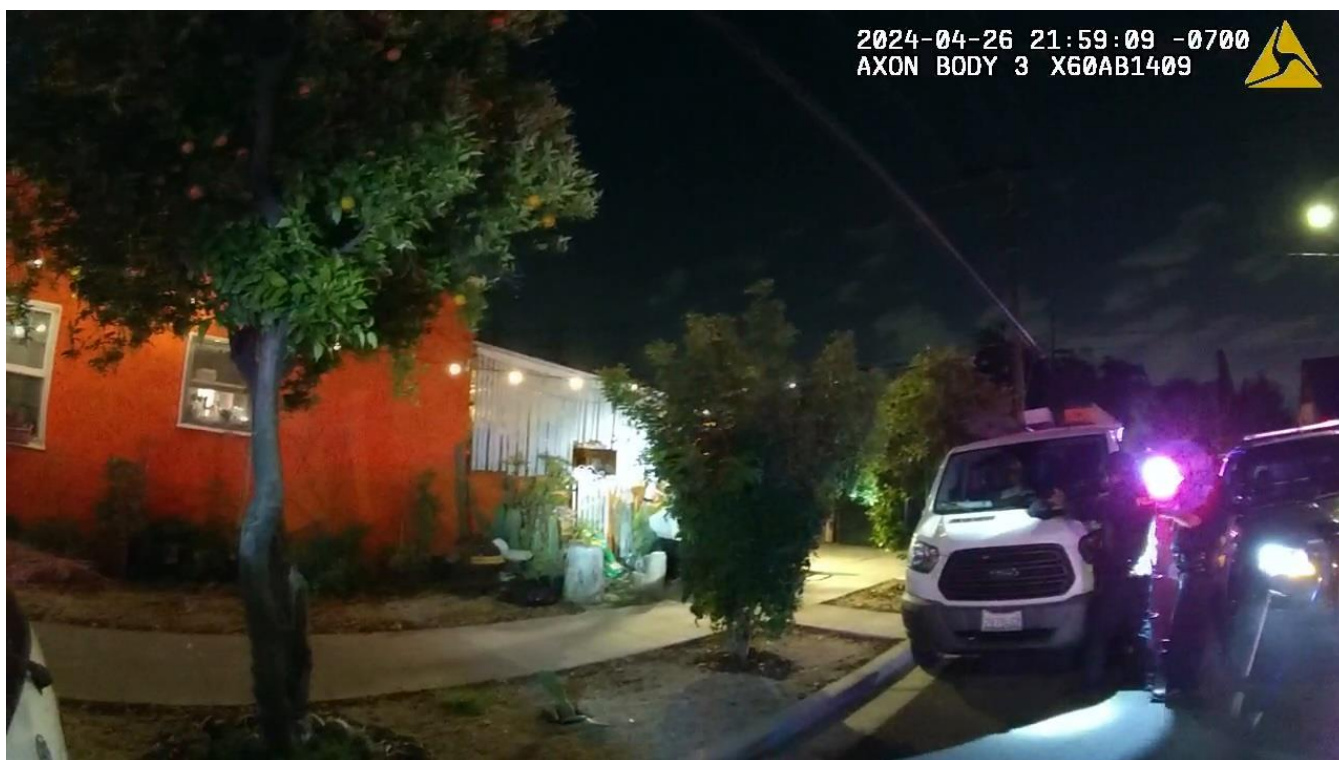
At approximately 9:35 PM, LBPDP Officer Daniela Rosas took over negotiations with Mr. Salgado, and Officer Lopez continued to provide lethal cover. Officer Rosas noticed that Mr. Salgado was drinking what appeared to be an alcoholic beverage and asked how many drinks he had consumed. Mr. Salgado said he had “chugged” an unknown number of drinks.

Officer Rosas told Mr. Salgado not to pick up the gun from the ground, and Mr. Salgado said he would not touch the gun. Mr. Salgado asked for a bottle of whiskey, and Officer Rosas said she could work on getting him a bottle of whiskey if he slid his gun out to them. Mr. Salgado started to ask about God and stated multiple times that he was going to die. Officer Rosas said that was not going to happen and repeatedly asked Mr. Salgado to slide the gun under the fence to them.

After approximately 24 minutes, Mr. Salgado said, “I’m not right in the head,” and repeated that he was going to die. Officer Rosas noticed Mr. Salgado looking in the direction of the gun. Mr. Salgado said that he was going to pick up the gun, and Officer Rosas repeatedly told him not to pick up the gun. Officer Lopez can be heard on body worn camera video warning the other officers, “He’s reaching down.” Mr. Salgado knelt down towards his right side where the gun was on the ground. Officer Rosas saw Mr. Salgado pick up the gun with his right hand. As Mr. Salgado stood up, Officer Rosas saw Mr. Salgado lift the gun waist-high and tilt it parallel to the ground with the muzzle pointed in her and Officer Lopez’s direction. At 9:59:00 PM, Officer Lopez fired a single shot at Mr. Salgado, hitting him in the chest. Officer Chamberlain asked who had fired their weapon. Officer Lopez responded that he had fired his weapon and said, “He pointed a gun at me.”



Still photograph from body worn video showing Officers Lopez and Rosas, and Sergeant Cruz pointing a flashlight at Mr. Salgado in the breezeway, just before the OIS.



Still photograph from body worn video showing Officers Lopez and Rosas and Sergeant Cruz when the OIS occurred.

Officer Nava, who was positioned inside the residence, went to the breezeway after the OIS. He felt Mr. Salgado's pulse and administered chest compressions. Officer Nava saw a black gun on the ground next to Mr. Salgado. Long Beach Fire Department personnel arrived and transported Mr. Salgado to Long Beach Memorial Hospital for further medical treatment. Mr. Salgado was pronounced dead at 10:23 PM. Mr. Salgado's gun was collected and later determined to be an Airsoft or replica gun.

INVESTIGATION

Overview

The LBPD homicide detail was notified of the OIS and arrived on scene. Upon determining that Mr. Salgado's gun was a replica gun, the OIS was considered an AB 1506 case. On April 27, 2024, at approximately 1:18 AM, LBPD Sergeant Benjamin Vargas notified the DOJ command center about this OIS. However, the command center mistakenly informed Sergeant Vargas that this incident did not qualify as an AB 1506 OIS.

Later that day, Special Agent (SA) Alan Oratovsky with DOJ's California Police Shooting Investigation Team (CaPSIT), saw a news article regarding the OIS. The article noted that Mr. Salgado was armed with a replica gun.² SA Oratovsky contacted SA Supervisor (SAS) Samuel Richardson, who confirmed that this was an AB 1506 qualifying incident.

² SA Oratovsky saw a KTLA 5 News article (<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/armed-home-invasion-suspect-killed-by-police-after-standoff-in-long-beach/>).

On April 29, 2024, members of CaPSIT and a Deputy Attorney General met with LBPd personnel at LBPd headquarters and assumed control of the criminal investigation. The DOJ team then conducted a walkthrough of the scene at Location #1. On May 1, 2024, DOJ special agents and LAPD officers canvassed the neighborhood looking for witnesses and possible video footage of the OIS.

Evidence Reviewed

The investigation conducted by DOJ was thorough, objective, and comprehensive. The evidence reviewed in this investigation includes, but is not limited to, interviews of residents near Location #1, neighbors who may have heard or witnessed the OIS, Ring video footage from Location #1, LBPd body worn camera recordings, communications before and during the incident (911 calls, computer aided dispatch records, radio traffic communications, etc.), reports and supplemental reports by law enforcement who were present at the scene and witnessed the OIS, and autopsy and toxicology reports of Mr. Salgado.

Incident Scene Description

The OIS occurred in the breezeway of Location #1 facing East 68th Street, a residential street in Long Beach between Cerritos Avenue and Orange Avenue. At the time of the OIS, the breezeway was semi-illuminated by string lights and outdoor lights. While the breezeway was semi-dark, body worn video footage showed Mr. Salgado illuminated by the mounted light on Officer Lopez's patrol rifle and Sergeant Cruz's flashlight. The scene perimeter was established by manned LBPd vehicles. All vehicles were clearly marked black and white police vehicles and equipped with emergency lighting.

Incident Scene Evidence Recovery

A perimeter around Location #1 was established with yellow and red crime scene tape. LBPd criminalists processed the scene for evidence. The scene was documented in reports, in photographs, and evidence collection. The most relevant items of physical evidence collected during scene processing include:

1. Mr. Salgado's gun located in the breezeway of Location #1
2. One rifle casing located on the windshield of the white van parked on East 68th Street
3. "New Mix" alcoholic beverage cans from the breezeway of Location #1
4. Black gloves found in the breezeway of Location #1
5. Black and silver hammer located outside the front door of Location #1
6. Black and red crowbar located inside the residence at Location #1



Mr. Salgado's replica gun in the breezeway at Location #1.



Mr. Salgado's replica gun booked into evidence.



Rifle cartridge expelled from Officer Lopez's patrol rifle.



"New Mix" alcoholic beverage cans and black gloves in the breezeway.



Black and silver hammer outside front door at Location #1.



Black and red crowbar inside residence at Location #1.

At the scene, LBPd officers recovered Mr. Salgado's black gun, which appeared to be an all-black Beretta M9/92FS type pistol. It was photographed and placed in a manila envelope. Upon closer inspection, LBPd detectives determined that the gun was not a real gun but an Airsoft pistol.

A DOJ Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) criminalist examined the recovered Airsoft gun and determined it to be a replica and not a gun. It was marked for six-millimeter BBs, but the make and model were unknown. It had a movable slide, trigger, and hammer. The replica gun lacked a firing pin, making it incapable of firing. However, the criminalist reported that the replica gun appeared visually similar to a Beretta model 92 SB gun from the Firearms Reference Collection at the Riverside Laboratory.

911 Call

At 8:26:46 PM, a female caller was heard crying but hung up before a Spanish interpreter was connected to speak with her. At 8:27:36 PM, the caller called back and reported that her husband was having a dispute with somebody who had a gun. She abruptly hung up. At 8:36:54 PM, the female caller called back, was crying, and reported that a man broke into their house with a gun. She said he had long hair, a face mask, and beige pants.

OFFICER PROCESSING

Immediately after the OIS, an LBPd sergeant took possession of Officer Lopez's rifle, and an LBPd lieutenant collected Officer Lopez's body worn camera. An LBPd forensic specialist photographed Officer Lopez in his long-sleeved uniform and exterior ballistic vest as he appeared at the time of the OIS, with the exception of the ballistic helmet that Sergeant Cruz had given Officer Lopez. Officer Lopez was unsure who the helmet belonged to or where it had been placed.

An LBPd detective conducted a firearm inspection of Officer Lopez's AR-15 rifle at LBPd headquarters. The rifle was a Land Warfare Resources Corporation model M6IC equipped with a holographic weapon sight, magnifier on a flip-to-side mount, weapon light with remote pressure switch, and handstop. It was loaded with 26 cartridges of Winchester Ballistic Silvertips, the department's standard duty ammunition.

Body Worn Camera (BWC) Video, Surveillance Video, and Other Recordings

The BWCs of all involved officers were activated at the time of the OIS. The BWCs recorded the response to the radio call; the negotiations between Mr. Salgado, Officer Chamberlain, and Officer Rosas leading up to the OIS; and the response after the OIS. The summary of the incident above is primarily based on the BWC recordings, which captured the incident from the moment of the officers' arrival until the medical personnel arrived. All body camera recordings were provided to DOJ and reviewed by CaPSIT. Other recordings reviewed include Ring video surveillance footage from Location #1, radio traffic transmissions, and the 911 calls. All other potential locations with cameras provided no investigative value.

AUTOPSY

Mr. Salgado was born on August 12, 2006, and was 17 years old at the time of the OIS. He was 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed 286 pounds. Deputy Medical Examiner Paul Gliniecki, M.D. completed the autopsy on April 29, 2024. Dr. Gliniecki determined the cause of death to be a single gunshot wound to

the mid-upper chest. There was no exit wound, and the projectile was recovered from Mr. Salgado's chest. This wound is considered rapidly fatal. Toxicology results showed the presence of alcohol in Mr. Salgado's blood. Mr. Salgado's blood alcohol content was 0.04%.

INTERVIEWS OF POLICE OFFICERS

Officer Lopez declined to provide a statement. Police officers, like all individuals, have the right to remain silent and decline to answer questions in the face of official questioning. (*Spielbauer v. County of Santa Clara* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 704, 714; see generally *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) 384 U.S. 436.)

Public employees, including police officers, may be compelled by an employer to answer questions for administrative purposes, but the use of such statements in criminal proceedings is prohibited. (*Lybarger v. City of Los Angeles* (1985) 40 Cal.3d 822, 827-828, citing *Lefkowitz v. Turley* (1973) 414 U.S. 70, 77-79, *Garrity v. State of New Jersey* (1967) 385 U.S. 493, 500.) Accordingly, no compelled statements were considered as part of this investigation.

Although all officers declined to give statements, they each wrote detailed incident reports. The reports most relevant to the OIS are summarized below.

Officer Lopez

Officer Lopez responded to a call of "person with a firearm" that was changed to "home invasion robbery" at Location #1. The caller said an unknown male with a gun was arguing with her husband. She described the intruder as having long hair, a face mask, and beige pants. While en route to Location #1, Officer Lopez thought about the imminent threats posed to the residents and responding officers based on Mr. Salgado's possession of a gun. He considered that once the residents at Location #1 were no longer in imminent danger and Mr. Salgado was contained, the officers could use distance and cover to slow the situation down and find the best course of action.

Upon Officer Lopez's arrival, he saw Officer Nava standing on East 68th Street with his gun drawn. Officer Nava gave verbal commands to Mr. Salgado to put his gun down. Officer Lopez ran around the outside of Location #1 to determine what the entry and exit points were into the breezeway. He and other responding officers established a perimeter around Location #1. Officer Lopez then evacuated W-1, W-2, and W-3 from the residence.

Officer Lopez determined that Mr. Salgado, an armed suspect, was barricaded in a "tactically advantageous area" inside a yard fortified with cinderblock walls and locked with wrought iron gates. There were also multiple places in the breezeway that provided cover and concealment for Mr. Salgado. Based on this, Officer Lopez retrieved his patrol rifle. He relieved Officer Nava as lethal cover.

Officer Lopez positioned himself behind the white utility van next to Officer Chamberlain and Sergeant Cruz. Knowing that W-1, W-2, and W-3 were no longer in imminent danger and that Mr. Salgado was contained in the breezeway, he and the other officers used time, distance, and cover to attempt to de-escalate the situation. Officer Chamberlain spoke with Mr. Salgado. Retreating from the situation entirely was not a viable option given that Mr. Salgado had broken into a home while armed and still posed a threat to the community.

Officer Lopez used the mounted light on his patrol rifle to illuminate Mr. Salgado, who was visible from behind the wrought iron fence of the breezeway. Officer Chamberlain did not point his gun at Mr. Salgado so that he could establish trust crucial to the negotiations. Officers Chamberlain and Lopez agreed that Officer Lopez would provide lethal cover. As lethal cover, Officer Lopez's duty was to ensure the safety of the officers and the community if Mr. Salgado decided to fire his gun. Officer Chamberlain repeatedly told Mr. Salgado to surrender peacefully. Mr. Salgado did not point the gun in the officers' direction but also did not surrender.

Throughout the negotiations, Mr. Salgado acted erratically, lowering and raising the gun to his head while screaming and yelling that he wanted to kill himself. Officer Chamberlain listened to Mr. Salgado and kept him talking while attempting to defuse the situation. Officer Lopez continued to provide lethal cover.

When Officer Rosas took over verbal negotiations, Officer Lopez continued to provide lethal cover. Sergeant Cruz used a handheld flashlight to provide additional light in case Officer Lopez's mounted light went out. Officer Lopez could clearly see Mr. Salgado, where he was standing, and where his hands were positioned in the breezeway.

Mr. Salgado said he was going to pick up the gun, and he wanted the officers to shoot him. Officer Rosas ordered Mr. Salgado not to pick up the gun and to let them get him some help. Mr. Salgado ignored Officer Rosas and began to bend down to his right side where the gun was located. Officer Rosas again ordered Mr. Salgado not to pick up the gun. Officer Lopez warned the officers that Mr. Salgado was bending down to pick up the gun. Officer Lopez had a clear view of Mr. Salgado between the wrought iron bars of the gate and Mr. Salgado was fully illuminated by light. Officer Lopez saw Mr. Salgado bending at the waist to reach down to pick up the gun with his right hand. As Mr. Salgado bent to pick up the gun, Officer Lopez's electronic dot sight on his rifle was focused on Mr. Salgado's upper chest between the bars of the fence.

While still slightly bent to his right, Mr. Salgado quickly raised his right arm against the right side of his body and turned his wrist so that the barrel of the gun was pointed directly at Officer Lopez and the officers near him. Officer Lopez believed Mr. Salgado was going to shoot and kill him or the other officers standing next to him. Considering the statements Mr. Salgado had made during the hour-long negotiations and that he was armed with a gun, Officer Lopez believed Mr. Salgado had the present ability, opportunity, and intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officers. Officer Lopez feared for his life and the lives of the nearby officers. He believed lethal force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat.

Officer Lopez aimed at the center of Mr. Salgado's upper chest and fired one shot to confront the threat of imminent danger. He saw Mr. Salgado bend forward and fall backward. Officer Lopez assessed the need for another shot, but Mr. Salgado did not appear to still be holding the gun or attempting to fire it at another target.

Officers inside the residence moved to the breezeway and rendered medical aid to Mr. Salgado before LBFD personnel transported him to the hospital.

Officer Rosas

Officer Rosas responded to Location #1 to assist with a home invasion call. She was tasked with relieving Officer Chamberlain, who had been negotiating with Mr. Salgado. Officer Rosas positioned herself behind the white van on East 68th Street.

Officer Chamberlain said that Mr. Salgado had put his gun on the ground near his right foot. Officer Rosas established a rapport with Mr. Salgado. She saw him drinking alcoholic beverages, and he said he had “chugged” an unknown number of drinks. Officer Rosas asked Mr. Salgado where the gun was. He said that it was “right here” and looked down to the ground by his right foot. Officer Rosas advised Mr. Salgado to leave it where it was and not to touch it. Mr. Salgado said he was not going to touch it.

Officer Rosas attempted to negotiate with Mr. Salgado and asked him to slide the gun under the fence to the officers. However, Mr. Salgado began to talk about God and repeated that he was going to die. After about 25 minutes, Mr. Salgado said, “I’m not right in the head,” and Officer Rosas noticed Mr. Salgado looking in the direction of the gun. Officer Rosas told him not to pick up the gun.

Officer Rosas saw Mr. Salgado kneel toward his right side. She saw him pick up the black gun in his right hand. As Mr. Salgado stood back up, he lifted the gun waist high and turned it parallel to the ground with the muzzle pointed in Officer Rosas’s direction. She heard a single gunshot to the left of her and saw Mr. Salgado fall to the ground.

Sergeant Cruz

Sergeant Cruz responded to Location #1 to assist with “a subject armed with a gun” call. Upon his arrival, he saw Officers Nava and Chamberlain behind a white van on East 68th Street. He saw Mr. Salgado in the breezeway wearing a bandana over his face and pointing the muzzle end of a black gun at his own head. Officer Chamberlain negotiated with Mr. Salgado while Officer Nava provided lethal cover.

Sergeant Cruz gave directions to assisting units and then positioned himself next to Officer Chamberlain and Officer Lopez, who had relieved Officer Nava as lethal cover, behind the van. Mr. Salgado repeatedly said he was “going to die today” and said the officers were going to shoot him. He said he had a “Beretta” and waved the gun around randomly while speaking with Officer Chamberlain. Mr. Salgado also pointed the gun at his own head multiple times.

Officer Rosas relieved Officer Chamberlain after about one hour. She attempted to get Mr. Salgado to safely and peacefully surrender. After about 25 minutes, Mr. Salgado said he was going to pick up the gun. Officer Rosas gave clear and direct orders not to pick up the gun. Mr. Salgado said he was “going to die today.” Sergeant Cruz saw Mr. Salgado reach down to pick up the gun, ignoring Officer Rosas’s commands to not pick up the gun. Mr. Salgado picked up the gun with his right hand and held it down by his right side. Using only his hand, he pointed the gun at Officer Lopez, Officer Rosas, and Sergeant Cruz. Officer Lopez fired one shot from his rifle at Mr. Salgado. Mr. Salgado fell down and was contacted by officers who were inside the residence.

Officer Nava

Officer Nava responded to Location #1 for a call of “person with a firearm,” which was shortly after changed to “armed home invasion robbery.” Upon his arrival, he went to the residence where W-2 said Mr. Salgado had left through a window in the back bedroom. Officer Nava notified the communication center of Mr. Salgado’s direction of travel and then ran the outside perimeter of the house. He could

hear movement in the breezeway and looked inside. He heard Mr. Salgado yell, “Back up” and “I have a gun!” Officer Nava saw Mr. Salgado point a black gun out from behind the garage and wave it around.

Officer Nava gave commands for Mr. Salgado to drop his gun. He attempted to de-escalate the situation and said he did not want to hurt Mr. Salgado. As more officers arrived, Officer Nava saw Mr. Salgado walk towards the entrance of the breezeway with the gun pointed at his own head. Officer Nava relayed to the other officers that Mr. Salgado had his gun pointed at his own head.

Officer Chamberlain began verbally negotiating with Mr. Salgado. Officer Nava heard Officer Chamberlain tell Mr. Salgado that the officers did not want to hurt him, but Mr. Salgado continued to point the gun at his own head. Mr. Salgado said that he was going to kill himself, that he was going to make the officers kill him, and that he wanted to die on his own terms.

Officer Nava was then tasked with taking a position inside the residence in case Mr. Salgado decided to go back inside. While inside the residence, Officer Nava heard one gunshot outside. Officer Nava went to the breezeway and saw Mr. Salgado on the ground. He saw a black gun on the ground between Mr. Salgado and the gate. Officer Nava performed chest compressions until LBFD personnel took over medical aid.

INTERVIEWS OF CIVILIAN WITNESSES

On May 1, 2024, DOJ agents and LBPB officers canvassed the neighborhood surrounding Location #1, knocked on doors, and asked if residents saw the OIS or had any home surveillance footage that may have recorded the OIS. Agents spoke with 21 residents who had no information of investigative value. Each interview was recorded on body worn camera and documented in a written report.

The following are summaries of the relevant civilian witness interviews, which describe the incident from the point of view of each person. As with any witness, their recollections may be inconsistent with the facts ultimately determined by DOJ’s independent review of the evidence, including video footage.

W-1

On April 26, 2024, at approximately 10:22 PM, LBPB Officer Sebastian Avila interviewed W-1 at Location #1. At approximately 8:30 PM, W-1 was in her bedroom with her husband, W-2. She heard a voice she did not recognize yelling profanities in the living room where her grandson, W-3, was watching television. W-2 went to the living room and did not return. W-1 went to the living room and saw Mr. Salgado holding a black gun. Mr. Salgado pointed the gun at W-1, W-2, and W-3. He demanded W-1’s earrings and rings. W-1 went back to the bedroom and called 911, but Mr. Salgado yelled at her not to call 911. W-2 pleaded for her to return to the living room. Mr. Salgado demanded W-3’s necklace chain, phone, and wallet, and W-2’s ring. Mr. Salgado told W-2 to take him to his daughter’s room. W-1 and W-3 went back to W-1’s bedroom and called 911 again. Mr. Salgado ran out the front door before police arrived. W-1 could not remember what happened after that because she was scared. She did not witness the OIS.

W-2

On April 27, 2024, at approximately 3:52 AM, LBPB Detective Eric Thai interviewed W-2 at Location #1. LBPB Detectives Ethan Shear and Kelsey Myers were also present. W-2 and W-1 were in their bedroom with the door half closed. W-2 heard a voice he did not recognize saying curse words in the living room. He went to the living room and saw Mr. Salgado pointing a gun at W-3, who was seated on the

couch. Mr. Salgado called W-2 by his name and demanded silver. W-2 said he did not have any silver there. W-2 heard W-1 talking to someone in the bedroom and assumed she had called 911. Mr. Salgado called for W-1 to come to the living room. Mr. Salgado pointed his gun at W-1, W-2, and W-3 and demanded jewelry. W-2 gave Mr. Salgado his wedding band. Mr. Salgado demanded that W-2 take him to W-2's bedroom, but W-2 took Mr. Salgado to a different bedroom. Mr. Salgado started throwing items and looking for specific bracelets. While in the back bedroom, W-2 heard something about police being there. Mr. Salgado kicked out the screen of the window in the back bedroom and jumped out of the window. W-2 and his family exited safely through the front door with an officer. W-2 did not witness the OIS. W-2 sold silver on OfferUp and Facebook Marketplace but did not allow buyers to come to his home. W-2 did not know or recognize Mr. Salgado.

W-3

On April 27, 2024, at approximately 3:11 AM, LBPB Detective Thai interviewed W-3 at Location #1. LBPB Detectives Shear and Myers were also present. W-3 was watching television in the living room at approximately 7:50 PM when he heard sounds coming from the front door. He assumed it was his mother, returning home from work. However, when the door opened, Mr. Salgado walked in holding a black gun and a crowbar. Mr. Salgado pointed the gun at W-3 and said, "Where is your dad? I know you have a lot of silver give me everything you have." W-3 started raising his voice to alert W-1 and W-2 that something was wrong, and Mr. Salgado started yelling profanities. W-2 came into the living room, and Mr. Salgado pointed the gun at him. W-1 walked into the living room, then immediately went back to the bedroom. Mr. Salgado yelled for her to return. Mr. Salgado demanded W-3's gold necklace chain. W-1 started to cry, and Mr. Salgado said, "I don't even care if you guys are crying. I like to kill for fun." Mr. Salgado demanded W-3's wallet and cell phone. Mr. Salgado told W-1 and W-3 to lock themselves in a room and told W-2 to take him to the room where all the silver was. W-1 and W-3 called 911 from the bedroom. W-3 saw police arrive and heard someone kick out the back bedroom window and jump out. Officers evacuated W-1, W-2, and W-3, and they went to a neighbor's house. W-3 heard officers talking to Mr. Salgado and eventually heard one loud "bang." He did not witness the OIS.

W-4

LBPB Officer Mitchell Palafox interviewed W-4, who lived in the 6700 block of Cerritos Avenue near Location #1. On April 26, 2024, W-4 was home at 8:30 PM when he saw police lights outside his home. He went outside and saw approximately five officers giving commands of "Drop the gun" and trying to de-escalate the situation. While some officers negotiated with Mr. Salgado, other officers evacuated the residents of Location #1. W-4 saw Mr. Salgado throwing miscellaneous objects. At some point, he heard a "pop."

W-5

On May 2, 2024, CaPSIT Special Agents Daniel Ibarra, Tony Baca, and Alan Oratovsky notified W-5, Mr. Salgado's next of kin, of the OIS. W-5 said that Mr. Salgado no longer attended school. He worked at Pizza Hut with W-5 for a time but then quit. W-5 last saw him on April 26, 2024, at approximately 7:30 PM when he said he was on his way to meet a friend.

APPLICABLE LEGAL STANDARDS

Homicide is the killing of one human being by another. (*People v. Beltran* (2013) 56 Cal.4th 935, 941.) There are two types of criminal homicide, murder and manslaughter.

Murder

Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought. (Pen. Code, § 187, subd. (a).) Murder is divided into first and second degrees. A willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing is murder of the first degree. (Pen. Code, § 189; *People v. Hernandez* (2010) 183 Cal.App.4th 1327, 1332.)

Second degree murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought but without the additional elements of willfulness, premeditation, and deliberation that would support a conviction of first degree murder. (*People v. Knoller* (2007) 41 Cal.4th 139, 151.) The malice required for second degree murder may be express or implied. (Pen. Code, § 188; *Hernandez, supra*, 183 Cal.App.4th at p. 1332.) Malice is express when there is an “intent to kill.” (Pen. Code, § 188; *People v. Delgado* (2017) 2 Cal.5th 544, 571.) Malice is implied “when the killing results from an intentional act, the natural consequences of which are dangerous to life, which act was deliberately performed by a person who knows that his [or her] conduct endangers the life of another and who acts with conscious disregard for life.” (*People v. Dellinger* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1212, 1215.)

A homicide may also be reduced to second degree murder if premeditation and deliberation are negated by heat of passion arising from subjective provocation. If the provocation precludes a person from deliberating or premeditating, even if it would not cause an average person to experience deadly passion, the crime is second degree murder. (*People v. Padilla* (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 675, 678.)

Voluntary Manslaughter

Manslaughter is an unlawful killing without malice. (Pen. Code, § 192; *People v. Thomas* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 771, 813.) Several factors may preclude the formation of malice and reduce a killing that would otherwise be murder to voluntary manslaughter including: (1) heat of passion, and (2) imperfect self-defense. (*People v. Moya* (2009) 47 Cal.4th 537, 549.)

Imperfect self-defense is the killing of another human being under the actual but unreasonable belief that the killer was in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury and that the use of deadly force is necessary to defend against that danger. Such a killing is deemed to be without malice and thus cannot be murder. (*People v. Cruz* (2008) 44 Cal.4th 636, 664.) The doctrine of imperfect self-defense cannot be invoked, however, by a person whose own wrongful conduct (for example, a physical assault or commission of a felony) created the circumstances in which the adversary’s attack is legally justified. (*People v. Booker* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 141, 182.)

Self-Defense

A homicide is justified and lawful if committed in self-defense. Self-defense is a complete defense to a homicide offense, and, if found, the killing is not criminal. (*People v. Sotelo-Urena* (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 732, 744.) When a person is charged with a homicide-related crime and claims self-defense, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the homicide was not committed in self-defense. (*People v. Winkler* (2020) 56 Cal.App.5th 1102, 1167.)

Penal Code sections 196 et. seq. set forth the law of self-defense in homicide cases. Penal Code section 196 provides that a homicide committed by a peace officer is justified when the use of force complies with Penal Code section 835a. (Cf. Pen. Code, § 197 [listing circumstances where homicide committed by “any person” is justifiable, which includes self-defense or the defense of others].)

Under Penal Code section 835a, an officer may use deadly force only when the officer “reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary”: (1) “to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person”; or (2) to apprehend a fleeing person who has committed a felony “that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury,” and the officer “reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury” if not immediately apprehended. (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (c)(1); see Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (a)(2) [peace officers may lawfully use deadly force “only when necessary in defense of human life”]; see *People v. Randle* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 987, 994 [self-defense arises when a person actually and reasonably believes in the necessity of defending against imminent danger of death or great bodily injury], overruled on other grounds by *People v. Chun* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 1172.)

To determine whether deadly force is necessary, “officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case, and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.” (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (a)(2); *People v. Hardin* (2000) 85 Cal.App.4th 625, 629-630 [“only that force which is necessary to repel an attack may be used in self-defense; force which exceeds the necessity is not justified” and “deadly force or force likely to cause great bodily injury may be used only to repel an attack which is in itself deadly or likely to cause great bodily injury”].)

A threat of death or serious bodily injury is “imminent” when, based on the “totality of the circumstances,” a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or to another person. (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (e)(2); see *People v. Lopez* (2011) 199 Cal.App.4th 1297, 1305-1306 [imminent peril is “immediate and present” and “must be instantly dealt with”; it is not prospective or even in the near future].)

“Totality of the circumstances” means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force. (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (e)(3).) De-escalation methods, tactics, the availability of less than lethal force, and department policies may be used when evaluating the conduct of the officer. However, when an officer’s use of force is evaluated, it must be considered “from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force.” (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (a)(4); accord, *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397 [“The ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight”]; *People v. Humphrey* (1996) 13 Cal.4th 1073, 1082-1083 [to determine whether use of force is objectively reasonable for self-defense, trier of fact must consider all the circumstances that were known or appeared to the officer as well as consideration for what a reasonable person in a similar situation with similar knowledge would have believed]; *People v. Bates* (2019) 35 Cal.App.5th 1, 9-10 [knowledge of another person’s prior threatening or violent conduct or reputation for dangerousness may provide evidence to support a reasonable belief in imminent harm].)

Self-defense also has a subjective component. (*Humphrey, supra*, 13 Cal.4th at p. 1082.) The subjective element of self-defense requires that a person actually believes in the need to defend against imminent peril or great bodily injury. (*People v. Viramontes* (2001) 93 Cal.App.4th 1256, 1262.)

Burden of Proof

A prosecutor bears the burden of proving a criminal defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. (Pen. Code, § 1096.) Where an investigation is complete and all of the evidence is available for review, prosecutors should file charges only if they believe there is sufficient admissible evidence to prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt at trial. (See, e.g., Nat. Dist. Attys. Assn., National Prosecution Standards (3d ed. 2009) Part IV, § 2 pp. 52-53; United States Department of Justice Manual § 9-27.220; Melilli, Prosecutorial Discretion in an Adversary System (1992) B.Y.U. L.Rev. 669, 684-685 [surveying ethical standards used in the exercise of charging discretion by prosecutors]; accord, *People v. Catlin* (2001) 26 Cal.4th 81, 109 ["A prosecutor abides by elementary standards of fair play and decency by refusing to seek indictments until he or she is completely satisfied the defendant should be prosecuted and the office of the prosecutor will be able to promptly establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," quotation and internal quotation marks omitted]; *People v. Spicer* (2015) 235 Cal.App.4th 1359, 1374 [explaining that a prosecutor may have probable cause to charge a crime but reasonably decline to do so if they believe there is a lack of sufficient evidence to prove the charge beyond a reasonable doubt at trial]; cf. Rules Prof. Conduct, Rule 3.8(a) [prosecutor should not initiate or continue prosecution of charge that is not supported by probable cause].)

Further, the prosecution has the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that a killing is not justified. It is not a criminal defendant's burden to prove that the force was necessary or reasonable. (*People v. Banks* (1976) 67 Cal.App.3d 379, 383-384.) Thus, in an officer-involved shooting, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officer did not have an actual or reasonable belief in the need for self-defense or the defense of others.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

DOJ completed an independent investigation and review of the facts and circumstances that led to the death of Mr. Salgado. This analysis is based on all the evidence obtained by DOJ in this matter, including police reports, witness statements, forensic evidence, coroner's report, photographs, communication evidence, and BWC video.

The focus of this review is whether, based on the totality of the circumstances, the evidence demonstrates beyond a reasonable doubt that Officer Lopez did not act in lawful defense of himself or others. This is the primary issue in determining whether criminal charges should be filed. A detailed analysis of the evidence pertaining to the OIS demonstrates that a prosecution could not prove that Officer Lopez was objectively unreasonable in determining that lethal force was necessary to protect himself or others, or that Officer Lopez did not actually hold this view. Therefore, the evidence is insufficient to support criminal charges.

Events Preceding the OIS

The events preceding the shooting are relevant to the determination of whether Officer Lopez acted in lawful self-defense. LCPD officers responded to a call for service of an armed home invasion robbery. W-1 expressed no doubt or uncertainty about whether Mr. Salgado's gun was real when she called 911. When Officer Nava found Mr. Salgado hiding in the breezeway, Mr. Salgado yelled, "Back up!" and "I have a gun!" Officer Nava communicated to other responding officers that Mr. Salgado had a "black pistol."

While Officer Chamberlain negotiated with Mr. Salgado, Officer Lopez provided lethal cover. Despite Officer Chamberlain's attempts to de-escalate the situation and to assure Mr. Salgado that nobody wanted to hurt him, Mr. Salgado insisted that he was "going to die today." Mr. Salgado pointed the gun at his own head, said he wanted to shoot himself or wanted the officers to shoot him, and said that he had a "Berretta." While Officer Rosas negotiated with Mr. Salgado, Mr. Salgado began to talk about God, repeated that he was "going to die today," and ignored Officer Rosas's commands not to pick the gun up off the ground.

Immediately before the OIS, Mr. Salgado said he was going to pick up the gun and that he wanted the officers to shoot him. Officer Rosas can be heard on BWC video commanding, "Don't pick up the gun!" Officer Lopez saw Mr. Salgado bend down to where the gun was, pick it up, and quickly raise his right arm. The barrel of the gun was pointed directly at Officer Lopez and the officers next to him when Officer Lopez fired one shot.

Subjective Belief

The evidence shows that Officer Lopez actually believed in the need to defend against imminent peril or great bodily injury. Officer Lopez reported that he believed Mr. Salgado was armed and was going to shoot and kill him or one of the other officers standing next to him. Based on Mr. Salgado's statements during the nearly one-and-one-half hours of negotiation and the fact that he was armed with what appeared to be a gun, Officer Lopez believed that Mr. Salgado had the present ability and intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to him and the other officers next to him. Officer Lopez feared for his life and the lives of the officers standing near him.

Officer Lopez's reported subjective belief was consistent with his statement at the scene. Immediately after the OIS, Officer Chamberlain asked, "Who was that?" and Officer Lopez answered, "It was me" and "He pointed his gun at me." These statements in Officer Lopez's report and immediately after the OIS demonstrate that he subjectively believed in the need to use lethal force to defend against the imminent threat posed by Mr. Salgado.

Objective Reasonableness

Moreover, it was not unreasonable for Officer Lopez to believe, based on the totality of the circumstances, that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others.

At the time of the OIS, none of the officers knew that Mr. Salgado's gun was an Airsoft or replica gun. Although the object held by Mr. Salgado was not a real gun, it so closely resembled one that the difference could not be discerned from a distance. Officer Lopez's belief that the gun was authentic was corroborated by the 911 call, Officer Nava's communication that Mr. Salgado was armed, and Mr. Salgado's own statements that he had a gun and that he had a "Berretta." Mr. Salgado's actions of pointing the gun at his own head while stating he wanted to shoot himself or wanted the officers to shoot him gave the impression that the gun was real and operable. Only after the OIS did Officer Lopez learn that the gun was not a real gun. Further examination of the replica gun revealed it to be visually similar to a Berretta model 92 SB gun. Therefore, based on the information Officer Lopez knew at the time, it was reasonable for Officer Lopez to believe that Mr. Salgado was pointing a real operable gun at him when he used deadly force.

In addition, Officer Lopez's observations leading to his belief that lethal force was necessary were corroborated by BWC video. The BWCs of Officers Lopez and Rosas and Sergeant Cruz do not show Mr. Salgado picking up and pointing the gun at Officer Lopez before the OIS because the cameras were blocked by ballistic blankets and the white van. However, Officer Lopez can be heard in the audio of the BWCs saying, "He's reaching down," and Officer Rosas can be heard clearly directing Mr. Salgado not to pick up the gun, immediately before Officer Lopez fires a single shot. Officer Chamberlain can be heard asking, "Who was that?" Officer Lopez responded, "That was me" and "He pointed his gun at me." At the same time, Sergeant Cruz can be heard explaining, "He (Mr. Salgado) pointed a gun at him (Officer Lopez)."

Officer Lopez's report, combined with the other evidence, support that Officer Lopez's assertions—that he actually believed the use of deadly force was necessary to prevent serious physical harm or death—were credible. The factual statements by Officer Rosas and Sergeant Cruz are largely consistent, and no available evidence undermines their credibility. Officer Rosas reported that Mr. Salgado bent down to pick up the gun and stood back up, lifting the gun approximately waist high and parallel to the ground, with the muzzle of the gun pointed in Officer Lopez's and Officer Rosas's direction. Sergeant Cruz reported that Mr. Salgado ignored Officer Rosas's commands to not pick up the gun, picked up the gun, held it at his right side, and then tilted his right hand to point the gun in Officers Lopez's and Rosas's direction.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, it was not objectively unreasonable for Officer Lopez to believe that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to Officer Lopez or the officers near him. Mr. Salgado's statements that he wanted to shoot himself or wanted the officers to shoot him suggested that Mr. Salgado might fire his gun at the officers to induce them to fire back at him, which could result in one or more of the officers being shot. Once Mr. Salgado picked up the gun and pointed it at Officer Lopez, it was not objectively unreasonable for Officer Lopez to shoot at Mr. Salgado rather than wait for Mr. Salgado to fire a shot at the officers first. A reasonable officer in the same situation as Officer Lopez could have believed that Mr. Salgado was armed and had the present ability to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to Officer Lopez or others in the moment before the OIS.

Thus, based on the totality of the evidence, we could not disprove that Officer Lopez held the subjective belief that deadly force was necessary to defend himself and other officers from imminent deadly force, nor prove that such belief was objectively unreasonable. A prosecution, therefore, could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officer's use of force was unlawful.

CONCLUSION

Based on the investigation and review of evidence, along with the applicable statutes, legal principles, and subsequent analysis, there is insufficient evidence to support a criminal prosecution of Officer Lopez. As such, no further action will be taken in this case.



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Policy and Practice Recommendations for the
Long Beach Police Department Related to the
Officer-Involved Shooting of Brandon Salgado on
April 26, 2024**

ISSUED PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTION 12525.3, SUBDIVISION (B)(2)(B)(III)

October 2026



POLICY AND PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Attorney General is required to include “[r]ecommendations to modify the policies and practices of the law enforcement agency, as applicable” as a component of this report. (Gov. Code, § 12525.3 subd. (b)(2)(B)(iii).) Therefore, the Department of Justice (DOJ) through its Police Practices Section conducts a review of the information obtained through the criminal investigation, which may include a review of policies concerning body-worn camera footage, interview recordings, video recordings, witness statements and other records, as well as the publicly available policies of the agency employing the officers who are subject to the criminal investigation. Police Practices Section uses the review process to identify applicable recommendations, including any recommendations to modify policies and practices that may reduce the likelihood that officers use deadly force, as well as recommendations to address any other deficiency or concern related to the officers’ conduct or the agency’s response. The Police Practices Section’s goal is that these recommendations will assist the agency and the officers involved in the incident in understanding, from an independent perspective, improvements that may be made to address what was observed through this incident.

On April 26, 2024, at approximately 8:36 p.m., Long Beach Police Department (Long Beach PD) officers responded to a home invasion and robbery in progress. The suspect, later identified as seventeen-year-old Brandon Salgado, had entered the residence using a crowbar and demanded valuables from the occupants. Dispatch broadcasted an armed home invasion in progress involving three victims, the reporting party, her husband and their grandson. When the first officer arrived at the house, one of the occupants informed the officer that the armed subject went into the backyard. Officer Carlos Nava quickly exited the front door towards the outer perimeter of the house and was joined by another officer. The officers positioned themselves near the northeast corner of the residence that faced the breezeway with a 10-foot cinderblock wall around the perimeter. At 8:46 p.m., SWAT Officer Marco Lopez safely evacuated the three occupants. Officer Nava located Mr. Salgado and broadcasted at 8:47 p.m., “Looks like the subject has a gun pointed at his head.” Additional officers arrived on scene and set up a perimeter for containment.

The sergeants on scene requested air support and activated the agency’s Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT), and Emergency Action Team. The Emergency Action Team officers covertly moved inside the residence during the negotiations. SWAT Officer David Chamberlain became the primary contact officer for the first 48 minutes and communicated with Mr. Salgado.

Officer Lopez positioned himself behind a patrol vehicle and next to Officer Chamberlain to provide lethal cover. Mr. Salgado stood in the breezeway between the residence and the garage, separated by a fence between him and the officers, approximately 25 feet away. He pointed an apparent gun to his own head, and said he wanted to shoot himself or have the officers do it.

After about 48 minutes of negotiations, Mr. Salgado agreed to place the apparent firearm on the ground to catch a bottle of water. During this time, Sergeant Cruz offered to relieve Officer Chamberlain. While the gun remained on the ground, Officer Rosas took over negotiations for another 20 minutes. Officer Daniela Rosas took over the negotiations for another 20 minutes. Officers Chamberlain and Rosas each had HNT experience and attended training on crisis negotiations. Officer Rosas also attended crisis intervention training that includes interacting with people in a mental health crisis.

At 9:58 p.m., Mr. Salgado reached for his apparent handgun with his right hand about waist high with the muzzle pointed in the officers' direction. In response, Officer Lopez fired one round, striking Mr. Salgado. Immediately after the shooting, both Sergeant Cruz and Officer Lopez said Mr. Salgado "was pointing the gun" towards them.¹ Officers immediately rendered medical aid to Mr. Salgado before Long Beach Fire Department arrived two minutes later. Mr. Salgado succumbed to his injuries, and an Airsoft pistol was retrieved from his body.

The Police Practices Section evaluated all the facts and available evidence, and pursuant to its obligations under Government Code section 12525.3, subdivision (b)(2)(B)(iii), and concludes no recommendations are warranted.

Police Practices Section Concludes No Recommendations Are Warranted

The Police Practices Section completed a thorough review of the Division of Law Enforcement's investigation file, all available multi-media, and the involved agencies' policies and training materials. Based upon that review, the Police Practices Section concluded: (1) the dispatcher appropriately handled the felony-in-progress call while remaining on the call with the reporting party until the officers arrived on scene; (2) the initial responding officers quickly located and contained the armed subject and gave commands to drop the apparent handgun, and promptly broadcasted out that the "subject has a gun pointed at his head"; (3) Officer Lopez safely evacuated the three occupants from the house and requested Emergency Action Team's assistance; (4) Officer Chamberlain utilized verbal de-escalation tactics, calmly engaged with Mr. Salgado, and was able to get Mr. Salgado to place the apparent handgun on the ground; (5) Sergeant Cruz coordinated multiple teams and resources for the incident while broadcasting updates throughout; (6) Officer Rosas utilized verbal de-escalation tactics and patiently negotiated with Mr. Salgado; (7) during negotiations, officers moved inside the residence to prevent Mr. Salgado's escape; (8) Officer Lopez stated he saw Mr. Salgado raise the apparent handgun in the officers' direction and in response discharged his firearm once; and (9) officers stated they believed he was armed with a real handgun, the apparent handgun looked similar to a firearm, and it did not have obvious markings of an Airsoft pistol.

Despite the unfortunate and tragic outcome, Long Beach PD officers demonstrated exemplary and commendable efforts in crisis intervention. Officers attempted numerous de-escalation techniques and showed professionalism, dignity, and respect towards Mr. Salgado throughout their communications with him. Officers also coordinated multiple teams and obtained resources in response to an active home robbery. Long Beach PD Training Bulletin 12 "Suicide by Cop" (Revised April 2026), provides that

¹ The officers' body worn cameras did not capture much of Mr. Salgado's movements during the entire interaction because officers positioned themselves behind a parked car for cover and because Mr. Salgado was behind a fence. Thus, there is no video showing Mr. Salgado placing the apparent handgun on the ground or picking it back up and pointing in the direction of the officers.

additional resources can be called to the scene to improve the response to a “suicide by cop” incident, including assisting units, a supervisor, Mental Evaluation Team (MET), hostage negotiators and a K-9 Unit. Long Beach PD’s MET is comprised of a sworn officer and a licensed clinician that specializes in dealing with persons experiencing a mental health crisis. Given that this incident was originally reported as a nighttime home robbery in progress, the decision to not summon MET at the outset appears appropriate. As the incident shifted towards an armed individual displaying suicidal ideation, Long Beach PD reasonably opted to lean on their HNT team, consisting of officers with extensive HNT experience and training, including Federal Bureau of Investigation 40-hour Basic Hostage Negotiation training.

Under different circumstances, had protracted negotiations extended further into the evening or declined in quality, calling MET as an alternative resource may have been appropriate. But given that those facts were not present here, the Police Practices Section concluded that no recommendations are warranted for this shooting.