



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: October 19, 2016

CASE NUMBER: 16S-08694

TOPIC: Update #2 Officer Involved Shooting – Community Questions

INFORMATION:

We have heard questions and concerns from the community regarding the tragic incident of October 16, 2016, and we would like to provide some clarity on key aspects of this event.

In the early morning hours of October 16th, the majority of the nightshift was dispatched to the emergency incident at the home on Chace Street. The officers were aware that Mr. Arlt had a prior incident of crisis intervention involving our officers on October 11, 2016. During the October 11th incident, our officers attempted to detain Mr. Arlt, who became violent. He was subdued and safely taken into custody after a prolonged struggle. As a result of the October 11th incident, Mr. Arlt was left in the care of the mental health professional to ensure his safety. The specific details of this incident are being withheld out of respect and consideration to the family at this time.

Each of the officers that responded to the emergency call on October 16th had all completed training in the last year on the Santa Cruz County mental Health protocol. Additionally, those officers had completed training on crisis communication and de-escalation tactics. Those very tactics were deployed during the October 16th incident and had no effect on Mr. Arlt, as he was unresponsive and uncooperative with the verbal commands. Mr. Arlt was also not affected by three separate Taser deployments. Despite these less lethal interventions, Mr. Arlt continued toward the officers raising the metal bow rake over his head in a swinging position, until lethal force was used to stop Mr. Arlt's advancing attack. This incident unfolded in the span of only 20 seconds.

In relation to the Santa Cruz Police Department's training for mental health interventions, we exceed State standards for in-service officer training by training in excess of 80 hours annually. Over the past 12 months, all officers received 3 separate trainings specifically related to crisis communications and mental health. The department's training is overseen by a civilian with 38 years of education experience, including serving as the Deputy Superintendent for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. The training schedule is attached to this release.

Immediately following this incident, the Santa Cruz Police management convened with the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office. The Santa Cruz Police Department requested the shooting be investigated by the District Attorney's Office to ensure a thorough and independent investigation into the use of force. At the conclusion of the investigation, the District Attorney's Office will issue their legal finding on the use of force. Also, in conjunction with the independent criminal investigation, an internal administrative investigation will be completed. Upon completion of the internal investigation, the City's Independent Police Auditor will review the incident followed with a review by the City Council Public Safety Sub-Committee.

Requests have been made for the audio and video evidence from the incident on October 16th. Any of this evidence could be released by the District Attorney's Office at the conclusion of their investigation.

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