



**MEMORANDUM
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DATE: December 17, 2018

TO: File

FROM: Sergeant Wes Morey

SUBJECT: Officer Denise Cockrum Interview
Internal Affairs Case # 2016-010

On October 17, 2016 at approximately 1438 hours, Officer Cockrum was interviewed by DA Inspector Edward Delfin at the Santa Cruz Police Department. The following is a summary of the interview.

Officer Cockrum has been employed by the Santa Cruz Police Department since 2006. At the time of this incident, she normally worked in Operations as a B-side graveyard patrol officer, however she was covering for another officer that night, so she was working as an A-side graveyard patrol officer.

Officer Cockrum stated on October 16, 2016 at approximately 0330 hours, she heard officers being dispatched to [REDACTED] Chace Street. She immediately recognized the address and the name of the subject because of an "officer safety risk" discussion during the roll call. She also heard about the incident involving Sean Arlt from a roll call earlier in the week. Because of the safety concerns about the subject, she responded from the police station along with Officer Bailey, Officer Baker and Sergeant Clayton. Dispatch updated that the subject moved to the backyard and was threatening to kill everyone in the house.

Officer Cockrum observed Officer Bailey and Officer Baker park their vehicles on the right hand side (when facing the ocean) of Getchell Street. When Officer Cockrum got out of her vehicle, she immediately saw and heard Mr. Arlt banging on the back door of the residence with the

curved handle portion of an umbrella. Mr. Arlt was behind the backyard fence of the residence. She also heard Mr. Arlt yelling something but was not sure what he was saying.

All four officers gathered by the first parked vehicle (Officer Bailey's vehicle) which was parked in front of the residence just north of [REDACTED] Chase Street (presumably [REDACTED] Getchell Street). They briefly discussed their roles and determined that Officer Bailey and Officer Cockrum would have lethal force available while Officer Baker and Sergeant Clayton would have less-lethal force available.

Officer Bailey commanded Mr. Arlt to come out towards them. Officer Cockrum was not sure if there was a gate on the backyard fence. She briefly lost sight of Mr. Arlt. Within a few moments, a gate on the backyard fence opened and Mr. Arlt stepped out. She used her flashlight to illuminate Mr. Arlt. She described Mr. Arlt was a male adult, 5'10" – 6'0", medium build, wearing a light shirt and dark pants. When Mr. Arlt stepped out of the gate, he was no longer holding an umbrella but instead wielded a rake over his right shoulder. She described the rake having a four to five foot wooden handle, twelve to eighteen inches metal bracket attached on the top with several two to three inch metal tines stemming from the bracket.

Mr. Arlt walked "with a purpose" towards the officers. Officer Cockrum described Mr. Arlt's gait as "aggressive" and "fairly rapid". Because of the rate that Mr. Arlt was advancing towards the officers, they fanned-out across Getchell Street. Officer Cockrum remembered the sequence of the officers from left to right: Officer Bailey, Officer Baker, Sergeant Clayton and Officer Cockrum. Mr. Arlt continued to advance towards the officers – raising the rake even higher over his right shoulder. She believed at that point that Mr. Arlt was intent in harming them with the rake. When Mr. Arlt got to the middle of the street, Officer Cockrum heard Sergeant Clayton deploy his Taser at Mr. Arlt. She saw the Taser probe strike Mr. Arlt's chest area. The Taser deployment did not have any effect on Mr. Arlt. Mr. Arlt started to advance towards Officer Bailey. Officer Cockrum had her handgun aimed at Mr. Arlt, but as he continued to quickly advance towards Officer Bailey, she realized that the officers on her left were in danger of being struck if she were to fire her weapon. Additionally, because of Mr. Arlt's rapid advancement, the backdrop from where she was standing were now the homes on Getchell Street. She was adamant that if crossfire and the backdrop were not an issue, she would have "absolutely" fired her handgun. Mr. Arlt got within ten feet of Officer Bailey when she heard two gun shots. Someone then announced, "Shots fired, shots fired".

Officer Cockrum observed Mr. Arlt fall forward. The rake was still under his body. Mr. Arlt tried to push himself up. She grabbed Mr. Arlt's right arm and she and Officer Bailey cuffed him. She saw that Mr. Arlt had a wound on his head. They attempted to find another entrance wound. Mr. Arlt continued to "thrash around" and kick the officers. Officer Baker got leg shackles from

his patrol vehicle and bound Mr. Arlt's feet. They continued to provide medical aid on Mr. Arlt until fire personnel arrived on scene. The fire personnel continued to render medical aid on Mr. Arlt. As some point, one of the medics told Officer Cockrum that he was pronouncing Mr. Arlt deceased at the scene. Officer Cockrum recalled logging the time as 0400 hours.

Officer Cockrum said that part of her specialized training as a member of the Hostage Negotiations Team is to de-escalate a volatile situation. Mr. Arlt, however, was not responding to any of their commands at all. The entire incident also unfolded rapidly, precluding her from engaging Mr. Arlt in a dialogue.

During the course of the interview, DA Inspector Delfin had Officer Cockrum draw a diagram depicting the area where the OIS occurred. The diagram is located in section 13 of this report. The following is a reference guide of the notation on the diagram:

- Officer Cockrum marked the intersection of Getchell Street and Chase Street
- A rectangle to depict ■■■ Chace Street
- X to indicate Mr. Arlt's initial location
- A line from X to depict Mr. Arlt's path of travel
- Badge numbers 146, 159, 119 and 132 to indicate their positions while standing across Getchell Street
- Vehicles labelled "P" for patrol vehicles
- Unlabeled vehicles for parked vehicles

End of interview.