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October 5, 2020

**PUBLIC REPORT ON OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING OF CAMERON PIERCE  
ELY BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON OCTOBER 15, 2019**

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the investigation, conducted by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, of the homicide of Cameron Pierce Ely, age 30, occurring on October 15, 2019, in unincorporated Santa Barbara, California.

The following analysis is based upon investigative reports, coroner's reports, video and audio recordings, photographs, and witness interviews collected during the investigation conducted by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office ("SBSO") and submitted to this office by SBSO Detective Matthew Banks.

The District Attorney finds the shooting was a justifiable homicide under Penal Code section 196(2).

**FACTUAL HISTORY**

**Summary**

On the evening of October 15, 2019, Cameron Ely<sup>1</sup> stabbed his mother, Valerie Ely (age 62) to death in their home on Mariposa Drive, in unincorporated Santa Barbara. Ely's father, Ron Ely (age 81), was also in the home. Ron had previously suffered a stroke, was confined to a wheelchair, and was unable to speak clearly. At approximately 8:15 pm Ely called 911, saying his mother tried to attack his father and "I defended him" before hanging up. When the 911 dispatcher called back, Ron got on the phone. The dispatcher attempted to find out what was happening at the home but she could not understand Ron. Three Santa Barbara County Sheriff deputies responded to the residence to investigate. When they arrived, they found Valerie in the dining area, deceased. They saw a knife handle protruding from her chest and multiple stab wounds to her chest and abdomen. They located Ron in the home. He was very emotional and difficult to understand, but deputies believed he was telling them that his son had stabbed Valerie and fled. Additional deputies arrived and searched both the house and grounds, but did not locate anyone else.

Medics responded and transported Ron to the hospital for evaluation while deputies continued investigating the murder. A sergeant and senior deputy remained in front of the house while two other deputies went to obtain the license plate number of a truck parked at the back of the home

<sup>1</sup> Cameron Ely, will be referred to as "Ely" in this report. The first reference to any other individuals with the same last name will be to their full name; subsequent references will use their first name to avoid confusion.

so that investigators could determine if any vehicles were missing and possibly being used by the suspect. The property was very large and very dark, with no streetlights or exterior lighting. As the two deputies walked down a long, dark driveway on the side of the house leading to the back of the property, they encountered Ely suddenly. From the light of a flashlight they could see he appeared to have blood on him and a fresh wound to his neck. The deputies immediately yelled at him to show his hands and get on the ground. The sergeant and senior deputy immediately ran to the side of the house in the direction of the voices. All four deputies said events happened very quickly. Initially Ely acted as if he were going to comply with the commands; however, as Ely got to the ground, he suddenly sprang to his feet and while bending at the waist, he reached toward his waistband while simultaneously saying, "I have a gun!" Fearing that Ely was drawing a gun to shoot and kill or injure the deputies, all four deputies fired their service weapons striking Ely multiple times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

### 911 calls

On October 15, 2019, at approximately 8:15 pm, Ely called 911, saying "Uh please hurry ... my mother tried to attack my father and I defended him." As the dispatcher tried to get more information about what was happening, the line disconnected. When the dispatcher called back, Ely could be heard in the background as Ron spoke to the dispatcher. Due to a previous stroke, Ron had great difficulty speaking. Ron's words were unintelligible, but he was very emotional. The dispatcher tried to get more information about what was happening, but was unable to understand Ron. Ron eventually stopped responding to the dispatcher and the line disconnected again. Santa Barbara County Sheriff Deputy John Gruttadaurio went to investigate the disturbance. K-9 Deputy Phil Farley and Senior Deputy Jeremy Rogers were both on patrol, heard the radio traffic, and responded to assist Deputy Gruttadaurio.

### Law Enforcement Response

At approximately 8:30 pm, the deputies arrived at the residence, located in the Hope Ranch neighborhood of unincorporated Santa Barbara County. The neighborhood is a residential area abutting the ocean and consists of large properties with single-family homes. The area has no streetlights and lots of foliage. The home was a large ranch-style home with a semi-circle driveway in the front. Another driveway ran from the front to the back of the property along the east side of the house. The only exterior lights illuminated were a few small landscape lights in the front of the house; consequently, it was very dark. Senior Deputy Rogers arrived first and parked his patrol car slightly down the street to the west of the house. While he waited for the other deputies, he did not hear or see anything significant. When Deputies Gruttadaurio and Farley arrived, they also parked down the street to the west of the residence.

The three deputies walked down the western entrance of the semi-circle driveway and approached the front door of the house. Senior Deputy Rogers took a position near a front window while Deputy Farley stood back a bit and Deputy Gruttadaurio knocked on the front door saying,

“Sheriff’s Department, hello? ... Sheriff’s Department.”<sup>2</sup> No one responded, so Deputy Farley asked dispatch to call the house phone again. While waiting, the deputies heard moaning coming from inside. Through the window Senior Deputy Rogers saw an elderly man in a wheelchair, later identified as Ron, slowly approaching the front door. Deputy Rogers could also see blood on the carpet and a bottle of carpet cleaner on the floor. Deputy Gruttadaurio entered the home, followed by Deputy Farley and Senior Deputy Rogers. Deputy Gruttadaurio was in the process of asking Ron what happened, when Ron gestured to his right and began sobbing. Deputy Gruttadaurio stepped further into the room and saw Valerie lying on the floor between the kitchen and dining area. Valerie was obviously deceased – a large kitchen knife was lodged in her chest and a portion of her intestine protruded from another stab wound in her abdomen.

Deputies Gruttadaurio and Farley immediately fanned out to secure the immediate area (kitchen, family room, and dining room), to identify any threats to their safety, and to locate other victims. Senior Deputy Rogers stood by with Ron trying to find out what happened and to communicate with dispatch. The deputies quickly realized that given Ron’s physical limitations, he could not have inflicted the injuries to Valerie and that a suspect was outstanding. They also realized that the house and property were too large for the three deputies on-scene to safely secure, so they requested more units. From inside the house Deputy Farley made multiple loud verbal announcements that the Sheriff’s Department was on-scene and to come out, but no one responded.

Sergeant Desiree Thome responded to the area to oversee the crime scene and investigation until detectives arrived. Instead of going directly to the home, she stayed on the street because she had good radio signal there and knew that reception could be very spotty in that neighborhood. She began to coordinate resources such as a reverse 911 call to warn neighborhood residents to shelter in place. She called in the Sheriff’s air squad to assist. She knew the properties in that neighborhood were typically very large and often had outbuildings, so as they arrived she sent Deputies Christopher Brady, Thomas Brownlee, and Bruno Bertuzzi to the house to assist the deputies already there with securing the house and property as much as possible so medics could respond to evaluate Ron. While coordinating the response, she also spoke with a neighborhood security guard to learn more about who resided at the house.

### Search of the Property

Once Deputy Brady arrived, Deputy Farley left the house to retrieve his K-9 partner, Odin, from his patrol car. Deputy Farley with Odin and Deputies Brady, Brownlee, and Bertuzzi searched the rooms on the west side of the house. They did not find any additional victims, but they found a door leading from the master bedroom to the outside was open. The deputies then searched the east side of the house. They did not locate any additional victims or suspects, but they found a door leading from the attached garage to the backyard open. They also saw two cars parked in the

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<sup>2</sup> Deputy Farley had a body worn camera on his person that captured audio and video footage of the entry and initial contact with Ron, as well as the subsequent search of the house and property; the body worn camera was off during the fatal encounter with Ely. All of the deputies had Coban recording systems on their patrol cars. The Coban systems recorded video footage from directly in front of the patrol cars on the street. The Coban systems also recorded audio from microphones on the deputies’ persons; however, because of the distance from where the patrol cars were parked to areas in the house and around the property, only portions of the events are audible.

garage, but a third spot was empty and the bay door was open. After clearing the main house, the deputies went out the front door and down the long driveway on the east side of the house to the back of the house. Along the way they searched an enclosed area with garbage cans. They saw a truck parked on the driveway at the back of the house covered by a tarp. They located a guesthouse on the southeast section of the property. They searched for victims and suspects with negative results. They saw a tennis court surrounded by chain link fence. They shined flashlights on the court, but did not see anyone.



The deputies spent approximately 30 minutes searching the house, garage, guesthouse, backyard, and pool area with no results. At the conclusion of that time, Deputy Farley turned off his body worn camera and returned Odin to his patrol car. Although the deputies had not been able to search

thoroughly the entire 1.5-acre property, they felt the house was sufficiently safe to call fire and medics in to evaluate Ron and transport him to the hospital. As the medics evaluated Ron just outside the front door, the deputies gathered at the front of the house.

### Continuing Investigation

Sergeant Thome learned from the neighborhood security guard that in addition to Ron and his wife, their adult son, Cameron lived at the residence. Senior Deputy Rogers knew from dispatch that a man had spoken to the 911 operator in the initial call and he realized that due to his unintelligible speech, Ron could not have been that man. During the search of the property, Senior Deputy Rogers stood by with Ron on the front porch and continued to try to get information about what had happened. When Senior Deputy Rogers asked Ron, “did your son do that?” Ron nodded. Senior Deputy Rogers also believed that Ron indicated his son left, but was unclear if his son left in a car.

When fire personnel evaluated Ron, they recognized him from earlier medical responses to the residence. They informed the deputies that one of Ron’s daughters was married to a member of the county fire department. Sergeant Thome arranged for fire personnel to contact the daughter and son-in-law to gather information to assist with locating Ely. She also had Deputy Bertuzzi accompany Ron in the ambulance to the hospital.

Sergeant Thome and the remaining deputies began to formulate a plan to continue the investigation while waiting for detectives to arrive. Sergeant Thome was working with dispatch to identify all vehicles registered to the address to determine if any were missing. She asked Deputy Gruttadaurio to go to the back of the property to get the make, model, and license plate number of the covered truck at the back of the house. Deputy Farley went with him. The two left Senior Deputy Rogers and Sergeant Thome talking with some fire personnel at the front of the house.





### Officer-Involved Shooting

Deputies Farley and Gruttadaurio walked to the east side of the house and turned right, to walk south down the long driveway on the side of house. It was very dark. There was no exterior lighting other than Deputy Farley's flashlight. As they came around some tall shrubs on the corner of the house, they saw a man, later identified as Ely, walking up the driveway toward them. He was wearing sweatpants, a flannel shirt, and a baseball hat. Deputy Gruttadaurio estimated that Ely was between 20-30 feet away initially. Both deputies saw that Ely had blood on him and believed he was the suspect in Valerie's murder. Both deputies pointed their gun at Ely. At least one of them illuminated him with the light on his firearm. Deputy Farley yelled at Ely to get down on the ground, while Deputy Gruttadaurio yelled to Sergeant Thome and Senior Deputy Rogers that they had located a person and needed assistance.

Deputies Farley and Gruttadaurio split away from one another as they moved toward Ely. Deputy Farley was on the left, closer to the fence, and Deputy Gruttadaurio was on the right, closer to the

house. Deputy Farley's first thought in seeing Ely was concern that his K-9 had missed someone. As he saw Ely start to get down on the ground, however, Deputy Farley realized that Ely had what appeared to be a knife wound on his neck. Even though he believed Ely was the suspect they had been searching for, Deputy Farley wanted to render him aid. Deputy Farley called for medics over the radio, holstered his gun, reached for gloves, and started to approach Ely. Deputy Farley estimated he moved to approximately 1-2 feet from Ely.

Meanwhile, Deputy Gruttadaurio also moved closer to Ely with his firearm trained on Ely. Deputy Gruttadaurio estimated he was approximately 10 feet from Ely and his focus was on Ely's hands. The deputies yelled multiple times at Ely to get down on the ground and to keep his hands up.

When they heard the shouting, Sergeant Thome and Senior Deputy Rogers ran to the side of the house and drew their weapons as well. They positioned themselves between Deputies Farley and Gruttadaurio, facing Ely in a line. Sergeant Thome saw that Ely was rocking, twitching and moving his hands. Even though it was dark, she was able to see that Ely was disheveled; he was wearing baggie sweatpants and one of the pockets was bulging/pulling down to the ground.

Sergeant Thome heard Deputy Farley say something about "gloving up" and thought to herself that they needed to slow down and get better control over the situation before getting close enough to touch Ely. She said, "standby." Just as she was thinking this, she heard Deputy Gruttadaurio yell at Ely, "don't get up! don't get up!"

Ely suddenly sprang upward.<sup>3</sup> As he was moving to his feet, Ely bent forward at the waist, quickly moved his hands toward his waist, and yelled, "I have a gun!" Each of the four deputies reported hearing Ely say those words "very clearly" "clear as day" and described his voice as a "yell," "loud," "aggressive and determined," in a "warning, taunting" way. Senior Deputy Rogers described Ely's body motion "like a runner out of the gate ... lunging up and forward, but more forward than upward ... like a lineman in a football game." Sergeant Thome described seeing Ely "pop up in a flurry of clothing, and in that moment what I saw was an elbow coming back, I saw a glint of something reflective in the area of his right hip."

Ely's sudden movement of springing up, reaching toward his waistband while yelling, "I have a gun!" when they could not see what his hands were reaching for, coupled with their belief that Ely had just violently stabbed Valerie and could still be armed made all four deputies fear for his or her life, or the lives of their fellow deputies.

Deputy Farley said when he heard those words and saw Ely's movement, he thought, "we've just fallen into a trap. He's going to ambush us and he's going for a gun to shoot and kill me." Senior Deputy Rogers believed Ely was lunging at him and that he was going to "pull out a gun and shoot us." Deputy Gruttadaurio said he was "thinking he's gonna kill me. He's gonna kill Farley .... This is the scariest point in my life. I'm in fear of this guy ... like fear for me, fear for my partners, um, you know, what he could do, what he could do to the public ..." Sergeant Thome saw Ely

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<sup>3</sup> Two of the deputies remembered Ely laying down on the ground before springing up, while the other two deputies described Ely starting to lower down as if he was going to lay on the ground but then springing up before he had laid his whole body on the ground. All four of them described him springing up very quickly while the lighting and his body position made them unable to see his waistband.

lunge “right at Deputy Gruttadaurio, with whatever it was that he had ... I believed my partner was about to be critically assaulted.” She said she felt, “I had to stop the threat and I had mere feet to do it and to me it was a, a lethal, lethal threat to my partners. ... I identified that this was probably our suspect so in my mind I’m dealing with somebody who’s armed, who’s already committed murder, who’s mentally unstable, um and then his, aggressive action and his, his statement.” Senior Deputy Rogers said based on Ely’s words that he had a gun, his motion of drawing a gun, the “almost instantaneous lunge forward” and the fact that Ely just “caused this horrific scene we just saw inside,” Rogers believed Ely was going to “pull out a gun and shoot us ... either me or my partners.”



View down the driveway where shooting occurred, illuminated by the forensic team’s light

Each deputy fired his or her firearm multiple times, striking Ely. Sergeant Thome and Senior Deputy Rogers both yelled, “back up! back up!” One of the deputies yelled, “take cover!” As Ely went to the ground, the deputies fell back and took what cover they could behind a planter at the corner of the house. Deputy Farley activated his body worn camera again. Ely fell to the ground on his stomach, with his right hand underneath his body. Deputy Gruttadaurio yelled, “he’s still moving!” One deputy yelled, “there’s a gun under him!” Deputy Gruttadaurio yelled to Ely multiple times “do not reach for anything!” and to “move very slowly!” Ely was moving and



moaning, but did not remove his right hand from under his body. The deputies believed he had a weapon under his body and still presented a threat to their safety. Sergeant Thome asked Deputy Brownlee, who had been on the street by the patrol cars at the time of the shooting, to bring a ballistic shield from one of the cars so that the deputies could safely approach Ely to disarm him and render aid.

### Securing the Scene

When Deputy Brownlee arrived with the shield, the deputies lined up behind him to approach Ely. They visually cleared a small enclosure meant for garbage storage where they heard movement. Senior Deputy Rogers kept his firearm trained at the open garage doors where he believed Ely had come from. Once they determined the garbage enclosure was safe. Deputy Farley continued pointing his firearm at Ely to protect the deputies if Ely should attack. Deputy Gruttadaurio grabbed Ely's right arm, Sergeant Thome went to Ely's feet and Deputy Farley grabbed Ely's left arm to help handcuff him. They quickly emptied Ely's pockets to check for weapons. They did not find any weapons, but did find a metal garden hose tap splitter, a stack of playing cards, small rocks, a car key fob, an iPhone, crumpled papers, a bank card, a little plastic bag with a white powdery substance that later tested positive for cocaine, and a small plastic bottle labeled liquid vitamins. All four deputies reported that they feared Ely had a weapon until the point they handcuffed him, turned him onto his back, and pat searched him. Once it was safe, Sergeant Thome called medics in to render aid to Ely. The medics arrived very quickly because they had been staging on the street by the top of the driveway. Medics pronounced Ely dead on-scene.

### Subsequent Investigation

A search of the entire property that night and into the next day revealed a large kitchen knife wedged between the cushion and armrest of a loveseat in the family room. Investigators found another large kitchen knife in an open drawer of an upstairs bedroom and blood smears on nearby bedding. In the garage, they found a third knife on a shelf near the open bay door and blood drops on the floor. They found additional drops of blood near a fourth kitchen knife driven into the dirt by the tennis court in the backyard.

During the course of the investigation, detectives met with Ron, his two adult daughters, and a son-in-law. They learned from the family that Ely's behavior had been "erratic," "unstable" and "volatile" for a long time but it had been more concerning in the days leading up to October 15, 2019. One sister said his behavior was "definitely delusional." The other sister refused to go to the house on October 15, 2019, because she was afraid of him. During a phone call on October 15, 2019, she encouraged Valerie to call the police but Ely had prevented Valerie from doing so. They suspected he had mental health issues, possibly related to his history of sustaining concussions playing football.

### Autopsies

On October 17, 2019, Dr. Manuel Montez, a forensic pathologist employed by SBSO, performed a post-mortem examination of Ely. Ely weighed 236 pounds and was approximately 6'5" tall.

Ely had mud on his bare feet and his fingernails were dirty. Dr. Montez observed a total of 22 gunshot wounds to Ely's torso, neck, back, buttocks and arms. None of the wounds had any indication of being shot from close-range. He also observed sharp force injuries to Ely's neck and both wrists, as well as stab wounds to the front of both thighs. Dr. Montez observed multiple abrasions and contusions to Ely's face, neck, hands/wrists, legs, left toe, and right buttock. A neuropathologist at Boston University examined Ely's brain. Based on her observations, she diagnosed a stage 1 chronic traumatic encephalopathy ("CTE"). A toxicological analysis of Ely's blood showed he had amphetamine, THC, and 0.04% ethanol in his system at the time of his death. Dr. Montez opined that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds. The SBSO Coroner's Office certified the manner of Ely's death as homicide.

On October 21, 2019, Dr. Montez performed a post-mortem examination of Valerie. Dr. Montez observed seven stab wounds to her chest, abdomen, back, and right forearm. Her left lung showed signs of collapse and her liver was pierced. He also observed four other incised wounds to her arms and approximately 16 blunt force injuries to her head, face, chest, abdomen, arms, hands, and legs. Dr. Montez opined that the cause of her death was multiple stab wounds. The SBSO Coroner's Office certified the manner of Valerie's death as homicide.

## **LEGAL ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

### **Applicable Law<sup>4</sup>**

Homicide is the killing of one human being by another, either lawfully or unlawfully. Homicide includes murder and manslaughter, which are unlawful, and the acts of excusable and justifiable homicide which are lawful. The shooting of another person in self-defense or in the defense of others is justifiable and, therefore, lawful. Penal Code section 196(2) defines justifiable homicide by public officers. "Homicide is justifiable when committed by public officers and those acting by their command in their aid and assistance when necessarily committed in overcoming actual resistance to the execution of some legal process, or in the discharge of any other legal duty." Under California law anyone, including a police officer, who is threatened with an attack that justifies the use of self-defense need not retreat. The person attacked may stand his ground and defend himself, if necessary, by deadly force, even if he might have more easily gained safety by flight. (See *People v. Newcomer* (1897) 118 Cal. 263, 273; *People v. Dawson* (1948) 88 Cal.App.2d 85, 95.)

A police officer may use deadly force where the circumstances create a reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury in the mind of the officer. (*Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386; *Martinez v. County of Los Angeles* (1996) 47 Cal.App.4th 334.) In *Graham*, the United States Supreme Court held that the reasonableness of the force used "requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances" of the particular incident "including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether

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<sup>4</sup> Effective January 1, 2020, Penal Code Section 196 was amended to further define a peace officer's lawful use of force as set forth in Penal Code Section 835a. Penal Code Section 835a as amended was not in effect at the time of this incident on October 15, 2019, and does not control this analysis. Given the facts of this incident, however, the deputies' use of deadly force would be reasonable and justified under the law as amended.

he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.” (*Id.*, at 396). The Court stated, “[t]he ‘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.” (*Id.*, at 397). Moreover, “[t]he calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments -- in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving -- about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.” (*Id.* at 397-398).

Under *Graham*, we must avoid substituting our personal notions of proper police procedure for the instantaneous decision of an officer at the scene. “We must never allow the theoretical, sanitized world of our imagination to replace the dangerous and complex world that policemen face every day. What constitutes ‘reasonable’ action may seem quite different to someone facing a possible assailant than to someone analyzing the question at leisure.” (*Smith v. Freland* (6th Cir. 1992) 954 F.2d 343, 347.) *Graham*’s definition of reasonableness has been described as “comparatively generous to police in cases where potential danger, emergency conditions or other exigent circumstances are present.” (*Roy v. Inhabitants of the City of Lewiston* (1st Cir. 1994) 42 F.3d 691, 695.) Or put another way, *Graham*’s definition of reasonableness provides police “...a fairly wide zone of protection in close cases.” (*Martinez v. County of Los Angeles* (1996) 47 Cal.App.4th 334, 344.)

### **Legal Analysis**

On October 15, 2019, SBSO deputies went to the Ely residence in response to two 911 calls. The first call from a man who told the call taker that “his mother attacked his father and he (the caller) defended him.” When the line went dead and dispatch called back, a man on the line was distraught and unintelligible. On arrival, the deputies encountered Ron who was distraught, confined to a wheelchair, and unable to communicate. They also observed Valerie dead from significant stab wounds, the victim of an obvious recent homicide, and a bottle of carpet cleaner nearby. The deputies immediately recognized that Ron was physically incapable of inflicting Valerie’s injuries or making the original 911 call. They realized that the original 911 caller, a male who was likely the couple’s son, was outstanding and most likely responsible for Valerie’s murder. The deputies called for additional assistance to secure the house and search the large property for the murder suspect. After clearing the house and searching for approximately 30 minutes with the assistance of a K-9 unit, they did not locate any suspects or additional victims. The deputies knew, however, that the property was very large and very dark. They knew that property had not been thoroughly searched, but suspected that Ron and Valerie’s son may have fled by car.

Sergeant Thome asked Deputies Farley and Gruttadaurio to go to the back of the house to obtain the make, model, and license plate of a truck parked under a car cover there. Deputies Farley and Gruttadaurio walked away from the front door where Sergeant Thome, Senior Deputy Rogers and fire personnel were standing, and around to the east side of the house. When they came around the corner, the driveway area was very dark. They saw Ely walking toward them from the garage area/back of the property where they had previously searched. From the light of a flashlight, they both immediately noted that Ely had blood on him and believed he was the suspect who had just murdered Valerie. They drew their firearms and ordered him to get down on the ground. Sergeant Thome and Senior Deputy Rogers heard the yelling, ran to assist, and drew their firearms. All the

deputies described the area as very dark and said events happened very quickly. All four deputies described Ely as initially complying with the commands to get down, but as some of the deputies moved closer to Ely, he suddenly sprang to his feet while simultaneously bending at the waist and moving his hands toward his waist as if grabbing a weapon, and saying clearly, "I have a gun."

Under these circumstances, Ely's actions coupled with the deputies' beliefs that Ely had recently brutally stabbed Valerie to death, caused Sergeant Thome, Senior Deputy Rogers, and Deputies Gruttadaurio and Farley to reasonably believe that Ely was going to kill or seriously injure one or more of the deputies. They reasonably believed that deadly force was necessary to respond to the threat Ely posed to them. Thus, the deputies' use of force in firing at Ely was a reasonable use of deadly force.

## **CONCLUSION**

When Ely disobeyed verbal commands by deputies, sprang to his feet and moved his hands to his waistband as if grabbing a weapon while saying, "I have a gun!" shortly after killing his mother, his actions created a reasonable fear of death or great bodily injury in the minds of Deputies Gruttadaurio and Farley, Sergeant Thome and Senior Deputy Rogers. Based on the investigation by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, applying the law as set forth in PC 196(2), and the cases cited in this report, each of the deputies acted reasonably in his/her use of deadly force; therefore, the shooting of Cameron Pierce Ely is a justifiable homicide.