

**Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 832.7,
which was amended by Senate Bill (SB) 1421, effective
January 1, 2019, and again by Senate Bill (SB) 16,
effective January 1, 2022,
a redacted version of this report is subject to disclosure
under the California Public Records Act.**

OFFICIAL INFORMATIONCONFIDENTIAL**EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 1040
INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: January 25, 2024

TO: Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Inspector General

SUBJECT: LAW ENFORCEMENT-RELATED INJURY 008-23 FOR 2/6/24 CLOSED-SESSION AGENDA

Division	Date	Time	Duty-On (X) Off ()	Uniform-Yes (X) No()
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Southwest	2/13/23	6:07 a.m.		
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Officer(s) Involved in Use of Force	Length of Service
Gomez, M./PO II	8 years, 3 months
Romo, A./PO II	1 year, 6 months
Pollio, D./PO II	4 years, 5 months
Green, A./PO II	3 years, 8 months

Total Involved Officers

4 x PO II

Suspect(s)	Deceased ()	Wounded (X)	Non-Hit ()
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Pedro Villalobos: Male, Hispanic, 30 years of age.
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COP Recommendations

Tactics – Tactical Debrief, Officers Gomez, Romo, Pollio and Green.

Non-Lethal Use of Force – In Policy, No Further Action, Officers Gomez, Romo, Pollio and Green.

IG Recommendations

Tactics – Same as COP.

Non-Lethal Use of Force – Same as COP.

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INVESTIGATION

Annotated Force Investigation Division (FID) Incident Summary¹

Synopsis: Uniformed officers assigned to Southwest Patrol Division initiated a pursuit of a stolen vehicle. During the pursuit, the suspect's vehicle was disabled. The suspect exited the vehicle and attempted to flee on a skateboard. An officer pushed the suspect from the skateboard, which resulted in a Law Enforcement Related Injury (LERI).

Investigative Summary

On Monday, February 13, 2023, at approximately 0430 hours, [REDACTED] was sleeping inside his residence located at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] woke up to the sound of his [REDACTED] gray Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck with an attached dump trailer, driving away from their residence.² [REDACTED] looked outside and discovered his [REDACTED] vehicle missing and called 911.

At 0432:38 hours, Communication Division (CD) broadcast over Southwest frequency, "Any Southwest Unit, GTA just occurred, [REDACTED], last seen toward Jefferson. Vehicle taken is a gray Chevrolet Silverado, 2500 diesel, unknown license plates with attached white trailer, no plates. Code Two, Incident 499, RD 312."

Note: [REDACTED] was initially unable to provide CD with the license plate number to his vehicle. Several minutes after the first call, [REDACTED] called 911 once again and provided the license plate number which was added to the comments of the radio call.

At 0444:28 hours, CD assigned the radio call to Southwest Patrol Division, uniformed Police Officers II John Chambers, Serial No. 44575, and Ricardo Conejo, Serial No. 44577, unit 3A55.³ Officer Chambers was the driver officer of Shop No. 82681, a marked black and white Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), equipped with ballistic door panels

¹ The Incident Summary presented here is reproduced from FID's report regarding this case and is supplemented with annotations by the OIG. All OIG annotations are referenced as an "OIG Note." All other references and citations in the reproduced FID Incident Summary (e.g., Investigators' Notes or Addenda Items) are reproduced directly from FID's report. Hyperlinks to evidence included in FID's report have been removed here, as the links would not be active in this report; in some instances, the evidence accessible via the hyperlinks may have been inserted into this report by the OIG in place of the hyperlink itself. Unless otherwise stated, all information provided in OIG annotations is derived from FID's investigation of this incident.

² 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 pick-up truck, California License Plate No. [REDACTED]

³ Officer Chambers, [REDACTED] years of age, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, 150 pounds, two years, and four months with the Department. Officer Conejo, [REDACTED] years of age, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, 220 pounds, two years, and four months with the Department. Both officers were wearing a ballistic vest and had a Department-approved handgun, one pair of handcuffs, TASER, hobble restraint device (HRD), Body Worn Video (BWV), flashlight, collapsible baton and a canister of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray attached to their Sam Browne equipment belt.

and a Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS). According to Officer Chambers, at the start of watch the vehicle's DICVS, forward facing red light, and siren were inspected. The equipment was found to be fully functional.

According to both officers, prior to the start of watch, they were informed, due to a statewide system outage, they would not be able to verify vehicle registration information or conduct license plate queries during their shift.

Note: A Department wide email was sent multiple times throughout the evening of February 12, 2023, alerting CD and sworn personnel about the technical issue with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications Systems (CLETS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) systems. According to Director of Systems Sanjoy Datta, Serial No. N2884, Director of Systems of Emergency Command Control Communication Systems (ECCCS), the technical issue was not resolved until Monday, February 13, 2023, at approximately 0830 hours.

According to Officer Conejo, due to the outage, after receiving the radio call he directed CD via his Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) to advise [REDACTED] to report his vehicle stolen at Southwest police station later in the day. Officer Conejo interrupted his unit's response through the MDC and held the call in the event the technical issue was resolved, and the system went back online.

Note: According to the incident recall, CD advised [REDACTED] to make a police report at Southwest police station. The investigation determined the officers did not go Code Six at the [REDACTED] residence.

All the below referenced times were derived from Officers Chambers and Conejo's BWV and DICVS unless otherwise noted.

At 0602:30 hours, Officers Chambers and Conejo were traveling east on Exposition Boulevard at Western Avenue when they observed a gray Chevrolet Silverado towing a white dump trailer. The Silverado was also traveling east on Exposition Boulevard in front of the officers when they noticed it matched the description of [REDACTED] vehicle. There was a single occupant inside the vehicle later identified as Pedro Villalobos.⁴

As the officers followed the vehicle, Officer Conejo conducted an inquiry into the previously mentioned incident via the MDC and confirmed the license plate number of [REDACTED] vehicle and the vehicle they were following were the same. Officer Conejo broadcast, "*Adam 55, show us following a Code 37 vehicle, we're going to be southbound Vermont from Expo. Can I get a backup, air unit and a supervisor?*"

⁴ Pedro Villalobos, Male Hispanic, 30 years of age, [REDACTED]. Villalobos was attired with a grey t-shirt, dark colored jean shorts, black tennis shoes, high visible gloves, and a high visibility safety reflective vest over a dark colored jacket.

The officers continued to follow Villalobos south on Vermont Avenue and stopped at a red tri-light at Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard. Southwest Patrol Division, uniformed Police Officers II Devin Bonilla, Serial No. 44180, and Senndy Baide, Serial 43965, assigned unit 3A15, and Police Officers II Joshua Sportiello, Serial No. 44262, and Miguel Perez, Serial No. 44334, assigned unit 3A99, and assigned marked black and white police vehicles, arrived, and joined the following as the second and third unit.

Note: As the officers followed the vehicle, CD broadcast the air unit was launching. The investigation determined the use of force occurred prior to the launch of the air unit and they ultimately cancelled their response.

The vehicle following continued south on Menlo Avenue then east on 40th Place when the officers observed the Silverado accelerate to approximately 60 miles per hour. Officer Conejo broadcast, “Adam 55, we are going to be eastbound 40th Place at a high rate of speed from MLK.”

As the vehicle approached the intersection at 40th Place and Hoover Street, the trailer sideswiped the driver side of a parked grey Toyota Camry, and failed to stop, in violation of California Vehicle Code (CVC) section, 20002(A), Hit and Run.⁵ Villalobos continued north on Hoover Street at a high rate of speed.

At 0606:04 hours, Officer Chambers momentarily activated then de-activated the police vehicle’s forward-facing emergency lights and siren as the officers pursued Villalobos.

Note: Although Officer Chambers de-activated the emergency lights and siren, FID investigators determined the vehicle pursuit was initiated at that moment.

According to Officer Chambers, “I tell him [Officer Conejo] to -- I voice out, ‘Put us in pursuit. Show us in pursuit,’ and I flicked my lights. I have muscle memory of flicking the lights on and off just from pulling people over. So in my head, I flicked them on and then he -- I thought he was going to stop, so I took off my seatbelt as well, and then he proceeded to go eastbound on 40th Place.”⁶

At 0606:07 hours, Officer Conejo broadcast, “We are going to be in pursuit of a Code 37 vehicle. We are going to be eastbound 40th Place from Hoover.”

Note: Due to the frequency traffic, the only portion of Officer Conejo’s broadcast received was, “We are going to be eastbound 40th Place from Hoover.”

At 0606:21 hours, Southwest Patrol Division, uniformed Sergeant I Danielle Lopez,

⁵ 2005 Toyota Camry, License Plate No. [REDACTED]

⁶ Officer Chambers’ transcribed statement, Page 13, Lines 12 to 18.

Serial No. 41316, unit 3L50, responded to the area of the pursuit and broadcast, “*L50, show me Code Six with the following.*”

The officers pursued Villalobos east on 40th Place, south on Figueroa Street then again east on 40th Place. At 0606:34 hours, Officer Chambers activated the emergency lights and siren on his police vehicle for the remainder of the pursuit.

According to Officer Chambers, “*As we’re going across Figueroa, I notice that, oh, my light bar isn’t fully on, so I activate it all the way on, which activated the sirens and everything.*”⁷

Note: Officer Chambers and Conejo’s DICVS captured a pedestrian crossing the street at the time Villalobos disregarded the posted stop sign. Force Investigation Division investigators were unable to identify this individual.

At 0606:37 hours, officers pursued Villalobos south on Flower Street from 40th Place. Officer Cornejo broadcast, “*Let me get three with the following, excuse me, with the pursuit.*” Communications Division confirmed the officers were in pursuit and broadcast, “*All units on all frequencies stand by, 3A55 is in pursuit of a Code 37 southbound Flower from 40th Place, requesting backup, air unit and a supervisor.*”

Among the Southwest Patrol Division units to respond were uniformed Police Officer I Sheylan Brown, Serial No. 44986, and Police Officer II Brandon Avila, Serial No. 43676, assigned unit 3A57, Police Officer II Jesse Sanchez, Serial No. 43189, and Police Officer I Brenda Duran, Serial No. 44989, unit 3A19, and Police Officer I Stefan Carutasu, Serial No. 45218, and Police Officer III Filberto Garcia, Serial No. 40475, unit 3A3.

At 0606:58 hours, Villalobos continued south on Flower Street and attempted an east turn onto 42nd Street. The truck and trailer jack-knifed in the intersection and came to a stop, facing north, in the officers’ direction.

Note: The investigation determined the vehicle pursuit lasted 54 seconds and covered approximately .56 miles.

Officer Chambers stopped his vehicle, exited and unholstered his pistol. Officer Chambers stood behind his vehicle door and shouted, “*Stop, stop, stop.*” Officer Conejo opened his vehicle door and while seated in the passenger seat broadcast, “*55 we are Code Six.*”

Note: Officer Conejo’s broadcast was unintelligible over the base frequency. However, his Code Six broadcast was captured over his BWV.

⁷ Officer Chambers’ transcribed statement, Page 13, Lines 21 to 24.

Officer Bonilla simultaneously stopped his vehicle to the right of Officer Chambers and Conejo's vehicle. Officers Bonilla and Baide exited their vehicle, unholstered their pistols and shouted commands toward Villalobos.

Officer Sportiello stopped his vehicle to the rear of Officers Chambers and Conejo's vehicle. Officers Sportiello and Perez exited their vehicle and unholstered their pistols.

Note: At 0607:00 hours, Sergeant Lopez broadcast, "*L50, show me Code Six with the pursuit and Incident Commander. I'm going to need one additional unit, for a total of four.*" Force Investigation Division investigators determined Sergeant Lopez was driving south on Figueroa Street from 40th Place as she made that broadcast after the vehicle pursuit had already terminated.

According to Officer Chambers' DICV, as the officers shouted commands toward Villalobos, he exited the vehicle holding a skateboard. Villalobos ignored the officers' commands, mounted the skateboard, and fled south on Flower Street. Several officers ran after Villalobos including Officers Chambers, Conejo, Bonilla, Baeda, Sportiello and Perez.

Note: Force Investigation Division investigators completed a vehicle pursuit report. Traffic Group, Pursuit Review Unit (PRU), analyzed and adjudicated the vehicle pursuit and the vehicle pursuit tactics, which included the clearing of the vehicle, under District Reporting (DR) No. 23-0306248 and PRU Case No. 092-23.

As Villalobos fled south on Flower Street, Southwest Patrol Division, uniformed Police Officers II Moises Gomez, Serial No. 41838, and Angel Romo, Serial No. 44736, assigned unit 3A63 were traveling east on 43rd Street from Figueroa Street.⁸ According to Officer Gomez, he lost sight of the pursuit on Figueroa Street, and was unsure if any additional units responded to assist the officers.

At 0607:19 hours, as the officers pursued Villalobos on foot, Officer Conejo broadcast, "*We're going to need a unit, to go to Vernon and Flower. Suspect is going to be wearing a reflective vest riding a skateboard southbound Flower.*"

In response to Officer Conejo's request, Officers Gomez and Romo drove south on Flower Street and positioned their vehicle along the west side of the roadway, north of Vernon Avenue. According to Officer Gomez, he expected to see the pursuing officers

⁸ Officer Gomez, [REDACTED] years of age, 6 feet tall, 210 pounds, 8 years, 3 months with the Department. Officer Romo, [REDACTED] years of age, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 170 pounds, 1 year, 6 months with the Department. Officer Gomez was the driver of their police vehicle Shop 89491. Both officers were wearing a ballistic vest and had a Department-approved handgun, two pairs of handcuffs, TASER, BWV, flashlight, and a canister of OC spray attached to his Sam Browne equipment belt. Both officers had their side handle batons in their respective door frame of their vehicle.

and the fleeing suspect in front of him. Officer Gomez was surprised to find he and Officer Romo were the only unit at the location.

Southwest Patrol Division, uniformed Police Officers II Dominic Pollio, Serial No. 43704, and Aaron Green, Serial No. 44054, unit 3A41, also responded to the area of the officers' back-up request. Officers Pollio and Green were stopped at 43rd Street, west of Flower Street, when they observed Villalobos fleeing on the skateboard, south on Flower Street and through the intersection.

Believing their vehicle would not be able to follow the suspect due to additional police vehicles in front of them, Officer Green exited the vehicle and ran after Villalobos south on Flower Street. Officer Green shouted at Villalobos to stop multiple times. According to Officer Green, he made the decision to apprehend Villalobos on foot due to the air unit being unavailable, he was familiar with the immediate area, Villalobos did not appear to have anything in his hands, and there were sufficient units with him.

According to Officers Pollio and Green's DICVS, at 0607:38 hours, Officer Pollio drove south on Flower Street, past Officer Green, around Villalobos and stopped just north of Officer Gomez and Romo's vehicle.

Officer Pollio stated, "*We weren't going to be able to catch him on foot, and I believe when I made the turn from 43 Street onto Flower that we were the only unit doing so because of the way the pursuit had ended. Um, I believe I was the first unit at the time when I made that turn who was going to be able to follow him. As my partner was on foot, I paralleled with him. Stayed with my partner so I could be in close proximity to him at all times but we could have all the equipment that we needed, the less lethal, any first aid we might need, anything like that that we have in the shop.*"⁹

Simultaneously, according to Officer Gomez, as he and Officer Romo were seated inside their vehicle, he looked through the driver-side mirror and observed Villalobos on the skateboard, headed in his direction. Officer Gomez observed Officer Green running approximately five feet behind Villalobos who was moving at approximately ten to fifteen miles per hour. Officers Gomez and Romo alerted one another that the suspect was approaching and exited their vehicle.

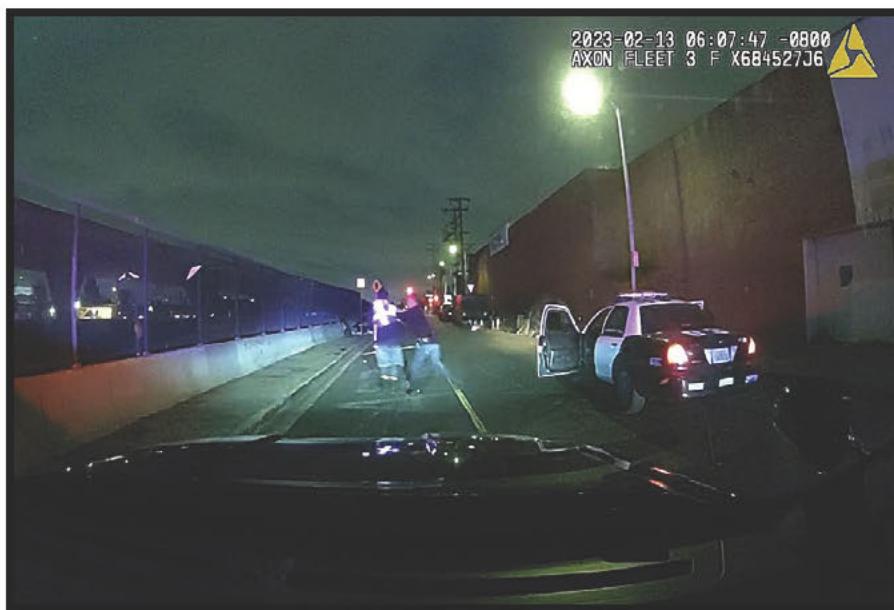
According to Officer Gomez, his intent was to time his approach and grab Villalobos' right side and pull him off the skateboard. Officer Gomez stated, "*I was going to grab at him. There were certain or tactical considerations that I had to take into account, such as his size. He wasn't a small guy. He was actually very proficient on the skateboard, so he seemed like he was traveling at a pretty good pace. And I didn't want to put myself directly in front of him for obvious reasons, such as him tackling me or his*

⁹ Officer Pollio's transcribed statement, Page 9, Lines 10 to 22.

*skateboard hitting my ankles and potentially risking myself getting injured. So my approach was to try to grab him from the side.*¹⁰

At 0607:47 hours, as Villalobos continued in Officer Gomez' direction, Officer Gomez stepped toward Villalobos, reached out with both hands, and pushed him on the upper torso area. Villalobos veered toward the east curb, fell from skateboard and onto the curb in the prone position.

According to Officer Gomez, “Yeah, I reached out with both hands. I felt contact with both hands. It was, I believe, his shoulder and his back area.”¹¹ He continued, “As I reached out to grab him, it appeared as if he was kind of already leaning away from me once he saw me. So when I tried to grab him, I made contact with both my hands on his shoulders and I feel like his momentum, along with me making contact with him, you know --.... So essentially when you’re riding a skateboard, if you shift your body weight to a certain side, the skateboard is going to start veering in that direction. So if he’s coming toward me and I’m standing on his right side, he shifted -- or it appeared to me as he shifting his body to his left side and the skateboard was kind of veering away from me. So I had to kind of adjust and move toward him in order to try to, you know, grab him. I think the combination of his speed, his momentum and the fact that he was already kind of shifting away from me, you know, caused him to basically fall off of -- off the skateboard.”¹²



DICV still image from Shop 81916 depicting Officer Gomez' contact with Villalobos

¹⁰ Officer Gomez' transcribed statement, Page 19, Line 25 to Page 20, Line 10.

¹¹ Officer Gomez' transcribed statement, Page 22, Lines 1 to 3.

¹² Officer Gomez' transcribed statement, Page 20, Lines 10 through 25 to Page 21, Lines 1 through 7.



Still image from Officer Green's BWV, depicting Villalobos' right foot on the street against the curb.

After he fell to the ground, Officers Gomez, Romo, Green and Pollio made physical contact with Villalobos. According to Officer Gomez, Villalobos initially resisted as the officers attempted to take him into custody.

Officer Gomez pulled Villalobos' left arm from underneath his torso and held it behind his back. Officer Gomez placed his right forearm against Villalobos' back to prevent him from moving.

Officer Green assisted Officer Gomez with controlling Villalobos' left arm. According to Officer Green, "*-- suspect appeared to be resisting and not willing to give up his arms. At which point I utilized a firm grip with my right arm on his left wrist to assist with putting the handcuffs on him.*"¹³

Officer Romo took hold of Villalobos' right hand and held it behind his back. According to Officer Romo, "*Suspect's a little bit combative, um, not giving me his hand, resisting.*"¹⁴

Officer Pollio placed his right and left hand on the back of Villalobos' legs and applied body weight on him. Officer Pollio stated, "*I saw my partner, Officer Green, and Officer Gomez struggling with the suspect. He had his hands underneath his body and was refusing to present his hands so that he could be cuffed and taken into custody. I noticed that officers went on his legs, weren't able to be able control his legs. He was resisting at the time and I didn't want him to kick out at officers, strike them or be able to*

¹³ Officer Green's transcribed statement, Page 8, Line 23 to Page 9, Line 1.

¹⁴ Officer Romo's transcribed statement, Page 8, Line 3 to 4.

*build a base underneath him to be able to get up and run away again. I used my body weight on his legs to hold them down to the ground, and then I used my left hand on his left wrist and assisted with pulling his hand out from underneath him and placing it at the base of his back so that he could be cuffed.*¹⁵

At 0607:56 hours, as the officers were controlling Villalobos, Officers Avila and Brown arrived at scene. Officer Brown immediately assisted the officers and handcuffed Villalobos without further incident. Villalobos was moved to his right side into a recovery position when the officers discovered the injury to his right leg.

At 0608:15 hours, Officer Sanchez, broadcast a Code Four followed by a request for a Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Rescue Ambulance (RA) to respond.

Sergeant Lopez and Southwest Patrol Division, uniformed Sergeant I Daniel Stovell, Serial No. 42352, unit 3L80, arrived at the termination of the foot pursuit. The officers informed Sergeant Lopez a use of force occurred. According to Sergeant Lopez, she observed Villalobos' [REDACTED]. Sergeant Lopez believed he would likely be admitted to a medical facility. Sergeant Lopez directed the involved officers to deactivate their BWV cameras and they were monitored by Sergeant Stovell.

Sergeant Lopez notified Southwest Patrol Division, Watch Commander, Sergeant I Robin Simmons, Serial No. 38818, of the use of force and the injury sustained by Villalobos.

At 0621:52 hours, RA 846, staffed by Firefighter Paramedics (FF/PM) Jeffrey Brazynetz and Hailey Denny, arrived at scene and transported Villalobos to California Hospital Medical Center for treatment.

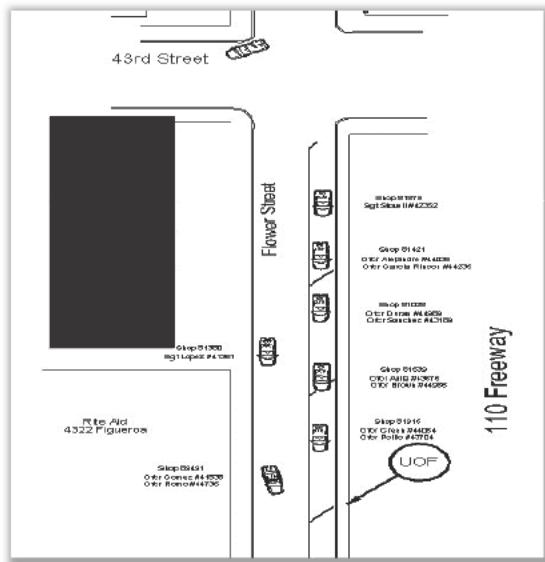
Note: Officer Carutasu rode inside the ambulance while her partner Officer Garcia followed the ambulance in his police vehicle.

At approximately 0659 hours, Sergeant Simmons notified FID, Lieutenant II Alisha Jordan, Serial No. 30895, of the incident. At 0750 hours, Lieutenant Jordan determined the criteria for a Law Enforcement Related Injury (LERI) were met. At approximately 0820 hours, Sergeant Simmons and Lieutenant Jordan notified the Department Operations Center (DOC) and reported the Categorical Use of Force (CUOF).

Force Investigation Division, Detective II Jennifer Kim, Serial No. 36639, reviewed all documents and circumstances surrounding the separation and monitoring procedures pertaining to the CUOF LERI investigation.

¹⁵ Officer Pollio's transcribed statement, Page 10, Line 12 to Page 11, Line 1.

Scene Description



The above diagram depicts the approximate location of the officers' vehicles

The LERI occurred during hours of darkness, on South Flower Street, south of West 43rd Street and north of Vernon Avenue. The west side of South Flower Street, where the UOF occurred is both a residential and a commercial district with parked vehicles along the west curb. The east side of Flower Street is also lined by a curb, a sidewalk and a fence. On the opposite side of the fence is the southbound traffic lanes of the 110 Freeway.

The roadway was illuminated by light standards along Flower Street and the 110 Freeway. The environmental conditions were dry with clear skies.

Canvass for Witnesses

On February 13, 2023, FID investigators and Southwest Area personnel canvassed the area of Flower Street between West 42nd Street and Vernon Avenue for video evidence and witnesses to the incident. On February 14, 2023, FID investigators conducted an additional canvass of the area. One witness was located and interviewed. The witness' statement was transcribed and is contained in this investigation.

Suspect Information



Pedro Villalobos, a male Hispanic with brown hair and brown eyes. He was five feet, eleven inches tall, and weighed 190 pounds. He was thirty years of age with a date of birth of May 18, 1992. Villalobos was identified by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A Los Angeles Police Department Investigative Report for Felony Evading was completed by FID investigators under DR No. 2303-06248, naming Pedro Villalobos as the suspect. On February 13, 2023, Villalobos was absentee booked for felony Vehicle Theft and Evading under Booking No. 6552324.

On February 15, 2023, Los Angeles County, Deputy District Attorney Marna Miller filed two counts of Vehicle Theft and one count of Reckless Evading of a Police Officer against Villalobos.

Villalobos was released from the hospital on February 15, 2023, and was detained by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

On March 6, 2023, during a preliminary hearing, Villalobos was held to answer on all charges.

Injuries

At approximately 0621:52 hours, LAFD RA 846, staffed by FF/PM's Denny and Brazynetz arrived at scene and transported Villalobos to California Hospital Medical Center. Villalobos was treated by Emergency Trauma Doctors Anthony McCloud and Josey Strathe, under Patient No. [REDACTED]

Doctors McCloud and Strathe determined Villalobos sustained an [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Villalobos was medically evaluated and discharged from California Hospital Medical Center by Medical Doctor Edgar Enriquez.

Force Investigation Division investigators obtained Villalobos' consent for his medical records from California Hospital Medical Center.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Vehicles

Villalobos was driving a grey 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 truck, California License Plate No. [REDACTED]. Attached to the pickup truck was a white dump trailer containing landscaping tools in the bed of the trailer.

On the morning of the incident, at approximately 0620 hours, [REDACTED] was advised his vehicle was recovered. He arrived at scene and met with South Traffic Division, Police Officer II Armon DeLauney, Serial No. 40717, unit [REDACTED] and the vehicle was released.

South Traffic Division, Police Officer III Peter Argueta, Serial No. 35393, and Officer DeLauney, responded to 40th Place west of Hoover Street and conducted the collision investigation which involved the parked Toyota Camry.

During the collision investigation, the officers discovered the Toyota Camry was a reported stolen vehicle out of Olympic Division, DR No. 2303-06245.

Visual Documentation

Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS)

Multiple police vehicles with DICVS responded to this incident. The DICVS associated with the officers identified in this administrative summary were reviewed by FID investigators. The DICVS from Officers Chambers and Conejo's vehicle, Shop No. 82681, captured footage of the vehicle pursuit and the traffic collision. The DICVS from Sergeant Lopez' vehicle, Shop No. 81380, and Officers Green and Pollio's vehicle, Shop No. 81916, captured footage of Villalobos as he attempted to flee on the skateboard. The DICVS in Officers Green and Pollio's vehicle also captured footage of the UOF. All other responding police vehicles arrived after the UOF.

Body Worn Video (BWV)

Force Investigation Division investigators conducted an in-depth review of the BWV for each officer identified in this administrative summary and noted Officer Sanchez had an early BWV de-activation.

¹⁶ Gleaned from Page 8 of 244 of Pedro Villalobos' medical records.

Social Media

Personnel assigned to FID's Cyber Unit monitored social media sites, including [REDACTED] from the date of the incident until the submission of this investigative report. No additional evidence, information or witnesses were identified.

Other Department Video

None.

Outside Video

No outside videos were located regarding this incident.

Photographs

Technical Investigation Division, Photographer III Henry Wang, Serial No. N5698, photographed the scene and the officers at Southwest Police Station. The photographs are stored, under Control Nos. 0906006 and 0906007.

Notifications

At approximately 0820 hours, the DOC was notified of the CUOF and the details of the subsequent notifications are attached.

Personnel at Scene

Force Investigation Division Detective II Timo Illig, Serial No. 36893, was the first representative from FID to arrive at scene at approximately 0845 hours.

Communications

A copy of the CD printout relative to Incident No. 2302130000499, is on file at FID. A digital recording of Southwest Division base frequency at the time of this incident are stored at FID and in SharePoint. The digitally recorded interviews of the involved and percipient officers, along with the civilian witnesses are stored in the Training Evaluation and Management System (TEAMS II) database.

Justice System Integrity Division

This case does not meet the criteria for presentation to the JSID.

Investigators' Notes

On April 18, 2023, FID Commanding Officer, Captain III Richard Gabaldon, Serial No. 31356, informed Southwest Area Commanding Officer, Captain III Rodolfo Lopez, Serial No. 30058, and Southwest Patrol Division, Captain I James Lopez, Serial No. 32099, of the following courtesy and profanity by Officers Chambers, Conejo and Sportiello during the incident. The below information was forwarded to Southwest command for any corrective action deemed appropriate:

1. While in foot pursuit, Officer Chambers' BWV at 0608:27 hours, captured him as he stated "*Hey, you're going to get fucking shot, you pussy!*" When asked about his use of profanity, Officer Chambers stated he was expressing his frustration as Villalobos was approximately fifty feet south of him and increasing his distance. This statement did not appear to be within the earshot of civilians nor directed at officers.
2. After Villalobos was taken into custody, Officer Sportiello's BWV at 0608:28 hours, captured him in low tone of voice state, "...*fucking asshole,*" as he walked away north on Flower Street. Officer Sportiello also stated, "*Woo, fuck,*" as he seemed to be catching his breath. Officer Sportiello did not appear to be directing his statements to anyone, and it appeared out of earshot of Villalobos.
3. Officer Conejo's BWV at 0609:12 hours, captured him calling out to Officer Chambers that Villalobos' [REDACTED] appeared to be [REDACTED] at the termination of the foot pursuit. After Villalobos was positioned to his right side, Officer Conejo stood near him and stated "*That's what you get, Bro.*" He appeared to be addressing Villalobos. It is unknown if Villalobos heard the remark. When asked about his statement, Officer Conejo stated he did not know why he made such a remark. Officer Conejo stated that was feeling physically unwell from running the long distance, he was the last officer to arrive and meant no malicious intent.

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CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT¹⁷

Chief of Police Findings

Tactics – Tactical Debrief, Officers Gomez, Romo, Pollio and Green.

Non-Lethal Use of Force – In Policy, No Further Action, Officers Gomez, Romo, Pollio and Green.

Chief of Police Analysis

Detention

- Officers were following a vehicle and trailer driven by Villalobos that matched the description of a stolen vehicle from an earlier radio call. Officers reviewed the comments of the radio call and confirmed that the license plate of the vehicle matched the license plate of the stolen vehicle. As the officers followed the vehicle, it accelerated above posted speed limits, collided with a parked vehicle and continued to flee. Based on the totality of the circumstances, the officers had reasonable suspicion to detain Villalobos.

Tactics

- *Department policy relative to a Tactical Debrief is: “The collective review of an incident to identify those areas where actions and decisions were effective and those areas where actions and decisions could have been improved. The intent of a Tactical Debrief is to enhance future performance.”*

Department policy relative to Administrative Disapproval is: “A finding, supported by a preponderance of the evidence that the tactics employed during a CUOF incident unjustifiably and substantially deviated from approved Department tactical training” (Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Volume 3, Section 792.05).

The evaluation of tactics requires that consideration be given to the fact that officers are forced to make split-second decisions under very stressful and dynamic circumstances. Tactics are conceptual and intended to be flexible and incident specific, which requires that each incident be looked at objectively and the tactics be evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances.

¹⁷ The information provided in this section summarizes the analyses and findings set forth in the Chief of Police's report for this case.

Tactical De-Escalation¹⁸

- *Tactical de-escalation involves the use of techniques to reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect and enable an officer to have additional options to gain voluntary compliance or mitigate the need to use a higher level of force while maintaining control of the situation.*
- *Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromise his or her safety or increase the risk of physical harm to the public. De-escalation techniques should only be used when it is safe and prudent to do so.*

Tactical De-Escalation Techniques: **P**lanning, **A**sessment: **T**ime; **R**edeployment and/or **C**ontainment; **O**ther **R**esources; and, **L**ines of **C**ommunication.

Planning and Assessment – Officers Gomez and Romo had been partners on two separate occasions. Prior to their start of watch they discussed basic tactics, traffic stops and contact/cover roles. At the termination of the vehicle pursuit, they began establishing a perimeter. While parked on the west side of the curb, Officer Gomez observed officers chasing Villalobos on foot. Officer Gomez did not observe anything in Villalobos' hands and stepped out of his vehicle and pushed him off of his skateboard while attempting to apprehend him.

Officers Pollio and Green had been partners for approximately one year. During that time, they had discussed foot pursuit tactics and contact/cover roles. Officer Green exited his patrol vehicle and, believing they were in apprehension mode, began pursuing Villalobos on foot. He observed Villalobos' hands were empty and believed he would be able to apprehend Villalobos. Officer Pollio remained in the vehicle paralleling his partner and Villalobos. Officer Pollio did not believe Villalobos was armed and was also in apprehension mode.

Time and Redeployment/Containment – After losing control of the vehicle, Villalobos fled from police and led them in a foot pursuit while riding a skateboard. The pursuing officers requested a perimeter to contain Villalobos. Officers Gomez, Romo, Pollio and Green set up their position ahead of Villalobos to contain him. Due to Villalobos' use of the skateboard and his rapid speed, Officers Pollio and Green were unable to contain him and pursued him. Officer Gomez and Romo's position allowed them to stop Villalobos from escaping and kept him contained when they contacted him. Villalobos' speed on the skateboard limited the officers' ability to use more time or redeployment to further de-escalate the incident.

¹⁸ Los Angeles Police Department, Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques, October 2016.

Other Resources – When this incident began, multiple units were present. A supervisor was responding, and an airship had been requested. During the pursuit, Sergeant D. Lopez, Serial No. 41361, Southwest Patrol Division, requested an additional unit, for a total of four, for post pursuit tactics. Additional officers were also present to assist Officer Gomez in taking Villalobos into custody.

Lines of Communication – At the termination of the pursuit, Officers Conejo, Chambers, Sportiello and Perez issued multiple commands to Villalobos to stop when they first attempted to detain him. Villalobos failed to comply with their commands, instead fleeing on a skateboard. While Officer Green was engaged in foot pursuit of Villalobos, he identified himself as a police officer and issued commands to stop. Villalobos continued to ignore the commands. Officers Pollio and Green communicated with one another regarding Villalobos' location. Officer Gomez told Officer Romo that Villalobos was coming up from behind them as he exited the police vehicle. This allowed Officer Romo to react and exit the vehicle as well, and aid in taking Villalobos into custody. The UOFRB noted that the officers were limited on time to communicate a thorough plan due to Villalobos' speed and the officers' need to react quickly. However, regarding Officers Pollio and Green, the Board would have preferred the officers had communicated a plan with one another prior to employing such complex tactics as a parallel foot pursuit with a vehicle. To enhance future performance, the Chief directed that this be a topic of discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

During the review of the incident, the following additional Tactical Debrief Topics were noted:

Additional Tactical Debrief Topics

- **Foot Pursuit Concepts (Paralleling in Vehicle)** – When Officer Green exited his vehicle to pursue Villalobos on foot, his partner, Officer Pollio, remained in the vehicle and drove alongside and overtook the suspect.

Officer Green recalled,

Um, and we felt like we had enough resources at the time to go into apprehension mode and successfully take the suspect into custody, um, given that we also did not have an airship available to us at the time.¹⁹

Officer Pollio stated,

As my partner was on foot, I paralleled with him. Stayed with my partner so I could be in close proximity to him at all times but we could have all the equipment that we

¹⁹ Officer Green's Statement, Page 8, Lines 2-5.

needed, the less lethal, any first aid we might need, anything like that that we have in the shop.²⁰

The Board would have preferred that Officer Pollio stayed behind the suspect and maintained sight of Villalobos affording the greatest tactical advantage, rather than driving past him. The Board opined that because Officer Pollio had to multitask between driving the vehicle and monitoring Villalobos and his partner, while also needing to be prepared to react to Villalobos' actions, he limited his tactical advantage. The Board noted Department policy allows for this tactic while in apprehension mode and it was therefore not a substantial deviation. However, the Board cautioned that use of this tactic has the potential to place officers at a disadvantage and should be used only in limited circumstances when the incident allows for its safe use. To enhance future performance, the Chief directed that this be a topic of discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

Tactical Communications – The UOFRB noted that the officers were limited on time to communicate a thorough plan due to Villalobos' speed on the skateboard and their need to react quickly. However, regarding Officers Pollio and Green, the Board would have preferred that the officers had communicated a plan with one another prior to employing such complex tactics. To enhance future performance, the Chief directed that this be a topic of discussion during the Tactical Debrief.

Command and Control

- *Command and Control is the use of active leadership to direct others while using available resources to coordinate a response, accomplish tasks and minimize risk. Command uses active leadership to establish order, provide stability and structure, set objectives and create conditions under which the function of control can be achieved with minimal risk. Control implements the plan of action while continuously assessing the situation, making necessary adjustments, managing resources, managing the scope of the incident (containment), and evaluating whether existing Department protocols apply to the incident.*

Command and Control is a process where designated personnel use active leadership to command others while using available resources to accomplish tasks and minimize risk. Active leadership provides clear, concise, and unambiguous communication to develop and implement a plan, direct personnel and manage resources. The senior officer or any person on scene who has gained sufficient situational awareness shall initiate Command and Control and develop a plan of action. Command and Control will provide direction, help manage resources and make it possible to achieve the desired outcome. Early considerations of PATROL will assist with the Command and Control process.²¹

²⁰ Officer Pollio's Statement, Page 9, Lines 17 through 22.

²¹ Los Angeles Police Department, Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, July 2018.

Incident Commander (IC) – In accordance with Department Policy, the IC sets the objectives, the strategy and directs the tactical response. Directing the tactical response means applying tactics appropriate to the strategy, assigning the right resources and monitoring performance.²²

At approximately 0607 hours Sergeant Lopez declared herself IC and showed herself Code Six with the pursuit and immediately requested an additional unit in the pursuit for post pursuit tactics. Sergeant Lopez and Sergeant D. Stovell, Serial No. 42352, Southwest Patrol Division, arrived at the termination of the foot pursuit shortly after Villalobos was taken into custody. Sergeant Lopez observed Villalobos' [REDACTED] to be [REDACTED]. She believed he would be admitted to a medical facility, resulting in an FID response. Sergeant Lopez directed the involved officers not to discuss the incident and directed Sergeant Stovell to monitor them. Sergeant Lopez then notified Southwest Watch Commander Sergeant R. Simmons, Serial No. 38818, of the use of force and injury sustained by Villalobos.

The UOFRB determined, and the Chief concurred, the overall actions of Sergeant Lopez, and Sergeant Stovell were consistent with Department training and the Chief's expectations of supervisors during a critical incident.

Tactical Debrief

- In conducting an objective assessment of this case, the UOFRB determined, and the Chief concurred, the actions of Officers Gomez, Romo, Pollio and Green were not a substantial deviation from Department approved tactical training.

Each tactical incident merits a comprehensive debriefing. In this case, areas were identified where improvements could be made. A Tactical Debrief is the appropriate forum for involved personnel to discuss individual actions that took place during this incident.

Therefore, the Chief will direct Officers Gomez, Romo, Green and Pollio to attend a Tactical Debrief and the identified topics be discussed.

General Training Update (GTU)

- Officer Gomez attended a General Training Update (GTU) on February 21, 2023.

²² Supervisor's Field Operations Guide, Volume 2 LAPD Emergency Operations Guide.

Policy on the Use of Force²³

Use of De-Escalation Techniques

It is the policy of this Department that, whenever practicable, officers shall use techniques and tools consistent with Department de-escalation training to reduce the intensity of any encounter with a suspect and enable an officer to have additional options to mitigate the need to use a higher level of force while maintaining control of the situation.

Verbal Warnings

Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of any force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe that the person is aware of those facts.

Proportionality

Officers may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.

Rendering Aid

After any use of force, officers shall immediately request a rescue ambulance for any person injured. In addition, officers shall promptly provide basic and emergency medical assistance to all members of the community, including victims, witnesses, subjects, suspects, persons in custody, subjects of a use of force and fellow officers: To the extent of the officer's training and experience in first aid/CPR/AED; and, To the level of equipment available to an officer at the time assistance is needed.

Requirement to Intercede

An officer shall intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, taking into account the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject.

Factors Used to Determine Objective Reasonableness

*Pursuant to the opinion issued by the United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor*, the Department examines the reasonableness of any particular force used: a) from the perspective of a reasonable Los Angeles Police Officer with similar*

²³ LAPD Manual, Volume 1, Section 556.10.

training and experience, in the same situation; and b) based on the facts and circumstances of each particular case. Those factors may include, but are not limited to:

- *The feasibility of using de-escalation tactics, crisis intervention or other alternatives to force;*
- *The seriousness of the crime or suspected offense;*
- *The level of threat or resistance presented by the subject;*
- *Whether the subject was posing an immediate threat to officers or a danger to the community;*
- *The potential for injury to citizens, officers or subjects;*
- *The risk or apparent attempt by the subject to escape;*
- *The conduct of the subject being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time);*
- *The amount of time and any changing circumstances during which the officer had to determine the type and amount of force that appeared to be reasonable;*
- *The availability of other resources;*
- *The training and experience of the officer;*
- *The proximity or access of weapons to the subject;*
- *Officer versus subject factors such as age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number officers versus subjects;*
- *The environmental factors and/or other exigent circumstances; and,*
- *Whether a person is a member of a vulnerable population.*

Use of Force – Non-Deadly

- *It is the policy of this Department that personnel may use only that force which is "objectively reasonable" to: Defend themselves; Defend others; Effect an arrest or detention; Prevent escape; or, Overcome resistance.*

Non-Lethal Use of Force

Officer Gomez — Physical Force, Bodyweight, and Firm Grips

Officer Romo — Firm Grips

Officer Green — Firm Grips

Officer Pollio — Bodyweight, Firm Grips

During the foot pursuit, Officer Gomez exited his vehicle and attempted to grab Villalobos on the skateboard as he headed in his direction. Officer Gomez stepped towards Villalobos, reached out with both hands and pushed him on the upper torso area. Villalobos veered toward the east curb, fell from the skateboard and onto the sidewalk in the prone position. Officer Gomez placed his right forearm on Villalobos' back, applying his bodyweight to prevent him from moving. He used his left hand to grab Villalobos' left arm and pull it from underneath his torso and hold it behind his back. Officer Romo took control of Villalobos' right hand and held it behind his back with a firm grip. Officer Green assisted Officer Gomez with controlling Villalobos' left

arm using a firm grip. Officer Pollio placed his right and left hands on the back of Villalobos' legs and applied bodyweight to prevent him from kicking or attempting to get up. Officer Pollio then assisted controlling Villalobos' left hand behind his back.

Officer Gomez recalled,

Yes. So prior to him – prior to me reaching for him, it appeared as if he was shifting his weight to try to kind of gain distance between him and I. So when I moved in his direction, you know, obviously I reached out to grab him, but I wasn't able to actually grasp anything. So when I made contact with him, that's when he ended up on the floor.²⁴

The UOFRB conducted a review and analysis of the investigation and circumstances of the incident in determining the reasonableness of the non-lethal force used by Officers Gomez, Romo, Green and Pollio.

As it pertains to Officer Gomez, the Board noted that he used physical force, firm grips and bodyweight to control Villalobos. The Board noted that the push Officer Gomez used to get Villalobos off the skateboard was effective in preventing his escape and enabled officers to effect his arrest. Additionally, the Board noted that pushes are taught by the Department as a method of ending foot pursuits when in apprehension mode. The Board opined that pushing Villalobos off the skateboard was objectively reasonable and proportional to Villalobos' attempt to escape on the skateboard. Based on Villalobos' level of resistance, the Board opined that the force applied by Officer Gomez to take him into custody was objectively reasonable and proportional.

As it pertains to Officer Romo, the Board noted that he used firm grips to control Villalobos. Based on Villalobos' level of resistance, the Board opined that the force applied by Officer Romo was objectively reasonable and proportional.

As it pertains to Officer Green, the Board noted that he used firm grips to control Villalobos. Based on Villalobos' level of resistance, the Board opined that the force applied by Officer Green was objectively reasonable and proportional.

As it pertains to Officer Pollio, the Board noted that he used bodyweight and firm grips to control Villalobos. Based on Villalobos' level of resistance, the Board opined that the force applied by Officer Pollio was objectively reasonable and proportional.

Based on the totality of circumstances, the UOFRB determined, and the Chief concurred, that an officer with similar training and experience as Officers Gomez, Romo, Green and Pollio would believe the force used was objectively reasonable and proportional.

Therefore, the Chief found Officers Gomez, Romo, Green and Pollio's Non-Lethal Use of Force to be In-Policy, No Further Action.

²⁴ Transcript of Officer Gomez Page 24, Lines 19-25

Medical Treatment/Rendering Aid

At approximately 0607 hours, Villalobos was handcuffed and immediately placed in the recovery position on his right side as officers monitored his injury and his condition. At approximately 0608 hours, an RA was requested to treat Villalobos for the injury to his [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At approximately 0621 hours, RA 846 arrived at scene and transported Villalobos to California Hospital Medical Center for treatment. Doctors McCloud and Strathe determined Villalobos sustained an [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On February 15, 2023, Villalobos was released from the hospital.

Requirement to Intercede

Based on their review of this incident, the Board determined, and the Chief concurred, that the force used was not clearly beyond that which was necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances and would not have required an officer to intercede.

Additional/Equipment

BWV		
Sworn Employee	Issue	Inspection Date
Officer Sanchez 43189	Early De-Activation	10/30/2023- 11/28/2023

Safety Belts

Officers Pollio and Green responded to the backup request Code Three from Southwest Station. Officer Green put his vehicle safety belt on 37 seconds after leaving the station gate. Officer Pollio put his vehicle safety belt on one minute and five seconds after leaving the station gate.

As this issue was addressed at the divisional level via [REDACTED] with Operations-South Bureau (OSB) and Office of Operations (OO) concurrence, the Chief deemed no further action necessary.

Profanity

On April 18, 2023, FID Commanding Officer, Captain III Richard Gabaldon, Serial No. 31356, informed Southwest Area Commanding Officer, Captain III Rodolfo Lopez, Serial No. 30058, and Southwest Patrol Captain I James Lopez, Serial No. 32099 of courtesy and profanity issues by Officers Chambers, Conejo and Sportiello during the incident.

This issue was addressed at the divisional level via [REDACTED] for Officers Sportiello and Conejo with OSB and OO concurrence. Therefore, the Chief deemed no further action necessary.

This issue was addressed at the divisional level via an Employee Comment Card for Officer Chambers with OSB and OO concurrence. Therefore, the Chief deemed no further action necessary.

Audio/Video Recordings

Body Worn Video – The BWV associated with the officers mentioned in this administrative summary were reviewed by FID investigators. These videos are stored in Evidence.com under FID Case No. F008-23.

Digital In-Car Video – Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS) footage was reviewed by FID investigators from the units involved in this incident. The DICVS were as follows: The DICVS from Officers Chambers and Conejo's vehicle, Shop No. 82681, captured footage of the vehicle pursuit and the traffic collision. The DICVS from Sergeant Lopez' vehicle, Shop No. 81380, and Officers Green and Pollio's vehicle, Shop No. 81916, captured footage of Villalobos as he attempted to flee on the skateboard. The DICVS in Officers Green and Pollio's vehicle also captured footage of the UOF. All other responding police vehicles arrived after the UOF.

Outside Video – No outside videos were located regarding this incident.

Social Media – A search of social media outlets by the FID Cyber Unit revealed no videos or postings related to this incident.

Photographs – Technical Investigation Division (TID) photographed the scene and the officers at Southwest Police Station. The photographs are stored, under Control Nos. 0906006 and 0906007.

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INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW

Inspector General Analysis

Investigation Quality

- No significant issues of concern were identified in relation to investigation quality.

Training Issues

- No significant issues of concern were identified in relation to training.

Equipment Issues

- No significant issues of concern were identified in relation to equipment.

Detention

- Does not apply.

Tactical De-escalation

- The OIG concurs with the Chief's analysis.

Requirement to Intercede

- The OIG concurs with the Chief's analysis.

BWV and DICVS Policy Compliance

SERIAL	NAME	TIMELY BWV ACTIVATION	FULL 2-MINUTE BUFFER	BWV RECORDING OF ENTIRE INCIDENT	TIMELY DICVS ACTIVATION	DICVS RECORDING OF ENTIRE INCIDENT
41838	Moises Gomez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
44736	Angel Romo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
43704	Dominic Pollio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
44054	Aaron Green	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Inspector General Recommendations

Tactics

- The OIG concurs with the Chief's findings.

Non-Lethal Use of Force

- The OIG concurs with the Chief's findings.


DJANGO SIBLEY
Assistant Inspector General

MARK P. SMITH
Inspector General