

## **Suspect dead after police fire on him - Man was - Las Cruces Sun-News (NM) - February 19, 2018 - page A7**

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LAS CRUCES - **Nathaniel Montoya** is suspected of taking a man's life on Friday evening. Fewer than 24 hours later, Montoya himself was dead, shot multiple times by at least one Las Cruces police officer.

Montoya, 23, was shot following a vehicle pursuit through city streets that ended in the parking lot of the Valero gas station, 1401 E. Lohman Ave.

A bystander recording the incident on their phone captured 12 gunshots in quick succession, followed by another gunshot seconds later.

"At least one LCPD officer fired several rounds that struck the suspect," a Las Cruces Police Department news release stated. Montoya was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

Montoya was the primary suspect in homicide a day earlier. Witnesses told police that Montoya and another man got into a "physical altercation" about 7:30 p.m. Friday in the 2300 block of Sambrano Avenue.

When officers arrived at the scene of Friday's incident, they found a man unconscious in front of the residence. Montoya had fled the scene in his personal vehicle, police said.

The unconscious man, 29, was transported to a local hospital, but didn't survive. Police have not released the man's name nor the nature of his injuries.

Police believe Montoya ditched his vehicle Friday night along the side of the roadway near Bataan Memorial East and Riconada Boulevard and hopped in a dark-in-color van, driven by an unknown person.

Police, following up on a tip, found a van matching that description in the Las Colinas neighborhood about 5 p.m. Saturday.

Montoya was "positively identified" prior to a traffic stop, police said.

Police said Montoya, driving the van, fled the traffic stop and led police on a high-speed pursuit throughout the city.

"LCPD officers attempted to PIT (precision intervention technique) the vehicle but were unsuccessful," according to a news release.

Montoya drove the van into the Valero parking lot and struck multiple vehicles, police said. One

vehicle was pushed into a pedestrian, police said. The 33-year-old pedestrian was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Las Cruces police fired at Montoya after the van was stopped.

"The officer's name will be withheld until the investigation is completed," the news release stated, indicating it may have been only one officer who fired a weapon.

It's unclear whether Montoya was armed, but a news release sent Saturday morning saying police were on the lookout for him stated, "**Nathaniel Montoya** should be considered armed."

Police didn't offer any new information on Sunday. It's unclear whether any information will be released Monday, Presidents Day, a holiday for most city personnel.

Las Cruces police and a multi-agency officer-involved incident task force are investigating. The task force includes New Mexico State Police, Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office, New Mexico State University Police Department and the LCPD.

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