December 13, 2017
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TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FID NO. 003-17

Honorable Members:

The following is my review, analysis, and findings for Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), Force Investigation Division (FID) No. 003-17. A Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) was convened on this matter on December 6, 2017. I have adopted the recommendations from the UOFRB for this incident. I hereby submit my findings in accordance with Police Commission policy.

SUMMARY

On January 10, 2017, Officers [redacted] Serial No. [redacted] and [redacted] Serial No. [redacted] Central Traffic Division (CTD), were in full uniform, driving a marked black and white police Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV). The officers were traveling south on Hope Street from 11th Street.

According to Officer [redacted] observed a white male, later identified as M. Rogers, with a large butcher’s type knife in his right hand, chasing a Department of Transportation (DOT) officer, later identified as [redacted]

According to Officer [redacted] Officer [redacted] stopped their vehicle while he broadcast their Code-Six location to Communications Division (CD).

Note: Officer [redacted] broadcast was not captured on CTD Base Frequency. A review of Officer [redacted] Body Worn Video (BWV) depicts [redacted] picking up the vehicle’s radio microphone and bringing it towards [redacted] mouth. However, the audio system was not recording, as this occurred during the video’s pre-event buffer.

According to Officer [redacted] was driving south on Hope Street when [redacted] observed a man holding a knife in his right hand in front of [redacted] pointed at them and then Rogers turned around and charged at their police vehicle, while holding the knife in his right hand and yelling “kill me!”
"Call me!"

around and charged at their police vehicle, while holding the knife in his right hand and yelling holding a knife in his right hand in front of Officer was driving south on Hope Street when observed a man, according to Officer recording, as this occurred during the video, the video shows Officer proceeding towards the vehicle. However, the audio system was not broadcast was not captured on CTD Base Frequency. A review of Officer's video shows Officer.)

Stopped their vehicle while he broadcast their

Officer, later identified as

large boulder's body was in his right hand, chasing a Department of Transportation (DOT) vehicle from 1st Street. The officers were traveling south on Hope Street from 1st Street.

Central Traffic Division (CTD), were in full uniform, driving a maroon vehicle and white police

On January 21, 2017, Officers

SUMMARY

Policy

OPFR) for this incident. I hereby submit my findings in accordance with Police Commission

converted on this matter on December 6, 2017. I have adopted the recommendations from the

The following is my review, analysis, and findings for Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), Police

Honorable Members:

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INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

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Fried one round at Rogers while Redeploying to the rear of the vehicle.

According to Officer Officer: Then exited the vehicle and drew service pistol (drawing/exhibiting). Rogers ignored officer's order to exit the vehicle as a service pistol was Rogers ignored while running towards.
Department Policy Relative to Tactical Deployment

Tactics

Procedures:

When a knife is in his hand, the officers actions were appropriate and within Department policies and

In this case, the involved officers observed a suspect carrying a knife in his hand, the suspect then charged at one of the officers, vehicle with the

Defense

ANALYSIS

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

FINDINGS

11:10 hours. Roger was pronounced dead at Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) emergency medical personnel responded and transported

Incident:

responded, formed a tactical plan, and assisted taking Roger into custody without further

Note: Officer captured Roger, then broadcast a Help Call and requested a

Roget fell to the ground, possibly wounded, immediately deployed to the rear of the vehicle and observed

when broadcast to flee from him. Roger then fled several more rounds at Rogers to stop him from advancing until he fell to the

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The actions of the supervisor were consistent with Department supervisory training and my
and monitored.

Public safety scrutinized (PS) from Officer responded and assumed the role of Incident Commander (IC). Obtained a

Commission and Control

Discussion during the Tactical Debrief

my duty. In an effort to enhance our performance, I will direct that this be a topic of
of the importance of bringing the correct location to ensure the respondding units arrive at a

Office confirms location on Hope Street. Officer initially broadcasts their

Situational Awareness — The investigation revealed Officer

Additional Tactical Debrief Topics

To stop the deadly threat.

Faced with an imminently lethal threat, the officer utilized lethal force.

the command and continued running toward the officers with the knife.

In this case, the suspect immediately dropped the knife in his hand and ran toward

safe and prudent to do so.

Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromises his or her safety or increase

(Use of Force - Tactica Directives No. 15, October 2016, Tactica De-escalation Techniques)

charges. The facts of the situation.

Tactica de-escalation involves the use of techniques to reduce the intensity of an encounter

Tactica de-escalation

Loose as objectively and the results be evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances.

make split-second decisions under very stressful and dynamic circumstances. Results are

The evaluation of actions requires that consideration be given to the fact that officers are forced to

actions and decisions could have been improved. The intent of a Tactical Deputy is to

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Tactical Debrief

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

Therefore, I will direct that Officers and attend a Tactical Debrief and that the specific identified topics are discussed.

Note: Additionally, the Tactical Debrief shall also include the following mandatory discussion points:

- Use of Force Policy;
- Equipment Required/Maintained;
- Tactical Planning;
- Radio and Tactical Communication (including Code Six);
- Tactical De-Escalation;
- Command and Control;
- Lethal Force.

General Training Update (GTU)

On January 17, 2017, Officers and attended a GTU. In addition to the mandatory topics, the officers received training on Less Lethal Munitions.

Drawing/Exhibiting

Department policy relative to drawing and exhibiting a firearm is: "If an officer's decision to draw or exhibit a firearm should be based on the tactical situation and the officer's reasonable belief there is a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified." (Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Volume 1, Section 536,80).

According to Officer, as exited the vehicle, observed Rogers with the butcher's knife in his right hand. ordered Rogers to drop the knife, and then drew service pistol as Rogers started moving towards

After I gave him, believe, a command already, and he continued walking forward, I believe I un-hoistered and went to a low-ready.
According to Officer Kenton, at approximately 15 feet to three feet, Rogers continued running onwards with the knife still in hand. Rogers turned and continued to order him to drop the knife. Rogers ignored the officer’s commands and continued running onwards.

Ofﬁcer

During the course of a violent felony, when there is probable cause to believe death or serious bodily injury.

I, Section 56.10,

Law enforcement ofﬁcers are authorized to use deadly force.

Lethal Use of Force

Further Action

Therefore, I found Officers Kenton and Gonsalez to be in-policy, no escalation.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the officer deemed and I conclude, that officers Kenton were reasonably called.

I see when the shots are being fired. I observed—my partner backing up, and I see the

Officer Gonsalez recalled.

The vehicle and drew service pistol.

According to Officer Kenton, observed Rogers running with a knife towards partner.

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I was outside by the passenger front door behind cover. Then I started redeplo to the rear of the vehicle for additional cover. Then as the suspect kept running backwards, I probably fired every step. Like a quick walk backwards trying to stall, and have a good shooting platform. So, assessing to see if the suspect is obeying commands and listening, which he wasn't.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the OFRB determined, and I concur, that an officer with similar training and experience as Officer [redacted] would reasonably believe the suspect's actions presented an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, and that the Use of Lethal Force would be objectively reasonable to stop the threat. Therefore, I find Officer [redacted] Policy, No Further Action.

Audio/Video Recordings

Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS) - Officers [redacted] and [redacted] were directing the vehicle and then Officer [redacted] giving Rogers commands to drop the knife, followed by the sound of gunshots.

Body Worn Video (BWV) - Officer [redacted] was driving the vehicle while Officer [redacted] was running with the knife in the direction of the officers' vehicle and then Officer [redacted] activated and captured the OIS.

Outside Video - FID investigators recovered video from a surveillance camera located at South Flower Street. The video captured Rogers and DOT Officer [redacted] with a knife in his hand, and the ensuing OIS. Additional video taken by Witness [redacted] also captured the OIS.

Respectfully,

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police