

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

May 16, 2018
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TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FID NO. 050-17

Honorable Members:

The following is my review, analysis, and findings for Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), Force Investigation Division (FID) No. 050-17. A Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) was convened on this matter on April 30, 2018. I have adopted the recommendations from the UOFRB for this incident. I hereby submit my findings in accordance with Police Commission policy.

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

On June 29, 2017, Detectives D. [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], Robbery Homicide Division (RHD), Special Investigations Section (SIS), along with Officers [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Serial No. [REDACTED] Metropolitan Division, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), and additional SIS personnel, were assigned with the task of locating and apprehending Q. Knox, a suspect wanted on an outstanding felony warrant for a murder occurred in Southwest Division.

According to Detective [REDACTED] oversaw the operation and ensured that the involved personnel were briefed on Knox's recent social media postings, criminal history and criminal gang activity. Additionally, the tactical plan to take Knox into custody was communicated and each member was assigned their designated role and responsibility in the operation (Command and Control).

Additionally, Air Support Division (ASD), Special Flights, [REDACTED], was placed on stand by and briefed on the plan telephonically.

SWAT personnel were provided with radios, pre-programmed with the frequency utilized by SIS personnel. Metropolitan Division, K-9 Platoon personnel were requested, briefed and stood by with the SWAT members at a nearby park during the surveillance. The K-9 personnel were not

[REDACTED]

provided with SIS radios; however, a plan was made to use SWAT frequency, [REDACTED] relay information to the K-9 officers.

Detectives [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] along with additional SIS personnel, were specifically assigned to surveil [REDACTED] South Avalon Boulevard, the location where a vehicle related to Knox had been located. At approximately 0920 hours, SIS surveillance personnel observed Knox's vehicle back out of the driveway and drive away, but they were unable to determine if Knox was the driver of the vehicle.

Note: Detective [REDACTED] notified ASD that Knox's vehicle was on the move and requested their response. According to Detective [REDACTED], L.A. Clear was notified and there was a general notification done by criminal gang homicide that there were going to be warrants served in all divisions that day.

The vehicle began travelling at a high rate of speed, running stop signs and red lights. Detective [REDACTED], Serial No [REDACTED] RHD, SIS was able to *look through his window* and *recognized Knox as the suspect they were looking for* and advised the team. The detectives attempted to catch up to the vehicle in attempt to deploy their Vehicle Containment Technique (VCT), but were unable to keep up with Knox due to his erratic driving.

According to Detective [REDACTED], the *VCT only worked under certain conditions*, and because of the erratic manner that Knox was driving, he determined that the *VCT was not a viable option*. So, [REDACTED] directed SWAT officers, who were following the surveillance, to conduct a felony high risk stop on Knox (Command and Control).

According to Officer [REDACTED], they were *trailing the following* when [REDACTED] heard Detective [REDACTED] advise that they would *not be able* to deploy the *VCT*, and requested them to conduct a *traffic stop* on Knox's vehicle. Knox then pulled into *dead-end street* which provided them with an opportunity to catch up to Knox. As [REDACTED] activated [REDACTED] lights, Knox *immediately began to evade*.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Knox was driving *extremely dangerously*, at a *high rate of speed*, and was *blowing through stop signs and red lights* causing them to lose sight of him. The *airship was up* above them and advised them that Knox went *southbound on Aviation*.

Note: Officer [REDACTED] switched to Southeast frequency at the initiation of the pursuit, advised CD that they were in pursuit of a Murder suspect, and requested patrol resources to take over the pursuit.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were the *first ones to catch up to the suspect*. So, [REDACTED] broadcast they were the *secondary unit*, as they continued west on El Segundo Boulevard.

According to Officer [REDACTED], Knox turned *southbound on Aviation*. As they approached the intersection of Aviation Boulevard and El Segundo Boulevard, the *airship broadcast* that Knox

had *bailed out* of the vehicle at *Aviation and Boardwalk* and ran eastbound, over a wall, into an apartment complex.

According to Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], they drove southbound on Aviation Boulevard past Knox's abandoned vehicle. They then stopped their vehicle in front of the mechanical gates at Boardwalk Avenue, exited and drew their service pistols (Drawing/Exhibiting).

They then made their way down an embankment on the north side of Boardwalk Avenue and assumed a containment position, facing north, behind two detached condominium buildings, separated by a driveway.

According to Officer [REDACTED] observed a male, approximately 50 yards north, on Coral Drive, *walking nonchalantly* in an easterly direction and was unsure *if that was the suspect*. [REDACTED] then observed what appeared to be a *pistol* in male's *right hand* and realized it was Knox. Knox then *suddenly* raised his right arm, *pointed the gun at them* and *began shooting*.

According to Officer [REDACTED], [REDACTED] assumed a position of concealment behind a trash can and fired one round from [REDACTED] service pistol at Knox *in defense of [REDACTED] life*. [REDACTED] *assessed* to see if Knox was struck and observed *no reaction*. [REDACTED] redeployed and took a *barricaded position* behind the structure as Knox continued to shoot. In fear for [REDACTED] life, [REDACTED] fired a second round at Knox to stop his attack. Knox then continued west on Coral Drive out of [REDACTED] view (Lethal Use of Force).

According to Officer [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] left, *heard a round go off* and took a *barricade position* along the building. As [REDACTED] was *taking fire*, [REDACTED] observed Knox *armed* and *shooting* with [REDACTED] right hand. *In fear for [REDACTED] life*, [REDACTED] fired one round from h[REDACTED] service pistol at Knox to stop his actions (Lethal Use of Force).

According to Officer [REDACTED] looked down and noted [REDACTED] clothing was torn and realized that [REDACTED] had been shot by Knox. [REDACTED] then immediately broadcasted over Southeast frequency, *Shots fired, Officer Down*. [REDACTED] then bent down on one knee and advised Officer [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had been shot.

Officer [REDACTED] then assisted Officer [REDACTED] behind the structure, rendered first aid and provided cover. Metropolitan K-9 personnel responded and formed a rescue team with Officer [REDACTED], then assisted Officer [REDACTED] back to their vehicle and awaited medical personnel.

Note: The investigation revealed that Knox went north on Mission Avenue from Coral Drive. As [REDACTED] approached the intersection of Mission Avenue and Strand Street, Hawthorne Police Department (HPD) officers observed Knox and were involved in an OIS. HPD conducted the OIS investigation involving their personnel.

Concurrently, as Knox was walking north on Mission Ave towards Strand Street, Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], along with SIS personnel began arriving on Aviation Boulevard, the location where Knox had abandoned his vehicle.

According to Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], they stopped their dual-purpose vehicle behind Knox's vehicle. Upon exiting their vehicle, they heard gunshots, assumed position of cover behind their vehicle, donned their tactical vests, and exhibited their patrol rifles (Drawing/Exhibiting). Detectives, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived shortly thereafter and parked behind them. As they exited their vehicles, they heard gunshots being fired east of their location and exhibited their patrol rifles (Drawing/Exhibiting).

According to Detective [REDACTED] heard a radio broadcast that the suspect was *moving northbound* in the complex. As [REDACTED] deployed towards a block wall, [REDACTED] heard more shots. [REDACTED] then observed Knox, standing on Mission Avenue, holding a *blue steel, semi-automatic handgun, firing in an eastbound direction towards officers, and smoke coming from the firearm.*

[REDACTED] then fired four rounds from [REDACTED] patrol rifle at Knox stop [REDACTED] actions. [REDACTED] then observed Knox start to *move north*, with [REDACTED] *pistol still extended* towards the officers. So, [REDACTED] took a *step north*, reacquired [REDACTED] sight on Knox, and fired four additional shots at Knox to stop his actions (Lethal Use of Force).

Note: The block wall had a metal pedestrian access gate that was locked at the time of the incident. The area where Detective [REDACTED] observed Knox on Mission Avenue was elevated from Aviation Boulevard. According to Detective [REDACTED] could see Knox from the *kNees up*.

According to Detective [REDACTED] heard the air unit broadcast that Knox was *running westbound*, in [REDACTED] *direction*. [REDACTED] then communicated with Detective [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was going to move towards a *block wall*, approximately 100 feet northeast of [REDACTED] location, in attempt to locate Knox.

As [REDACTED] moved towards the gate, [REDACTED] *heard three or four gunshots coming from the other side of the wall*. [REDACTED] *looked over* the gate and observed Knox facing eastbound, holding a *blue steel pistol in his left hand*. Knox then turned to his right and began running *northbound* towards a row of *condo apartments*.

Based on [REDACTED] knowledge of Knox's *violent behavior and criminal history*, [REDACTED] was concerned that Knox would attempt to *get into* one of the *residential dwellings*, and take a *hostage*. To *prevent* Knox from *causing any person serious bodily injury or death*, and to *stop his movement towards the buildings*, [REDACTED] fired four rounds from [REDACTED] patrol rifle at Knox to stop [REDACTED] actions (Lethal Use of Force).

According to Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], following the OIS's, Knox continued north on Mission Avenue and they lost sight of him.

Detective [REDACTED] assisted Detective [REDACTED] over the wall to unlock the metal pedestrian gate while Officer [REDACTED] provided cover. The team of SWAT officers and SIS personnel then entered the complex.

According to Detective [REDACTED], after the OIS, [REDACTED] observed Knox moving north and was already past Strand Street. [REDACTED] led the team towards Knox. As they were starting to close the distance, [REDACTED] saw that Knox was staggering and ordered him to get on the *get on the ground*. Knox *staggered* and *went down*. As they approached, [REDACTED] observed that Knox no longer had the gun in his hands. [REDACTED] then handed [REDACTED] rifle to Detective [REDACTED] and with SWAT officers providing [REDACTED] lethal coverage, [REDACTED] handcuffed Knox.

Detective [REDACTED] requested a Rescue Ambulance (RA) for Knox. Knox was treated at the scene and then transported to Harbor, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Medical Center, where [REDACTED] was admitted for gunshot wounds to his chest, right ankle and his right thigh.

Detective [REDACTED] Serial No. [REDACTED] Robbery Homicide Division, Special Investigation Section, arrived and obtained a PSS from Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED] Serial No. [REDACTED] Metropolitan Division, K-9 Platoon, arrived and monitored and obtained a PSS from Officer [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED] Serial No. [REDACTED] Metropolitan Division, responded and obtained a PSS from Officer [REDACTED] at UCLA Medical Center. [REDACTED] also assumed the responsibility of monitoring Officer [REDACTED] until he was relieved by Sergeant [REDACTED] Serial No. [REDACTED] Metropolitan Division.

FINDINGS

Tactics – Tactical Debrief. Detectives [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Drawing / Exhibiting – In Policy, No Further Action, Detectives [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Lethal Use of Force – In Policy, No Further Action, Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ANALYSIS

Detention

The officers located and attempted to apprehend a suspect who was wanted on outstanding felony warrant for murder. The officers' actions were appropriate and within Department policies and procedures.

[REDACTED]

Tactics

Department policy relative to Tactical Debriefs 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.

Tactical De-Escalation

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 (Use of Force - Tactics Directive No. 16, October 2016, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques).

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.

In this case, following a pursuit, the suspect abandoned his vehicle and fled on foot. The suspect then produced a firearm and fired on the officers from a distance as the officers attempted set up containment.

Faced with an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death, the officers utilized lethal force to stop the deadly threat.

Command and Control

Detective [REDACTED] supervised an operation to surveil and arrest Knox, a violent suspect wanted for Murder. Detective [REDACTED] ensured all of the members involved in the operation were briefed on Knox's criminal history, gang involvement, and recent social media postings showing him armed with multiple firearms.

Detective [REDACTED] determined that based on Knox's erratic driving, the deployment of the VCT was not feasible. [REDACTED] then directed SWAT resources to conduct a felony high-risk stop which led to a

pursuit terminating in the city of Hawthorne. Several officers and detectives became involved in an OIS. Detective [REDACTED] then led an arrest team to take Knox into custody.

Lieutenant [REDACTED] Serial No. [REDACTED] Southwest Division, responded and assumed the role of Incident Commander upon his arrival.

The actions of these supervisors were consistent with Department supervisory training and met my expectations of field supervisors during a critical incident.

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 Detectives [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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; and,
- Lethal Force.

General Training Update (GTU)

On August 16, 2017 Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended a GTU. All mandatory topics were covered, including Communication with other Law Enforcement Agencies, Command and Control, Tactical Planning, and Force Option Simulator.

Drawing/Exhibiting

Department policy relative to drawing and exhibiting a firearm is: "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 556.80).

According to Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], they drove south on Aviation Boulevard past Knox's abandoned vehicle. Based on the information they had on the Knox and the possibility that he could be armed, they exited their vehicle and drew their service pistols.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

When I exit the vehicle, I - - I unholstered and made our way down there. Because I knew that the suspect was possibly armed, that's when I came into a low-ready and I began making our movement down to the - - over the berm and into the position to where the OIS occurred.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

And I have seen pictures that actually are included in this tactical operation plan. And then we were also provided with real time social media photos that had been taken off of his either Facebook or Snapchat or whatever, with him holding guns and having guns in his waistband.

So I saw he got out very quickly after I stopped the car. I was putting it in park, shut the door, and drew my pistol.

Due to Knox's recent social media posts displaying him armed with multiple firearms, coupled with his warrant for Murder, Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] exited their vehicles and exhibited their patrol rifles.

Detective [REDACTED] recalled,

Knox was posting a lot of things, livestreaming and pictures of him holding various guns. He was talking about taunting rivals, that kind of things on social media. We got a fresh picture from yesterday of him with a - - looked like a - - kind of stainless-steel pistol possibly like a Beretta or Taurus type with black grips in his waistband.

I tried to get a shot. I definitely had a shot, tried to get my sights. I couldn't. The gate was too tall above me. I had my rifle over it and I was just trying to get into the object and I just couldn't - - I just couldn't get up.

Detective [REDACTED] recalled,

I continued westbound and I heard, I believe it was the air unit, put out a broadcast that there was [SIC] shots fired. As I got closer to Aviation, I heard the air unit describing the suspect is there in the street and he has a gun in his hand. He has a gun. I heard him repeat it

[REDACTED]

twice, I believe. So I stopped right behind [REDACTED] car. I parked my car. I reach in the back seat and I grab my rifle and I charge my rifle.

As I came out of the vehicle, the weapon was pointed at what we would call depressed low ready down facing the street [REDACTED]

Detective [REDACTED] recalled,

Just before we pulled up, where the vehicle was stopped in the middle of the street, we heard on the radio, and I was monitoring both our frequency, which was a tac three radio and Southeast frequency, that there had been shots fired.

I got out of my vehicle, having put our -- put on my tactical vest earlier, I ended up getting out of the vehicle and opening the rear door to retrieve my rifle.

According to Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], based on the information they had on Knox, recent social media posts of him being armed with firearms, they exited their vehicle and exhibited their patrol rifles.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

As I exited the vehicle, I slung it. So it was on -- in between my legs down on the floorboard while we were in the pursuit. I had it in a low ready -- position with my primary hand on the pistol grip [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

Well, it's a murder suspect that we had seen numerous photos of him posing with weapons, taking selfies while driving with pistols in his waistband.

So I was trying to listen to that to see where the suspect was in relation to us so I could start setting -- setting up and seeing where it was a safe place for me to deploy. I also at that time started putting on my tac vest and my rifle. [REDACTED] So slung it and then low ready with the safety on.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, I have determined that an officer with similar training and experience as Detectives [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

Bodel and [REDACTED], while faced with similar circumstances, would reasonably believe there was a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified.

Therefore, I find Detectives [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Bodel and [REDACTED] Drawing/Exhibiting to be In Policy, No Further Action.

Lethal Use of Force

Law enforcement officers are authorized to use deadly force to:

- *Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury; or,*
- *Prevent a crime where the subject's actions place person(s) in imminent jeopardy of death or serious bodily injury; or,*
- *Prevent the escape of a violent fleeing felon when there is probable cause to believe the escape will pose a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others if apprehension is delayed. In this circumstance, officers shall, to the extent practical, avoid using deadly force that might subject innocent bystanders or hostages to possible death or injury (Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Volume 1, Section 556.10).*

Officer [REDACTED] – .45 caliber, two rounds in a northerly direction from an approximate distance of 175 feet.

According to Officer [REDACTED], he observed Knox holding what appeared to be a pistol in his right hand and realized it was Knox. Knox then suddenly raised his right arm, began shooting at them. In defense of [REDACTED] life, [REDACTED] fired one round from [REDACTED] service pistol at Knox.

[REDACTED] assessed to see if Knox was struck and observed no reaction. [REDACTED] then redeployed and took a barricaded position behind the structure as Knox continued to shoot. In fear for [REDACTED] life and the life of [REDACTED] partner, [REDACTED] fired a second round at Knox to stop his attack. Officer [REDACTED] recalled,

It's a long driveway with condos on each side. And as we made our way in attempt to set up a perimeter, I observed the suspect approximately fifty yards walking westbound. He looked in our direction. He was walking and I wasn't sure if that was the suspect at that time because I was looking to see a suspect who was running. But he was walking nonchalantly like nothing was going on. He looked in our direction. I notice in his right hand what I could see was possibly a pistol. And then suddenly, he -- he picked up his -- raised his right arm and then pointed at us. At that point, I knew it was a gun and he began shooting. He shot several times at both my partner and myself. I immediately with -- for my safety and my partner's safety and for my immediate defense of life, I returned fire at the suspect. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] – .45 caliber, one round in a northerly direction from an approximate distance of 183 feet.

According to Officer [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] left, heard a round go off and took a barricade position along the building. As [REDACTED] was taking fire, [REDACTED] observed Knox armed and shooting with his right hand. In fear for [REDACTED] life, [REDACTED] fired one round from [REDACTED] service pistol at Knox to stop his actions.

Officer [REDACTED] recalled.

The -- when I -- when I first saw him, he was facing our direction holding the pistol, shooting. I came up. I fired. Assessed. He was out of my view. And that was -- that was how much I saw him [REDACTED]

And just as I moved over to the left, I heard a round go off and I -- I turned back around and took a -- a barricade position on the -- as the building that I used for cover that would have been the -- that would be the east -- northeast. And I -- I -- I already had my pistol out but I came up on my sights and -- and fired. As I fired, I felt a bang or a pressure to my right hip. And the I thought I initially, I thought I just banged into something on the ground. It didn't register that I had been shot. [REDACTED]

The -- when I -- when I first saw him, he was facing our direction holding the pistol, shooting. I came up. I fired. Assessed. He was out of my view. And that was -- that was how much I saw him. see that he was armed and that he was shooting with his right hand. And I did use my sights when I -- when I shot. And I was in -- I was in definite fear for my life at that point and that's why I was returning fire [REDACTED]

Detective [REDACTED] – 5.56 caliber, eight rounds in a northeast direction from an approximate distance of 265 feet.

According to Detective [REDACTED] heard more shots as [REDACTED] deployed towards a block wall and then observed Knox, standing on Mission Avenue, with a blue steel, semi-automatic handgun, firing in an eastbound direction towards officers, and smoke coming from the firearm. [REDACTED] then fired four rounds from [REDACTED] patrol rifle at Knox to stop [REDACTED] actions.

[REDACTED] then observed Knox start to move north, with his pistol still extended towards the officers. So, [REDACTED] took a step north, reacquired [REDACTED] sight on Knox, and fired four additional shots at Knox to stop his actions.

[REDACTED]

Detective [REDACTED] recalled,

As we advanced, I heard more shots and I observed the suspect in the apartment complex standing and firing in a eastbound direction toward officers. It looked, from the distance I was from the suspect, to be a dark blue steel semi-automatic handgun he was firing. I could see -- I can hear the shots and clearly see the smoke from his firearm as he stood there and fired. It was at that time that I fired my rifle. I fired approximately four shots, took a step in a northeast direction and fired four more as he was still standing there, but starting to move towards the north with the - his pistol still extended toward the officers east of him. [REDACTED]

Detective [REDACTED] – 5.56 caliber, four rounds in a northeast direction from an approximate distance of 146 feet.

According to Detective [REDACTED], as [REDACTED] moved towards the gate, [REDACTED] heard three or four gunshots coming from the other side of the wall. [REDACTED] looked over the gate and observed Knox facing eastbound, holding a blue steel pistol in [REDACTED] left hand. Knox then turned to his right and began running northbound towards a row of condo apartments.

Based on [REDACTED] knowledge of Knox's violent behavior and criminal history, [REDACTED] was concerned that Knox would attempt to get into one of the residential dwellings, and take a hostage. To prevent Knox from causing any person serious bodily injury or death, and to stop [REDACTED] movement towards the buildings, [REDACTED] fired four rounds from [REDACTED] patrol rifle at Knox to stop [REDACTED] actions.

Detective [REDACTED] recalled,

As I got to the gate, I looked over the wall and I saw the suspect standing there facing in an eastbound direction and he was holding a blue steel pistol in his left hand. At that moment the suspect turned to his left and began running northbound. [REDACTED]

My concern was that he was going to continue northbound and either get into one of those condos or maybe take a looky loo from the area there and maybe take them hostage. And knowing that the department policy, our use of force -- deadly force policy of the department, states that in order to prevent a crime where the suspect's actions may place a person into immediate jeopardy of serious bodily injury or death, I had -- I made the decision to fire at the suspect in order to stop his movement towards those buildings. So I brought my rifle up to the top of the wall. I used the sighting system that aim point. I had the suspect in my sights there and I fired four rounds at the suspect, in order to stop him from moving towards those buildings. [REDACTED]

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the UOFRB determined, and I concur, that an officer with similar training and experience as Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

and [REDACTED], would reasonably believe Knox's actions presented an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury and that the Use of Lethal Force would be objectively reasonable.

Therefore, I find Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Use of Lethal Force to be In Policy, No Further Action.

Audio/Video Recordings

Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS)/ Body Worn Video (BWV) – Metropolitan Division and SIS personnel involved in this incident were not equipped with DICVS or BWV. HPD officers had a DICVS that captured the position of Detective [REDACTED] during [REDACTED] OIS.

Social Media – The investigation revealed that Knox posted a live video on social media at the time incident that captured Knox shooting at the police prior to being taken into custody.

Outside Video– The investigation revealed two video surveillance cameras at the entrances to the condominium complex. One camera was located at the intersection of Isis Avenue and Strand facing north. The second camera was located at the intersection of Boardwalk Avenue and Union Avenue facing west. The Boardwalk Avenue camera captured Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as they entered the condominium complex prior to the OIS, but did not capture the OIS. The Isis Avenue camera captured the HPD officers as they drove into the condominium complex. The video did not capture the OIS.

Investigators obtained a cell phone video recorded by Witness [REDACTED] recorded from his balcony at [REDACTED] Avenue. The video captured Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] entering the complex. The cell phone video captured Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] OIS and Officer [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] was shot.

Investigators obtained additional news media videos, which depicted police officer movement prior to and subsequent to the OIS. The surveillance video, nine news videos, and two witness videos were reviewed and are consistent with the officers and witnesses' statements.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Date: 5-16-18