



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hayward Police Department Critical Incident Video Release – City Center Drive and Foothill Boulevard

HAYWARD, Calif., Oct. 12, 2023 – Today, the Hayward Police Department released police officer body-worn camera video and other information relevant to the Sept. 6 officer-involved shooting that occurred on City Center Drive near Foothill Boulevard.

Initially, the body-worn camera footage and other video was withheld to preserve the integrity of the investigation and in the interest of justice for all involved parties.

On Sept. 6, at about 9:40PM, officers were dispatched to reports of a man armed with a gun near the 22000 block of City Center Drive. The caller said the man was standing near a bench on City Center Drive and that he was armed with a silver handgun. The caller reported that the man pointed a gun at her and a friend as they drove away from the area. The caller's vehicle was equipped with an in-car camera and this video was included in the Critical Incident Video.

Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the caller, confirming her original statement to dispatch.

Officers also spoke with a second witness who said he saw a man matching the description provided by the original caller and said he was armed with a silver handgun. The second witness said the man was last seen walking up a stairway near the Safeway shopping center.

Officers also spoke with a Safeway security guard who said a man matching the description provided by other witnesses tried to steal items from the store before leaving the area northbound toward City Center Drive.

Officers conducted a search and located a man matching the description provided by witnesses in the area he was last seen, near a stairway. Officers tried to speak with the man, who was uncooperative and walked away from them.

Two officers stated that, as officers ordered the man to stop, he turned and pointed what appeared to be a firearm in the direction of officers, and this is when the officer-involved shooting took place.

The man was then taken into custody and received medical treatment at the scene. Medical personnel responded to render aid, however the man was pronounced deceased at the scene.

After the man was taken into custody, officers found a gun on the ground beneath the man, which was determined to be a BB pistol.

The man has been identified as 37-year-old Hayward resident, Antonio Lacunas-Escobar.

Three officers were present at the incident, two of which discharged their firearms. All three officers were not injured as a result of this incident.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office is conducting a criminal investigation into the actions of the officers.

Per the City of Hayward's policy, an independent third-party consultant and their use-of-force subject matter experts are conducting an independent investigation to determine whether the involved officers complied with Hayward Police Department policies.

These investigations will also be referred to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) – Office of the Attorney General for review. The DOJ was notified immediately following the incident and the DOJ advised they would not be responding to the scene.

These investigations are still ongoing, and our understanding of the incident may change as additional evidence is collected, analyzed, and reviewed. We do not draw any conclusions about whether the officers acted consistently with our policies and the law until all the facts are known and the investigations are complete.

Acting Chief Matthews provided the following statement regarding the incident:

"Any loss of life is tragic, and this incident is no exception.

My heart goes out to the decedent and his family, as well as anyone involved in this incident, including the Hayward Officers.

The Hayward Police Department takes all incidents involving the use of force very seriously and we are committed to ensuring fair and impartial investigations are conducted based on all the available facts and evidence.

We recognize that the community entrusts us with the legal authority to carry out our duties and we do not take that responsibility lightly.

This information is being shared now so we can be as open with the community as possible following a critical incident. We remain committed to transparency with our community and will provide as much information as possible as it becomes available."

The Hayward Police Department case number is: 2023-50715.