

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Lieutenant Andra Brown at (619) 531-2275 or aebrown@pd.sandiego.gov

Update on Officer-Involved Shooting in Horton Plaza

San Diego – On February 25, 2021, at 7:08 p.m., a San Diego Police officer was flagged down regarding a male armed with a knife at 3rd Avenue and G Street. The male was creating a disturbance and causing pedestrians to leave the sidewalk and walk out into the street. The officer contacted the male who was standing on the southeast corner amidst a good deal of debris and holding a bowl of food.

While the officer was speaking with him, the male drew a knife which threatened the officer, despite orders not to touch the knife. The officer fired his duty weapon at the male, striking him at least once.

Officers immediately rendered first aid until relieved by San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel. The male was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for gunshot injuries and is in stable condition. The officer was not injured. The Homicide Unit was called to the scene to conduct the officer-involved shooting investigation. Detectives recovered a knife at the scene.

The man has been identified as Stephen Wilson, a 69 year-old White male.

The officer involved in this incident is Kelly Besker, a 26 year veteran of the Department. Officer Besker is currently assigned to the Neighborhood Policing Division.

The investigation and review process for an officer-involved shooting are extremely thorough. When the Homicide Unit completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officer bears any criminal liability for his actions. The Internal Affairs Unit will conduct an investigation to determine if there were any policy violations, and the Shooting Review Board will evaluate the tactics used by the officer. The Commission on Police Practices (formerly the Community Review Board on Police Practices) will conduct a review of the incident and provide any appropriate recommendations. The Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office will also be monitoring the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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