

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update on Officer-Involved-Shooting Investigation in Chula Vista

Chula Vista – On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at approximately 1:01 a.m., Chula Vista Police Department received a call of a traffic collision at Marina Parkway and Sandpiper Way. The first responding officer arrived on scene and located a white sedan with front end damage in the road. The vehicle was occupied by a lone male driver.

The officer directed the male to turn off the engine and get out of the car. The male did not comply and began reaching around inside the car. The officer requested additional units. As other officers responded to assist, they continued to give directions to the male to exit the vehicle. During this time, the engine revved and it appeared the male was trying to drive away, however the vehicle was likely non-operational due to the front end damage.

Officers made plans to use less lethal options to get the male out of the vehicle and safely apprehend him, including the use of pepper balls. The male did not respond to these efforts and remained inside the car. At one point, officers could briefly see that he appeared to have a firearm in his hand.

After approximately 30 minutes of continued commands to exit the vehicle with no response, the male opened the vehicle door. He then reached around and pointed a firearm at officers. The male fired at least one round in the direction of officers.

A Chula Vista Police Sergeant at the scene returned fire, firing his department issued duty weapon multiple times. The male in the car was hit in the upper torso and incapacitated. Officers were able to move forward and safely remove the male from the car. They immediately began first aid. Medics arrived and transported the male to the hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. No officers were injured or struck by gunfire during this incident. There was a firearm recovered from the ground just beside the driver's seat of the car.

The male has been identified as Moises Colunga Jr. He is described as a 50-year-old Hispanic male.

The involved Sergeant is now identified as Patrick Alvarez. He is currently assigned to patrol. He has been employed by the Chula Vista Police Department for approximately 23 years.

Per the Countywide Memorandum of Understanding, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit was called to the scene to conduct the officer-involved-shooting investigation.

The investigation and review process for officer-involved shootings is 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. Chula Vista Police will conduct an administrative investigation into the officer's discharge of his firearm. 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 San Diego Police Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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