

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

CONTACT: Acting Lieutenant Jonathan Dungan at (619) 531-2427 or jdungan@pd.sandiego.gov

Identifications from Officer Involved Shooting in El Cajon

UPDATE: Since the release of the previous update, San Diego Police Department has received official documentation related to the suspect's name and gender identity. The press release has been revised to reflect the new information and ensure its accuracy.

El Cajon – On December 11, 2024, a person drove their truck into an El Cajon Police Sergeant throwing him into the air, then they drove towards officers a second time. Two officers shot the person. San Diego Police Department is investigating per the county protocol. This press release identifies both the suspect and the officers who fired their weapons.

On December 11, 2024, at 12:42 p.m., an El Cajon Police Lieutenant and Police Sergeant were in the parking lot of the El Cajon Police Department Headquarters. The Lieutenant and Sergeant were preparing for a retirement ceremony when the incident occurred. They were not attempting to respond to a radio call or take any enforcement action.

A person in their 20's, who had been parked in the parking lot, drove a 2000 Toyota Tundra on to the sidewalk and attempted to run them over. The sergeant was struck and thrown into the air as he tried to run out of the way. The driver then collided with a tree.

The lieutenant called for backup. As other officers responded, and while the sergeant was attempting to get back up, the driver reversed the truck and then drove forward toward officers a second time. The sergeant and one other officer (who had run from headquarters to help) fired their duty weapons multiple times, striking the suspect who was still seated in the truck.

Officers rendered aid until paramedics could arrive and transport the suspect to the hospital. The suspect sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was ultimately pronounced deceased at the hospital. The suspect is now identified as Benjamin Grube, a 24-year-old non-binary person. Prior to their legal

name and gender identity change, they were formally known as Andrea Elizabeth Grube. The release of both names is intended to reach anyone who may have information about this person relevant to this investigation.

The sergeant who fired his weapon was transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries sustained when he was hit by the vehicle. He has since been released from the hospital.

The entirety of the incident was captured on surveillance video. The second officer who fired his weapon also had his body worn camera activated. The officers who fired their service weapons are now identified below by their name, duty assignment, and approximate length of employment with the El Cajon Police Department:

- (1) Sergeant Kevin Maxwell – El Cajon Patrol Division – approximately twenty-eight years
- (2) Officer Evan Drescher – El Cajon Traffic Division – approximately six years

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives were called to investigate per the countywide memorandum of understanding regarding officer involved shootings. The motive for the suspect's actions remains under investigation.

Officer involved shooting investigations are extremely thorough, as is the review process. When Homicide completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officers bear any criminal liability for their actions. The El Cajon Police Department will conduct an administrative investigation into the officer's discharge of their firearms. 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.

###