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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: May 21, 2021

Officer Involved Shooting in the City of San Fernando - Update

SAN FERNANDO, CA – San Fernando Police Chief Anthony Vairo has released the following updated statement regarding the officer involved shooting that occurred in the City of San Fernando on April 10, 2021:

On Saturday, April 10, 2021, at approximately 10:58 PM, the San Fernando Police Department received a 911 call of a shooting that occurred in the alley to the rear of the 600 block of S. Brand Boulevard. Officers also received further information that a suspect was seen leaving the area in an older model minivan. He was described as a heavysset male adult.

A short time later, at approximately 11:01 PM, Officers located the suspect vehicle on Harps Street near the intersection of Fourth Street. The suspect, Guillermo Amezcua, was the sole occupant and was seated in the driver's seat of the vehicle. For approximately five (5) minutes, the Officers gave the suspect numerous commands to show his hands. The suspect refused to do so and was seen manipulating an unknown object. In an attempt to gain the suspect's compliance, an officer deployed three (3) less lethal stun bags that were directed at the rear window area of the suspect's vehicle. The less lethal option was unsuccessful with gaining the suspect's cooperation.

The commands given by the Officers were corroborated by reviewing digital audio recordings and nearby surveillance footage.

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At approximately 11:06 PM, a muzzle flash consistent with a gunshot being fired was seen illuminating the inside of the suspect's vehicle and an officer involved shooting occurred. The suspect was struck by gunfire and declared deceased at the scene.

Independent investigators from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) responded to the scene, along with personnel from the Sheriff's Department's Crime Lab. While processing the scene for evidence, LASD Investigators located a 9mm handgun inside the suspect's vehicle. The handgun sustained damage to the pistol grip portion which was consistent with being struck by a fired bullet. LASD Investigators also located two expended 9mm cartridge cases and numerous live 9mm rounds inside the suspect's vehicles.

LASD Investigators confirmed that a shooting did occur at the location of the original call for service. Two (2) additional expended 9mm cartridge cases were recovered at the shooting scene. LASD Investigators interviewed a witness at the original scene who identified the suspect as Guillermo Amezcua and described his vehicle as a gray minivan. This same witness saw Suspect Amezcua brandishing a firearm minutes before hearing two gunshots near the 600 block of S. Brand Boulevard.

As indicated from the prior Press Release, the City takes the gravity and tragedy of officer involved shootings very seriously. The San Fernando Police Department continues their cooperation with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Investigators and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to make sure the circumstances that led to this incident are understood and properly investigated.

This investigation is ongoing and any further inquiries should be directed to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (323) 980-5500.

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