Riverside PD
CA0331300

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Date Prepared: 07/24/18

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TYPE OF REPORT

Supplemental Report

FILE NO: P18135608

INVESTIGATING OFFICER
Karla Beler #1076

BACKGROUND/SOURCE:

- 2 I am a Detective with the Riverside Police Department assigned to the Centralized Investigations
- 3 Bureau Persons Unit. I responded to 5200 Arlington Avenue to assist with the investigation of an
- 4 Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) that occurred on Arlington Avenue west of Streeter Avenue. in the
- 5 City and County of Riverside. I arrived at the command post at 2150 hours. I was assigned as the
- 6 case agent and Detective Tillett was assigned as the co-case agent

INVESTIGATION:

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- 9 Interview of Riverside Police Department Officer Aaron Hernandez (ID# 1777)
- On 07-23-18 at 1436 hours, partner Detective Tillett and I interviewed Officer Hernandez in the
- conference room at Magnolia Police Station. Attorney S. Ethir, Riverside County Deputy District
- 12 Attorney S. Shouka, and Riverside County District Attorney Investigator J. Campos were also
- present. The interview was audio recorded on my department issued digital recorder and
- downloaded into records. Detective Tillett and Attorney S. Ethir also recorded the interview. The
- 15 following is a summary of the interview.
- Officer Hernandez told us his identification number was #1777. His current assignment was with
- the West County Probation and Compliance Team. He has been an officer with Riverside Police
- Department for 3-1/2 years. He worked his assignment on 7/20/18 with the West County Probation
- 20 and Compliance Team.
- He said he was at Magnolia Police Station and was monitoring the radio traffic about Hemet Police
- Department's officers being involved in a pursuit. He heard the dispatcher say the suspect was
- 24 actively shooting at officers while evading them in the suspect vehicle, described as a silver
- 25 Chrysler.
- He said he was in uniform. He wore black BDU style pants, a black T-shirt and a black load
- bearing vest. The vest had police insignia on the front and back and a police badge on the front
- left side. He drove an unmarked police unit equipped with take-down lights.

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He heard the pursuit was northbound on the 215 freeway approaching Van Buren. He heard the suspect vehicle exited at Van Buren and the pursuit was headed toward Riverside. He was with his supervisor and Officer B. Reimer (#1712) at Magnolia Police Station. They decided to start toward the area of the pursuit. He drove east on Magnolia to Van Buren toward the Cleveland/Van Buren area. He was driving and Officer Reimer was riding in the front passenger seat. They heard the suspect was traveling north on Harrison from Cleveland. They decided to try to intercept the suspect at Victoria/Harrison. Officer Hernandez parked on the right shoulder. He saw the suspect vehicle driving on Harrison at a high rate of speed. The suspect vehicle continued through the intersection toward Indiana.

Officer Hernandez drove east on Victoria and north on Van Buren to try to intercept the suspect. He heard radio traffic and saw the suspect was traveling at high rates of speed. He knew the suspect shot at police officers. Based on the suspect's behavior, he thought the suspect had the mindset of not wanting to go to jail. He thought the suspect was unlikely going to comply with police and was potentially violent toward police. Officer Hernandez was concerned for the public's safety because the suspect was driving erratically and had no regard for other drivers on the road. The suspect was actively shooting from a moving vehicle and was not identifying a target when he shot. The suspect was high risk because he could hit anyone. Officer Hernandez considered placing spike strips down if time permitted. The suspect was driving erratically and might crash his car. Officer Hernandez wanted to be in the area to be part of the arrest team and get the suspect into custody. Officer Hernandez was trying to get to the area where the suspect might crash or where the pursuit would terminate.

Officer Hernandez said Air 1 was calling the pursuit. He heard the suspect was driving westbound on Arlington in the eastbound lanes of traffic. As he was driving north on California he noticed Officer O'Farrell's marked Crown Victoria was in front of him. He followed Officer O'Farrell to the intersection and into the turn pocket from California to east bound Arlington. He saw Officer O'Farrell park his car in the turn pocket. He saw the suspect vehicle driving west in the eastbound lanes of traffic on Arlington. He noticed the driver was driving at a high rate of speed and driving

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- directly toward his vehicle and Officer O'Farrell's vehicle. The suspect appeared to attempt to
- brake but was still traveling at a high speed toward Officer O'Farrell's car.
- 4 Officer Hernandez heard and saw one shot from Officer O'Farrell's car. He saw smoke from the
- windshield and saw the suspect vehicle veer right and continue westbound in the eastbound lanes.
- 6 The suspect had to stop because there was a large group of cars trying to pass through the
- 7 intersection. The cars were east of the intersection.
- 9 Officer Hernandez saw Officer O'Farrell exit his unit and fire a second shot on the suspect's car.
- Officer Hernandez exited his vehicle and drew his duty weapon from his holster. He ran to Officer
- O'Farrell to create a small arrest team to advance on the suspect in case something further
- happened. He and Officer O'Farrell took a position of advantage by putting themselves behind an
- uninvolved car. The car was between the suspect vehicle and the officers. They were just behind
- the rear passenger door and "set up." Officer O'Farrell had his rifle up and pointed toward the
- suspect. Officer Hernandez had his pistol up and also pointed at the suspect.
- The suspect's vehicle was stopped facing west on Arlington. It was wedged between a black SUV and other cars. Officer Hernandez saw numerous people get out of their cars. He saw a guy in the SUV and girls in the car they were barricaded against. People were exiting their cars and trying to
- get out of the way.
- The suspect had his driver's side door open. He stuck both of his hands (indicated with his own
- 23 hands, both the right and left hands) out of the vehicle. The suspect looked back at them for a
- second and immediately turned to his right and put his hands back inside the vehicle. The suspect
- turned his head toward the passenger seat. Officer Hernandez was getting his site picture with his
- handgun when he heard Officer O'Farrell's rifle shot. He heard the shot and felt the percussion.
- The casing hit him on the side of the head as it ejected from the rifle. He saw the bullet make
- contact with the left side of the suspect's head and blood splattered. The suspect slumped over
- and there was no additional movement.

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- Officer Hernandez said he, Officer Reimer and Officer O'Farrell were giving commands to the suspect to show them his hands. Officer Hernandez said "Show me your fucking hands," and Officer Reimer and Officer O'Farrell gave similar commands to the suspect. The commands were given several times.
- Officer Hernandez broadcast on the radio that the suspect was down, shots were fired and the officers were Code 4. Sgt. Elliott arrived on scene and moved the arrest team back to a position of cover. The Metro Team arrived and took control of the investigation
- I asked him what he meant by taking a position of advantage regarding the car between them and the suspect. He said they used the car for cover and concealment.
 - I asked him about the demeanor of the civilians in the area. He said they were frightened. He heard two girls crying and the male in the SUV stopped directly to the left of the suspect's vehicle was crying and yelling, "Oh my God." The male crawled from the driver's seat to the passenger seat of the SUV to get out. He saw people exiting cars and running to the Sear's parking lot.
- I asked him to describe the suspect. He said the suspect was a light skinned Hispanic with a
 moustache and a shaved head. He was possibly wearing a gray shirt.
 - He said when the suspect showed his hands and then turned, he initially thought the suspect was done fighting and was giving up. The suspect looked at them and had a distinct look like he had no regard. It felt like he was almost baiting them in. The suspect had a "smirky look" and immediately turned back into the vehicle. Officer Hernandez thought he was going to give up but as soon as he saw the suspect look, saw the suspect's body language and his immediate swift turn back into the vehicle he knew the suspect was trying to bait them in or was checking to see their position so he could return fire. Officer Hernandez did not see a gun. Officer Reimer, Officer O'Farrell and Sgt. Elliot were the officers he remembered seeing with him. He said his weapon was charted and he stated he did not fire any rounds from his gun.

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The interview was concluded.

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