

**MEMORANDUM**

**Riverside Police Department**

**Investigations**

**DATE:** June 28, 2012  
**TO:** Sergeant Dave Amador  
**FROM:** Detective Mike Medici  
**SUBJECT:** OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING - P12-030492

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** March 1, 2012  
**TIME OF INCIDENT:** 0226 Hrs.  
**LOCATION:** 2914 Hyde Park Circle  
Riverside, CA 92503

**INVOLVED OFFICER:** Officer Sancho Lopez #1011  
Unit Designator A315, Unit #3908  
Central NPC / Field Operations

**WITNESS OFFICER:** Officer Brett Porter #1709  
Unit Designator A315, Unit #3908  
FTO Program / Field Operations

**CIVILIAN WITNESS:** Smith, Harold, BM, DOB: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Craig Dales  
[REDACTED]

**CIVILIAN INJURIES:** None

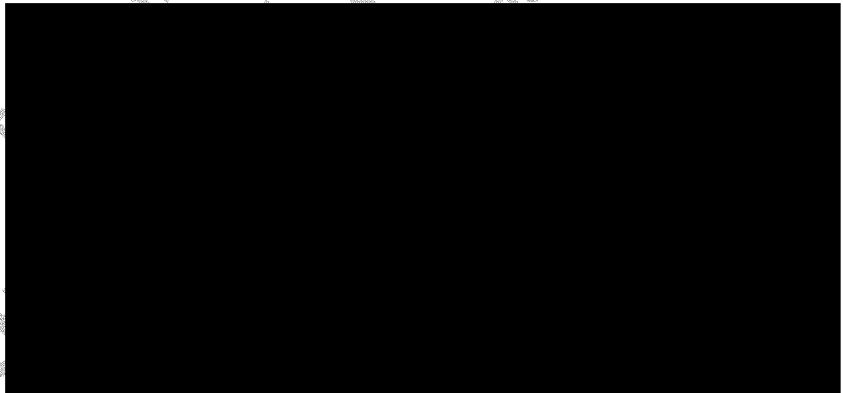
**SUSPECT(s):** Dunbar, Brandon James BM, 5'10", 185lbs  
DOB: [REDACTED]  
4171 Hines

Riverside, CA 92505

**SUSPECT'S INJURIES:** The suspect sustained three gunshot wounds. He was transported to Riverside Community Hospital but did not survive his injuries.

Dunbar had one gunshot wound to his right thigh that nicked an artery, one gunshot wound to his right shoulder area, and one gunshot wound to his right buttock. The cause of death is still pending toxicology results and the Coroner's Review.

**CRIMINAL HISTORY:**



**INCIDENT SUMMARY:**

Based on the crime scene investigation, detective's interviews with witnesses and the involved officers, and information compiled after reading all of the supplemental police reports, the following is a brief synopsis of the completed investigation. Refer to the investigator's case book for specific details and statements.

At the time of this incident Officer Sancho Lopez, an 11 year RPD officer, was training Officer Brett Porter, a lateral with 4 years at LAPD. They were assigned to Watch A in the Central NPC. They were both in full Class B uniform and Officer Porter was driving the marked patrol unit (3908).

At about 0226 hours, the officers initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for an obstructed front license plate (it was actually a paper plate). They affected the stop by utilizing the patrol car's overhead lights. The officers had seen the car earlier in the Casa Blanca area and their intention was to stop and investigate the occupants. The vehicle, a white Ford minivan, was occupied by the driver, Harold Smith, and the passenger, Brandon Dunbar. Officer Porter made contact with Smith and Officer Lopez made contact with Dunbar.

Harold Smith, who is deaf (reads lips), was very animated as Officer Porter approached the driver door. Porter obtained Smith's license and asked Smith a few questions before Officer Lopez directed him to get Smith out of the vehicle. Officer Lopez noticed gang tattoos on Dunbar and he wanted to get both of the occupants out of the vehicle to insure officer safety and control the stop. Smith stepped out first and Officer Porter began patting him down for weapons.

Officer Lopez then asked Dunbar to step out of the vehicle on the passenger side. As soon as Dunbar stepped out, he immediately began running with Officer Lopez in foot pursuit. Officer Lopez put the foot pursuit out on his hand held radio. Officer Porter heard Dunbar and Officer Lopez running so he took Smith and put him in the back of the unit and then ran after Officer Lopez.

As Dunbar was running south on Anna, he turned east towards the gated townhome community. Dunbar placed both of his hands in his front waistband area. At this point Officer Lopez thought that Dunbar may have a weapon in his waistband.

Dunbar jumped up onto a block wall leading into the backyard of a residence at 2914 Hyde Park Circle. When Dunbar jumped the wall, Officer Lopez saw a chrome handgun in his hand. Officer Lopez heard the metal of the gun strike the top of the wall. Officer Lopez tactically moved about 3 feet north of the position where Dunbar went completely over the wall. Officer Lopez then pulled himself up onto the wall, bracing himself with his left arm and holding his handgun in his right hand.

Officer Lopez saw Dunbar holding a handgun in his right hand. Dunbar then turned towards the wall in the same area where Officer Lopez originally was at before changing his position. Officer Lopez said he discharged his weapon at Dunbar two times. Dunbar fell to the ground and was about fifteen (15) feet away from Officer Lopez' current position at the wall.

Dunbar dropped his weapon but then reached for it again while he was on the ground. Officer Lopez fired two more shots.

Officer Porter arrived and put out an "11-99" and reported that shots had been fired. Officer Porter requested for medical aid to respond. Officer Porter covered Dunbar with his handgun while Officer Lopez jumped the wall to the other side. Officer Lopez kicked away the gun that was lying next to Dunbar.

Medical aid arrived about 8-9 minutes later. Dunbar was treated at the scene by RFD and AMR. He was taken by AMR to Riverside Community Hospital and was subsequently pronounced deceased at 0320 hours.

The involved officers were transported separately to the Magnolia Station by field officers. They were each assigned a peer support officer. Sergeant Dave Ruddy stood by with the officers at the Magnolia Station. Both officers consented to an interview with detectives and were represented by attorney Casey Castillo, of Lackie, Dammeier and McGill. The officer interviews were audio recorded and transcribed.

#### **INVESTIGATIONS:**

At about 0300 hours, On Call Sergeant Lisa Williams was notified of the incident by Watch Commander Lt. Brennan and initiated an investigative call-out. Detectives and Forensic personnel met at Lincoln and Anna. Sergeant Amador supervised the overall investigation.

Detective Mike Medici was assigned as the case agent and Detective Ron Sanfilippo as co-case agent. Detective Rick Cobb, Detective Jim Brandt and Forensic Technician Supervisor Carlton Fuller were assigned to investigate the crime scene. Sergeant Dan Russell was the crime scene supervisor.

Detective Jim Simons and Forensic Technician Selena McKay-Davis assisted with photographing and collecting evidence from the suspect's body along with personnel from the Sheriff-Coroner's Office.

Deputy District Attorney Samah Shouka represented the District Attorney's Office along with Deputy District Attorney Investigator Ricky Fuentes.

#### **THE CRIME SCENE AT 2914 HYDE PARK CIRCLE:**

Anna Street is located between Arlington Avenue and Lincoln and is primarily a residential street which includes a gated townhome community on the east side of the street just north of Lincoln. There are single family homes on the west side of Anna Street. The suspect, Brandon Dunbar, fled into the backyard of one of these townhomes at 2914 Hyde Park Circle. The backyard is on the south side of the residence and is enclosed by a block wall. This yard area consists of a covered patio, small grass area and an elevated planter. (See Detective Rick Cobb's and Evidence Supervisor Carlton Fuller's supplemental police reports for full crime scene details and evidence collection).

#### **DUNBAR'S RECOVERED HANDGUN:**

Brandon Dunbar was found to be in possession of a Taurus 9mm handgun serial [REDACTED]. The handgun was loaded with one (1) live round in the chamber and fifteen (15) live rounds in the magazine. The gun was not reported stolen. It was registered to a person other than Dunbar in San Bernardino.

On May 2, 2012, Dunbar's handgun was taken to Riverside County's DOJ Laboratory for analysis. DOJ Senior Criminalist Richard Takenaga conducted a firearms inspection of Dunbar's pistol identified as evidence item #CF-12 along with accompanying ammunition, and magazines. The weapon functioned properly. Test fired cartridges were submitted to NIBIN for a search against the current database. No matches were found.

#### **CIVILIAN WITNESS INTERVIEWS:**

##### **Craig Dales**

[REDACTED]

W-Dales lives at [REDACTED] Mr. Dales told detectives that he was home alone when the incident occurred. He doesn't sleep very well and he was awake sitting on his living room sofa when he heard what sounded like two gunshots in quick succession outside of his house in the area of Anna Street. He then heard a male voice yelling "don't move, don't move", and another voice answering, "you shot me, you son of a bitch, you shot me." The original voice then said something he couldn't make out, but it ended with "my partner...don't move."

Dales said he got up off the couch and looked out a south-west facing window where he thought the voices were coming from. This window looks out towards Anna Street and the west wall of his backyard. Dales said he could see a uniformed police officer outside the west wall of his backyard. The officer was looking over the wall into his backyard and he had his arm over the wall pointing his pistol at something in the backyard. Dales moved and looked out the sliding glass door to his backyard and he saw the suspect lying on the ground near a small planter on the east side of the yard (the yard is only approximately 30 feet by 30 feet). After a minute or two, a uniformed officer (Sergeant Lambert) knocked on the sliding glass door and asked Dales what the address to his house was. After Dales told him the address, the officer told him to stay inside and someone would contact him soon. Dale said the two shots he heard sounded like they came from the same gun.

##### **Harold Smith**

[REDACTED]

Harold Smith was driving the 2002 Ford minivan involved in the traffic stop preceding the officer involved shooting. Brandon Dunbar was the only passenger in smith's car.

In his interview, Smith told detectives he was offered \$20 by Brandon Dunbar to give him a ride to the "Eastside." He was acquainted with Dunbar previously and he identified Dunbar as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Smith said he had no idea why Dunbar needed to go to the "Eastside."

Smith never witnessed the shooting. He was released after his interview and there are no charges pending against him. Detective Rick Cobb later released the minivan that Smith was driving, back to Smith's girlfriend at the crime scene.

#### **CHARTING OF THE OFFICER'S DUTY WEAPONS:**

Officer Lopez had his assigned Glock .40 caliber duty weapon charted. The pistol had one (1) live round chambered and the magazine held (10) live rounds. He had an additional two (2) magazines which were each loaded with fifteen (15) live rounds. The charting confirmed that five (5) rounds were fired. This weapon was placed into evidence and Officer Lopez was provided with a replacement duty weapon.

Officer Porter had his assigned Glock .40 caliber duty weapon charted. The pistol had one (1) live round chambered and the magazine held fifteen (15) live rounds. He had an additional two (2) magazines. One was loaded with fifteen (15) live rounds and the other was loaded with fourteen (14) live rounds. It is believed that Officer Porter did not fully load his second magazine after his last range qualification. The charting confirmed that no (0) rounds were fired from Officer Porter's gun.

#### **DOJ EXAMINATION OF OFFICER LOPEZ'S WEAPON:**

On March 6, 2012, DOJ Senior Criminalist Richard Takenaga conducted a firearms inspection of Officer Sancho Lopez's duty weapon identified as evidence item #SL01, a Glock model 22, .40 caliber pistol along with accompanying ammunition, and magazines.

The Glock pistol bearing serial number of [REDACTED] functioned properly. The submitted evidence cartridges CF-01, CF-02, CF-03, CF-04, and CF-11, were microscopically compared to test fired cases from the Glock pistol. Based on sufficient agreement of the breech face marks, the evidence cartridge case were fired from the same Glock pistol.