RIVERSIDE:
Police shoot, kill man who was holding knife

SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 BY BRIAN ROKOS

A man who Riverside police say charged at an officer with a knife was shot Friday night, Sept. 13.

A man who Riverside police say charged at officers while holding a knife was shot to death Friday night, Sept. 13.

Three officers fired on the man, who police say was Hispanic and about 50 years old, Lt. Guy Toussaint said. Two officers fired handguns and one shot a beanbag gun simultaneously.

The shooting happened about 9:30 p.m. near the intersection of 10th Street and Sedgwick Avenue. Police responded after receiving a call from the man's children that he was suicidal and cutting himself, said Lt. Larry Gonzalez. Toussaint said police were told that the man was acting bizarre.

Police arrived to find the man in a front yard. They negotiated with him for 3 to 5 minutes, Toussaint said. The negotiations failed, and the man charged the officers.

Toussaint said officers probably considered calling in a mental-health worker and backing off, but it can be difficult to find one at that hour of the night who could arrive within minutes. Plus, the officers likely considered the man a possible threat to others and felt they had to act.

Relatives stood outside the yellow police tape, hugging and sobbing. They declined to speak with a reporter.

No officers were injured, Toussaint said.

Assistant Chief Chris Vicino was among at least two dozen officers on the scene.

Additionally, police detained two people who appeared to be arguing with police. One had been handcuffed on the ground.

Police took one person out of a patrol car and interviewed him on a sidewalk. A bystander identified him as a son of the person shot. Another bystander said a son pedaled his bicycle up to his home and shouted, "They shot my dad," meaning the police.

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