



Police Department

Larry Gonzalez
Deputy Chief



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Officer Involved Death P18-136590

Date: July 22, 2018
Time: 1243 Hours
Location: McDonald's
2242 University Avenue
Riverside, CA



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Suspect David Eugene Russell -33



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History

Russell had an extensive criminal history that included convictions for shoplifting, burglary, robbery, grand theft, vandalism, public intoxication and under the influence of a controlled substance.



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Overview

- Russell entered the crowded McDonald's and sat in a booth on the south side of the restaurant for about 15 minutes.
- A patron entered the McDonald's with his wife and sat at a table across the restaurant from Russell.
- Russell unexpectedly stood up and aggressively walked directly towards the patron and challenged him to fight.
- The patron said he did nothing to provoke Russell and the video surveillance and witness statements support his claim.
- The patron remained seated and asked Russell to leave.



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Overview

- Russell kicked the patron several times while he was seated.
- A McDonald's security guard tried to intervene and Russell turned his attention to the McDonald's employees.
- The employees retreated behind the front counter.
- Russell chased the employees behind the counter and started hitting them.
- The patron realized that security guard and employees could not stop Russell and were in danger of being injured.



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Overview

- The patron approached Russell from behind and applied a carotid hold and forced Russell to the ground.
- The patron applied the carotid hold for about 5 seconds and does not believe Russell was ever unconscious.
- The patron, the security guard and employees held Russell on the ground until RPD officers arrived on scene.
- RPD officers handcuffed Russell and placed him in the recovery position.



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Overview

- Russell was breathing and holding his own head up, but he was unresponsive. The officers summoned medical aid for Russell.
- When medical aid arrived, the handcuffs were removed from Russell and so he could be placed on the ambulance gurney.
- RPD officers left the McDonald's to meet the medical personnel at the hospital.
- During this time Russell went into cardiac arrest.
- The Riverside County Coroner noted no injuries to Russell's neck or throat during the autopsy.
- The cause of death is pending the toxicology results.



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