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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

DATE: January 28, 2017

SUBJECT: In Custody Death of Dominic Smith which occurred on December 29,

2016

CASE: Riverside Police Department File #P16237976

LOCATION: 2769 Mary Street, Riverside, Washington Park

On January 6, 2017, I was advised of the in custody death of Dominic Smith. I was asked by Frank Hauptmann, Manager of the Community Police Review Commission, to conduct a neighborhood canvass of the location to search for potential witnesses who had not been located by Riverside Police Officers on the night of the incident. If I identified any witnesses who had not been interviewed previously, I was asked to conduct a thorough interview and provide a copy to Riverside Police Investigators.

On January 9, 2017, I responded to the intersection of Mary Street and Lincoln Avenue, The Victoria Village Shopping Center, which consists of a CVS Pharmacy and a Stater Bros. Market. I was aware that the incident began at the market when Mr. Smith created a disturbance and police were called. Prior to police arriving, Mr. Smith had walked along the side of the market, towards the rear, where Washington Park is located. The park shares a parking lot with the shopping center and consists of swing sets, restrooms, and an open grass area.

I contacted several people in the shopping center parking lot over a 2-½ hour span but was unable to locate any witnesses to the incident. I walked to Washington Park,



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directly behind Stater Bros. Market, and found the park to be empty with the exception of a maintenance crew who knew nothing of the incident.

On January 25, 2017, I attended the CPRC Briefing of the in custody death, conducted by Captain Gonzales. I learned that Mr. Smith had an extensive arrest record consisting mostly of drug crimes. On the evening of the incident, a security guard for Stater Bros. observed Mr. Smith with nunchuks and called the police. Mr. Smith left the market and walked to the park and when officers arrived at around 1855, Mr. Smith was located on the grass of the dark park. Officers had Mr. Smith lay on the ground and as they began to handcuff him, to further their investigation, they noticed he was having difficulty breathing and CPR was administered until paramedics arrived on scene. Mr. Smith was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. I also learned the incident was captured on police video.

I will review the in custody death of Dominic Smith when the Riverside Police Department provides me access to their files.



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