LASD Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) at Van Nuys Courthouse

The following information is based on facts determined from an investigation into the incident described. The investigation is ongoing and as witnesses are interviewed, evidence is analyzed and reports are reviewed, our understanding of the facts may change. The details described below accurately reflect the facts as we currently know them.

On April 3, 2020, at approximately 11:50 am, two deputies were standing in front of the entrance to Van Nuys Courthouse at 14400 Erwin Street Mall. These deputies had been tasked with screening persons who wished to enter the courthouse, in compliance with the COVID-19 procedures.

While standing at their post, the suspect, David Marc Albala, a 38 year-old Los Angeles resident, approached them on foot while carrying a backpack. Suspect Albala retrieved a claw hammer from his backpack, dropped the backpack to the ground and armed himself with the hammer. Recognizing the immediate threat, as Suspect Albala approached them, the deputies drew their service pistols. A deputy involved shooting occurred as Suspect Albala threw the hammer at one of the deputies, missing him and instead striking the wall of the courthouse. Although injured by the gunshot, Suspect Albala raised his fists, assumed a fighting stance, and refused to surrender to the deputies.

Assisting deputies arrived at the scene of the incident and a Taser was used to subdue Suspect Albala and take him into custody.

Albala was treated at the scene by Los Angeles City Fire Department Paramedics and transported to a local hospital for treatment. He was subsequently transferred to the county Jail.

Suspect Albala sustained a single gunshot wound to his leg. No deputies or civilians were injured in the incident.

Investigators recovered the claw hammer from the ground in front of the court building.

LASD Homicide investigators responded to the scene to conduct interviews, follow up and process the scene. Representatives from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), and the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) also responded to view the incident scene.

Once completed, the criminal investigation will be forwarded to the District Attorney’s Office to determine if the force used by the involved personnel violated any criminal laws. Once completed, the LASD will evaluate the actions of the personnel within the application of policy, procedures and tactics.
Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call Sheriff’s Homicide at 323-890-5500. Anonymous tips may be received through CRIMESTOPPERS at 800-222-8477.