LASD Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) at Santa Clarita Station

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 are accurate with the facts as we know them.

On March 1, 2020, at approximately 2:30 pm, a deputy was preparing to work PM shift at Santa Clarita Station. After loading his car with gear, logging onto his mobile digital computers, and attending a pre-shift briefing, the deputy along with a civilian observer, began to drive out of the rear station parking lot, toward Magic Mountain Parkway.

The suspect, Raymundo Aaron Ceja, a 32 year-old resident of Newhall, had parked his car in the same parking lot. He got out of his car and walked directly in front of the patrol car while holding what appeared to be a semi-automatic pistol in his hand. Recognizing the threat, the deputy stopped his car and repeatedly ordered the suspect to drop his gun. Other deputies heard the commotion and reacted to the scene. Suspect Ceja failed to surrender his weapon and a DIS occurred. Struck by the gunfire, the suspect immediately fell to the ground and was taken into custody.

Raymundo Ceja was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department Paramedics and transported to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Suspect Ceja sustained two gunshot wounds to his torso. No deputies or civilians were injured in the incident.

Investigators recovered a black metal “Airsoft” pellet gun, which was a replica of a “Taurus” semi-automatic pistol.

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 and monitored the investigation.

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.