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January 23, 2026

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
Kern County Sheriff's Office
1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, CA. 93308

Re: KCSO Officer-Involved Shooting of Homero Rosales Corona on March 4, 2025
Kern County Sheriff's Deputies Sgt. Jose Perez and Senior Deputy Ralph Lomas
2022 Virginia Avenue, Bakersfield, CA
Documented in KCSO Report 2025-00027892

Dear Sheriff Youngblood,

The Kern County District Attorney's Office, Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) Review Committee has reviewed reports, body worn camera footage, audio recordings, and other materials submitted by your agency regarding the shooting noted above. The OIS Review Committee reviews cases for criminal liability under state law. The OIS Review Committee has completed its review and the findings are noted below.

Summary

In the afternoon of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, the Kern County Sheriff's Office received a report of a child molestation with a potential suspect named Homero Rosales Corona. While investigating the child molestation allegations, Sgt. Jose Perez and Senior Deputy Ralph Lomas responded to the residence of suspect, Homero Rosales Corona for the purpose of serving him with a signed emergency protective order, prohibiting him from contacting the alleged minor victim. At the residence, the deputies learned that Rosales Corona was not at that location. Deputies were informed by his family that he may be located at Virginia Avenue Park, due to his cell phone being located there. Sgt. Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas arrived at Virginia Ave Park at approximately 6:36 p.m. Both deputies were wearing marked KCSO patrol duty uniforms and were operating marked KCSO patrol vehicles. Upon arriving, the deputies heard a male call out saying, "I'm the one you're looking for," and then saw Rosales Corona waiving at them. Sgt. Perez asked Corona if his name was, "Homero," and he stated, "yes." Sgt. Perez noticed that Rosales Corona was drinking beer and that there was a case of beer next to him. Rosales Corona was standing near a tree just to the east of the parking lot. Rosales Corona then reached down

toward the tree and as Sgt. Perez aimed his flashlight at Corona, Sgt. Perez saw that Corona picked up a shotgun.

Sgt. Perez yelled out commands in English and Spanish for Rosales Corona to drop the weapon, but he refused to do so. Rosales Corona was holding the shotgun in his left hand behind his leg, he then quickly started raising the shotgun, with his right hand going to the front of the shotgun. Rosales Corona started lifting it and leveling the shotgun towards Sgt. Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas. As Rosales Corona raised the shotgun and started pointing it toward the two deputies, Sgt. Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas both fired multiple rounds at Rosales Corona from their department issued firearms. Rosales Corona's body was struck multiple times, and he died at the scene due to multiple gunshot wounds. After Rosales Corona was hit, Sgt. Perez approached and retrieved Rosales Corona's short barrel, Dickinson brand, 12-gauge shotgun, that was lying on the ground next to his body. Once the suspect weapon was secured, Sgt. Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas rendered medical aid to Rosales Corona until medical personnel arrived. Medical personnel tended to Rosales Corona until he was pronounced deceased at the scene by a paramedic.

Legal Principles and Analysis

Rosales Corona's actions demonstrated a clear threat to the lives of Sergeant Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas. At the time the deputies fired their service weapons, Rosales Corona was in possession of a shotgun, had ignored commands to drop the weapon, and was raising and pointing it toward the two deputies. A firearm used in this manner is a deadly weapon capable of inflicting great bodily injury or death.

Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. (PC § 835a(b)). California Penal Code (PC) §§ 196 and 835a outline the circumstances under which a peace officer is authorized to use force, including deadly force. Peace officers may use deadly force when necessary in defense of human life. (PC 835a(a)(2)). When determining whether deadly force is necessary, deputies must evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstance of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and reasonable to an objectively reasonable officer (PC § 835a(a)(2)). The California Legislature has mandated that deputies shall use de-escalation tactics if objectively reasonable based on the particular circumstances of the case. (PC § 835a(a)(2)). California law permits the use of deadly force by any person in self-defense or defense of others, if (1) the individual reasonably believed that he or someone else was in imminent danger of being killed or suffering great bodily injury; (2) the individual reasonably believed that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to defend against that danger; and (3) the individual used no more force that was reasonable necessary to defend against that danger. (California Jury Instruction Criminal #505)

Both Sgt. Perez and Sr. Deputy Lomas were aware that Rosales Corona knew that law enforcement was looking for him, they knew he was in possession of a shotgun, they knew he had refused to drop the weapon, and they saw him lifting the shotgun and pointing it toward them. At the time of the shooting, Rosales Corona was lifting and pointing a real shotgun toward Sgt. Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas, which caused them to exercise the right of self-defense and defense of others. These deputies were not under any obligation to retreat, nor were they under any obligation to wait for Rosales Corona to begin shooting before taking defensive action. Rosales Corona's actions presented a clear, immediate threat to the life of the involved deputies, and the employment of deadly force to address the threat and defend the life of themselves and their partner was both a subjective and objectively reasonable use of deadly

force employed to address the imminent threat posed by Rosales Corona's actions.

Conclusion

Based on a review of the evidence submitted by Kern County Sheriff's Department, Sergeant Perez and Senior Deputy Lomas responded reasonably to a lethal threat in self-defense and defense of others. There is no state criminal liability for their use of deadly force under the circumstances of this case because the shooting is legally justified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Zimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cynthia Zimmer
Kern County District Attorney