



# LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT HOMICIDE DETAIL



## Officer Involved Shootings

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## DEFINITION



- An officer-involved shooting (OIS) is any time an officer intentionally discharges a firearm at another person, whether they are injured or not
- Firearms discharge includes incidents where an officer discharges their firearm at an animal or in an unintentional manner



# INVESTIGATIONS



- Each OIS triggers three investigations within the Long Beach Police Department
  1. An investigation of the officers involved for submission to the District Attorney's office for legal/criminal review
  2. A separate criminal investigation of the suspect(s)
  3. An administrative investigation against the officer(s) involved
- Independent DA investigation on hit OIS incidents
- Independent Coroner investigation if the OIS results in death



## OIS RESPONSE



- An OIS creates a response from multiple areas of our Department and other agencies depending on the circumstances



Patrol

Homicide

Command Staff

Forensic Science  
Services

Public Information  
Officer

District  
Attorney

Union or  
Association Rep

Coroner

Internal Affairs



# HOMICIDE CRIME SCENE RESPONSE



- Minimum of two detectives, a sergeant, and a lieutenant
- More detectives respond based on the complexity of the investigation and number of scenes or witnesses
- Homicide is in charge of all aspects of the investigation, such as, identifying evidence to be collected, interviews, and crime scene management



# COMMAND STAFF RESPONSE



- The Watch Commander responds to every OIS and ensures each involved shooting officer is removed from the scene along with their peer officer
- A senior command officer responds to the scene and oversees the event



# CORONER



- Responds to any fatal OIS and conducts an independent investigation surround the death of the individual
- It is a crime to touch or move a body that falls under the jurisdiction of the coroner
- We do not cover a deceased person with a blanket or other objects which could introduce new evidence to a scene
- We have body barriers we can use at a scene once homicide arrives and reviews potential evidence contamination concerns



# CORONER SECURITY HOLD



- Homicide may place a security hold on a case to prevent crucial information from being made public
- Security holds help protect critical information from media reports which could later influence witness or suspect statements
- The security hold is only placed on the case, not the body



# PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)



- Works with homicide to obtain what facts can be presented to the public, keeping in mind future prosecution and employee rights at the time of the incident
- Prepares the final news release for approval by homicide
- Competing interests are always present
  - Media/public's right-to-know
  - Influencing future witness/victim interviews
  - Future prosecution/influencing the jury pool



## HOMICIDE – at the station



- Involved officer is photographed as they were at the time of the incident
- Their weapon is taken and tested by the crime lab
- Officers generally file a voluntary statement of the incident
- The reports are reviewed by the homicide detectives, sergeant and/or lieutenant
- Involved officer is referred to...
  - the police academy for a debrief with training personnel
  - the police pistol range for qualification
  - the Department psychologist



# HOMICIDE – the day after



- Homicide detectives continue the investigation which may include
  - Searching for outstanding suspects
  - Returning to the crime scene
  - Searching for additional witnesses and video
  - Writing and serving search warrants
  - Preparing any criminal charges against a suspect and presenting them to the DA
  - Reviewing and approving reports
  - Submitting evidence for forensic analysis
  - Work with the PIO to release additional known facts that won't compromise the investigation



# CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEF (CID)



- CID is typically scheduled within 72 hours of the incident
- Homicide supervisor presents the known facts to the Chief of Police and command staff, along with subject matter experts
- Homicide presents facts only, no opinions
- Chief of Police reviews the preliminary facts including tactics, equipment, and Department policy
- Projects are issued
  - All involved officers are sent to the academy for a debrief where areas for improvement and lessons learned are identified
- Chief of Police will determine whether the employee may return to field duty



# HOMICIDE – weeks/months after



- Review all video
- Review all evidence
- Evidence analysis reports will be completed and reviewed by detectives
  - Depending on the results it may require additional interviews or investigations
- On a fatal OIS the coroner's report will be completed
  - Detectives review the autopsy, especially the forensic data such as bullet trajectory
  - Determine if any additional investigation is necessary



## HOMICIDE – weeks/months after

- Scene recreation if necessary
- Serve search warrants
- Once all forensic, coroner, and investigative reports are complete, create a final investigative notebook
- On a hit-shooting, send all reports, video, audio, photographs, etc., to the DA for review
- Schedule a Shooting Review Board



# SHOOTING REVIEW BOARD (SRB)



- Comprised of five voting members
  - Deputy Chief of Investigations (Chairperson)
  - Chief of Staff
  - Deputy Chief of the involved employee
  - Training Division representative
  - Peer member of equal rank and experience to the involved officer
- Non-voting members
  - Commander of the involved officer
  - Detective assigned to the incident
  - Employee association representative
  - Internal Affairs representative
  - Emergency Communications representative
  - Homicide supervisor or designee



# SHOOTING REVIEW BOARD (SRB)



- Board members review reports, photos, video, and audio of the incident
- Review of the incident includes Graham v Conner (US Supreme Court) analysis
- Board members vote on each officer who used deadly force
  - Actions prior to the shooting
  - Actions at the time of the shooting
  - Actions after the shooting
- Board members vote for recommendations related to...
  - any non-shooting officer involved in the incident
  - the Department
- Board recommends projects to the Chief of Police



## CHIEF'S FINAL REVIEW



- Upon all projects related to an OIS being completed, the Commander of the Special Investigations Division audits them to ensure they are complete
- Once the audit is complete, the case is taken to the Chief who reviews the case again and ensures all projects were completed to his satisfaction
- The case is then closed





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# Questions?

