

UPDATED Attempted Murder of a Police Officer, Officer Involved Shooting

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08/04/2014

Incident: ***UPDATED*** Attempted Murder of a Police Officer, Officer Involved Shooting

Contact: Commander Darin Schindler, 805-339-4341

Location: Figueroa St.and Harbor Blvd.

Date/Time Occurred: Press release update, August 4, 2014, 2:40 p.m. Date of incident: August 3, 2014, 3:45 p.m.

Officer(s) Involved:

Sgt. Darrick Brunk, 19 years experience

Ofc. Jason Kohagen, 7 years experience

Ofc. Matthew Baumann, 7 year experience

Suspect: Clemente Zamarripa-Mata, 12-29-87, Ventura Resident

Report #: 14-09701

Narrative: _____

UPDATED NARRATIVE

On the above date and time, Ventura County Fair security personnel contacted the Ventura Police Command Post inside of the fairgrounds to report a reckless driver in a red truck. According to security, the driver of the truck bypassed several road closure barricades near the Garden St. fair entrance and collided with the Fair's Garden Street entrance gate.

After the truck collided with the gate a male passenger exited the vehicle and ran into the Ventura Fairgrounds. As fair security attempted to make contact with the driver of the truck, the driver backed up, almost striking fair personnel, and sped off eastbound on the frontage road of the Fairgrounds towards Harbor Blvd. As the driver continued eastbound he got stuck behind an unoccupied shuttle bus that was driving in the same direction. The driver of the truck attempted to pass the bus and drove up a rock embankment that bordered the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. In the process of passing the bus, the driver sideswiped the bus and sent large rocks flying onto the roadway.

Within moments of the reported reckless driver, Ventura Police issued a radio broadcast to the officers working the department's traffic checkpoint outside the Fairgrounds property at the corner of Harbor Blvd. and Figueroa St. Within seconds of the radio broadcast, officers saw the vehicle, a red Chevrolet S10 pickup, approaching them eastbound on Harbor Blvd.

As the truck continued towards the checkpoint it got stuck in traffic and officers working the checkpoint were able to make contact with the driver (Mata) at the driver window. Mata was immediately uncooperative with the officers and suddenly accelerated backwards and collided into a pickup that was stopped in the line of vehicles behind him. Mata then quickly accelerated forward and turned towards Sgt. Darrick Brunk, hitting Sgt. Brunk with the front his vehicle. Sgt. Brunk rolled onto the hood of the vehicle and struck the front windshield. Officers Jason Kohagen and Matthew Baumann, who were also working at the traffic checkpoint, fired a total of 4 rounds at Mata's vehicle, striking Mata in the upper body. Mata's vehicle came to a stop after colliding into 7 parked police motorcycles.

Officers immediately removed Mata from the vehicle and began rendering him first aid until Fire and Paramedics arrived on scene. Mata was transported to Ventura County Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. At this time, he is currently listed in stable condition in the intensive care unit.

After the incident, Sgt. Brunk was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center for non-life threatening injuries and later released with an injury to his arm.

There were two adults and a child in the truck that Mata collided with at the checkpoint. They were uninjured. The driver of the bus was not injured.

Alcohol and drugs may have been a factor in this incident. Toxicology results are pending.

Ventura Police Major Crimes responded to the scene and took over the investigation into the hit and run with the Fair gate and bus, the life threatening assault on the officers, and the subsequent officer involved shooting.

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office also responded to assist with the investigation.

At this time, Mata has not been formally charged but is subject to future charges up to and including felonious assault with a deadly weapon/attempted homicide of a peace officer.

The investigation into this incident is continuing. The police department is asking for any witnesses to contact Ventura Police investigators at 805-339-4467.

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Original press release follows:

Incident: Attempted Murder of a Police Officer, Officer Involved Shooting

Contact: Watch Commander, 805-339-4416

Location: Figueroa St. and Harbor Blvd.

Date/Time Occurred: 08/03/14 @ 1545 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol, Ventura PD Traffic Unit and Ventura PD Detectives

Suspect: Withheld, 26 year old male, Ventura Resident

Report #: 14-09701

Narrative:

On the above date and time, fair security reported to the Ventura Police Command Post inside the fairgrounds a reckless driver in a red truck attempting to pass several road closure barricades near the Garden St. entrance gate of the fair.

Shortly after the report of the reckless driver was broadcasted over the radio, several officers working a traffic control detail outside of the fairgrounds property saw the vehicle and stopped the suspect driver near the intersection of Figueroa St. and Harbor Blvd. While one of the officers was speaking to the suspect driver, the suspect suddenly accelerated backwards, colliding in a stopped vehicle behind him. He then quickly accelerated forward towards another officer and hit that officer with his vehicle as he fled from the traffic stop.

Additional officers at the scene fired at the suspect vehicle as it accelerated and collided into several parked police motorcycles and a shuttle bus. The shuttle bus was not occupied by fair goers at the time of the shooting.

The suspect driver was struck by officer's gunfire and came to a stop. He was later transported to Ventura County Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. At this time, he is listed in critical condition.

The officer that was struck by the suspect was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center for non-life threatening injuries and later released.

The investigation into this incident is continuing. The police department is asking for any witnesses to contact the police department. No other officers or citizens were injured as a result of this incident.