

PRESS RELEASE



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TORRANCE PD RESPONSE

The Torrance Police Department is aware of an indictment obtained by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office on Officer Matt Concannon and former Torrance Police Officer Anthony Chavez for an on-duty Officer Involved Shooting on December 9, 2018. Officer Matt Concannon is a fifteen-year veteran of the Torrance Police Department. On Sunday, December 9, 2018, at approximately 8:00 PM, Torrance Police Department Patrol Officers responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the area of Western Avenue and Carson Street. Officer Concannon and former Officer Chavez located a vehicle matching the description in the Ralph's parking lot at 1770 Carson Street. The sole occupant of the stolen vehicle, Christopher De'Andre Mitchell, had a Crosman Phantom 1000 air rifle between his legs, with the altered buttstock exposed. Unfortunately, during the encounter, Mr. Mitchell dropped his hands toward the weapon, resulting in both Officers discharging their firearms, fatally wounding Mr. Mitchell. A critical Incident Community Briefing was released on April 24, 2019. We encourage community members who are interested in this matter to review the Critical Incident Community Briefing online at:

<https://www.torranceca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/50584/6369177567224300001>

Any loss of life is a tragic outcome and rightly requires diligent review. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office was immediately notified of the Officer Involved Shooting. They responded to the scene to begin their independent investigation. The Torrance Police Department takes the responsibility to investigate every death that occurs during an encounter with members of the Torrance Police Department seriously. Homicide Detectives from the Torrance Police Department conducted a thorough investigation and presented the case to the Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. On October 9, 2019, the independent investigation conducted by the Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office concluded that both officers acted in lawful self-defense. The October 9, 2019, Memorandum can be reviewed online at:

https://da.lacounty.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/JSID_OIS_10_2019_Mitchell.pdf

Considering the facts as we know them, including the previous determination that Officer Concannon and former Officer Chavez acted in lawful self-defense, the revelation of the indictment comes as a shock to the Torrance Police Department. We acknowledge that due to the secret nature of Grand Jury proceedings, we are unaware of the entirety of the evidence presented to the Grand Jury, which led to the indictment. As that evidence is revealed, the merit of the criminal allegations will ultimately be determined through due process in a court of law. We ask for the communities' support in allowing that process to transpire. The Torrance Police Department is committed to increased transparency and ensuring positive community-policing partnerships through our collaborative reform effort with the California Department of Justice and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Trust Building Campaign

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0510121c3c9b480a971f911ce1826f02>

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