



August 25, 2025

Report of Investigation - Peralta

Assignment: Officer Involved Shooting Resulting in the Death of Daniel Elena Lopez and Valentina Orellana Peralta

Table of Content:

Materials Reviewed.....	1
Incident Description.....	2
Incident Summary	3
Scenes Description.....	10
Evidence Recovery.....	11
Incident Scene Evidence – Bullet Impacts.....	12
Autopsy Report.....	14
Investigator’s Narrative.....	17
Evidence Room Reconstruction Animations & Links.....	19
Evidence Room Opinion.....	20
Background and Expertise of Evidence Room, LLC.....	21
Mr. Scott Roder’s Qualifications.....	21

Materials Reviewed

- Autopsy Report
- Board of Police Commissioners Report - Highlighted
- Board of Police Commissioners Witness Identifier
- California Department of Justice Report
- Chief Moore’s Report to Board of Police Commissioners
- Peralta Experts Combined Report
- Burlington Coat Factory CCTV
- Officer Body Camera Videos
 - CITY 003652 - Case_Video_SGT WM
 - CITY 003653 - BWV WM

- CITY 003654 - BWV WM
- CITY 003656 - BWV 2 WM
- CITY 003657 - BWV WM
- CITY 003658 - BWV WM
- CITY 003661 - BWV WM
- CITY 003677 - BWV WM
- OFC Bodycam_Synched
- Shooting Ofc_BWC

Use of Force-Tactics Directive

LAPD Investigative Material

- Death Investigation
- FID Report
- Incident Recall and Notification Logs
- Invrstigative Report
- Laboratory Examination Report
- Laboratory Report
- Laboratory Report II
- Laboratory Report III
- Property Report
- Property Report II
- Property Report III
- Scene Diagrams
- Sergeant's Daily Report
- Sergeant's Daily Report II
- Sergeant's Daily Report III
- Training Bulletin - Active Shooters
- Training Bulletin - Active Shooters II
- Training Bulletin - Firearm Selection
- Watch Commander's Daily Report
- Watch Commander's Daily Report II

Statements

Incident Description¹

Incident Data:

Place of Death: Business - Burlington Coat Factory

Location of Incident: 12121 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA, 91606

Crime Incident: Shooting

Victim:

Type: Homicide

Injury: Gunshot wound of the chest

1

Victim: Valentina Orellana-Peralta

Home Address: 7536 Forbes Avenue, Van Nuys, California , 91406

Date of Birth: 05/26/2007

Age: 14 years old

Height: 67 inches

Weight: 148 pounds

Sex: Female

Race: Hispanic

Clothing: black jacket, white t-shirt, black pants, red underwear, pink socks, and black boots.

Others Involved:

Type: Suspect

Injury: Deceased

Age: 24 years old

Sex: Male

Incident Summary:

Scene Description: The location is a department store located on the northwest corner of Victory Boulevard and Laurel Canyon Boulevard in North Hollywood. The multi-story department store is rectangular in design and arranged lengthwise from north to south. The department store building is shared with other businesses and is accessed from a parking lot along the east side of the property. The location was secured by multiple marked police patrol vehicles, posted police officers, and yellow barrier tape.²

Department Store: The main entrance to the Burlington Coat Factory section of the building was located on the east side towards the south. The incident occurred in the northeast area of the second floor, which is arranged with a white tiled main aisle in the center floor that runs in a north/ south direction and flanked by multiple perpendicular aisles, which are approximately 5' tall with multiple shelves of miscellaneous items. Blood was observed on the floor of the main aisle, and perpendicular aisle west of the suspect and dressing room area.

Dressing Room: the decedent was located in a dressing room positioned in the northeast area of the second floor. The main entrance to the dressing room was located at the south side, approximately 20' east of east/west arranged perpendicular aisles. The decedent's dressing room was located just southeast of the dressing room area main entrance. The approximate 5'x8' dressing room, which is designed lengthwise from north / south, was arranged with the entrance door at the north side of the west wall, a bench seat at the south wall, and mirror on the west wall.

Two full clothing baskets were observed on the floor at the north side of the dressing room. The bench seat along the south wall was positioned approximately 10" away from the west wall. A

² Autopsy Report — <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/pdafhq1mk6ef42k5xh8sw/AUTOPSY-REPORT.pdf?rlkey=yypzxlpzpeay1lvgcgn0axhbme&st=igv4q0pu&dl=0>

gray hoodie-style sweatshirt was hanging from a coat hook on the west wall next to the west side of the bench seat. A cell phone was observed on the bench seat and a mask on the floor near the bench seat and east wall.

Projectile Strike Mark: an apparent projectile strike mark / perforation was observed in the west wall of the dressing room, that apparently traveled through the wall, through the gray hoodie-sweatshirt that was on a coat hook and struck the decedent. Apparent drywall dust from the wall was observed on the gray hoodie-sweatshirt, decedent and dressing room area. Another apparent projectile strike mark was observed in a gray bench seat and wall just west of the suspect.

Decedent: the decedent was observed lying supine on the gray linoleum-type floor of the dressing room, positioned with her head near the bench seat and legs towards the entrance door. Blood gathered beneath the decedent from the injury. Apparent drywall dust was observed on her black pants. Eyeglasses were observed on the decedent's head, positioned above the forehead.
Suspect (2021-013992): the suspect was observed lying supine in the northeast area of the second floor, positioned approximately 20' west of the dressing room entrance area.
Property: the decedent was wearing glasses, earrings and a nose ring. Her cellular telephone was located on the bench seat in the dressing room.

On December 23, 2021, at 11:41 a.m., Los Angeles Police Department Officer William Jones, Jr. responded to a report of an active shooter inside the Burlington Coat Factory store in North Hollywood, California. Officer Jones joined other officers already in the store. As they prepared to encounter the suspect, an officer saw an injured victim. The officers advanced and Officer Jones took the lead because he was equipped with a patrol rifle. When he came to the victim who was covered in blood, Officer Jones saw Daniel Elena Lopez. Mr. Elena Lopez had an object in his hand and another object which he used as a shield. Officer Jones fired a burst of three rounds from his patrol rifle, fatally shooting Mr. Elena Lopez. One of the expended rounds struck the floor and changed direction, entering the wall of a fitting room, and striking and killing Valentina Orellana Peralta.³

OIS At Burlington Coat Factory

As the LAPD officers neared the second floor of the Burlington store, Mr. Elena Lopez ran toward the back of the store, near the fitting room area.

At 11:48:28 a.m., as Officer Jones was obtaining his patrol rifle from the trunk of his patrol car, unidentified bystanders related information about Mr. Elena Lopez to him: He's not wearing pants," one bystander said, while another stated, "He's wearing shorts."²⁰ At this same time his partner, Officer Suarez, was approaching the front doors of the Burlington store.²¹ Officers Jones and Suarez entered the store as the first four officers to arrive were ascending the escalator to the second floor.

³ California Department of Justice Report — <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tf28zx8y5r7yuyu14kvzc/CA-DEPT.-OF-JUSTICE-REPORT.pdf?rlkey=8wc2va3zj94dpi6l6w14ghjs4&st=a3d4tyvl&dl=0>

Unit 15A43, Police Officer III Mark Stratton and his partner Police Officer I Roxanne Helms, entered the store immediately after Officers Jones and Suarez.

At 11:48:31 a.m., as shown on his body worn video, Officer Mazur told Officer Victor Escobar, “Vic, let Jordan (referring to Officer Jordan Head) hit him with that 40.”

At 11:48:55 a.m., the four officers reached the top of the escalators. Officer Mazur announced several times for everyone in the store to come to the officers; one customer hurried toward the officers from the sales floor.

LAPD North Hollywood Division Patrol Supervisor Sergeant I Jerald Case (Unit 15L50) arrived on scene and also entered the store. Sergeant Case was in full uniform and driving a marked black and white patrol car. He entered the store and ran up the escalator, arriving behind Officer Jones.



After striking W-10 many times with the bicycle lock, Mr. Elena Lopez dragged her backwards towards the fitting room area causing her to fall. W-10 later recalled, “At that moment, I felt he obligated me to fall, and he dragged me like towards the corner outside of the dressing rooms.” “I really felt that he was going to kill me at that moment. I was bleeding a lot. I had received a lot of punches to the head, and I felt that -- that he had decided to kill me.”

At 11:48:54 a.m., Officer Mazur broadcast, “We are trying to sterilize the area.” CD broadcast the suspect description: “North Hollywood units suspect is a male Hispanic wearing a red shirt, shorts, with tattoos on his legs.”



At 11:49:02 a.m., the printout of the dispatch log reflects Officer Mazur’s comments, “One suspect, no pants.” Mazur then stated, “Making contact. One unit, come in from East side, suspect on second floor.”

At 11:49:06 a.m., the LAPD contact team was stopped at the top of the escalators in a diamond formation when Officer Jones caught up to them. Officer Krauss began to move towards Mr. ElenaLopez and W-10, shouting, “We got a guy right here, no pants. Oh, wait, we have a victim down! Victim down! Push!” Mr. Elena Lopez can be seen on Officer Krauss’s body worn video running across the far end of the aisle. He is not wearing pants. W-10 can be seen crumpled on the floor near the aisle. These images are too small to reproduce in this report.

As the contact team followed Officer Krauss, Officer Escobar, who was armed with a shotgun, told Officer Krauss (who was armed with a pistol): “Slow down Krauss, I got point, I got point.” Officer Jones moved towards Officer Krauss, stating, “Hey, slow down, slow down, let me take point with the rifle.”



At 11:49:12 a.m., the officers moved towards Mr. Elena Lopez as he dragged W-10 down a nearby aisle towards the fitting rooms, continuing to strike her over the head with the bicycle lock. Officer Krauss shouted, “He’s hitting her. From behind. On the right. By the fitting room.”

At 11:49:25 a.m., Officer Jones took the position of “point” in the contact team, leading the officers towards Mr. Elena Lopez and W-10. Officer Escobar asked Officer Jones, “You got it? You got it? On your six. Straight ahead on the right-hand side.” Jones walked rapidly, advancing ahead of the other officers. Officer Escobar said, “Slow down, slow down partner, slow down partner.” Officer Mazur yelled from the rear of the contact team, “Slow it down!” as the team was starting to lag behind Officer Jones. As the contact team moved closer, Officer Jones shouted, “Hey, she’s bleeding, she’s bleeding!”

Officer Head had stepped behind Officer Jones and as they moved down the aisle towards Mr. Elena Lopez and W-10. Officer Head said, “Hold up, hold up Jones, hold up - I got it.” Officer Head began to raise the 40-millimeter launcher. Officer Jones, still at the front of the diamond formation, stepped to the opening of the aisle and stood next to W-10 who was down on the ground; Mr. Elena Lopez had moved to the other end of the aisle and was standing 16 feet away from Officer Jones (and 12 feet from W-10) holding a dark object in his hand.

Officer Jones fired his patrol rifle (Colt, AR-15, 5.56 millimeter) three consecutive times in an easterly direction towards Mr. Elena Lopez. The rounds were fired at 11:49:39 a.m. Mr. Elena Lopez fell to the ground. The three rounds were fired in less than one second. After firing, Officer Jones announced, “Shots fired, shots fired, shots fired.”

Less than two minutes passed from the time the first officer entered the Burlington store at 11:47:55 a.m. until Officer Jones shot Mr. Elena Lopez.



As Officer Jones moved forward down the aisle towards Mr. Elena Lopez, Officer Mazur grabbed W-10 to pull her away. Officer Mazur said, referring to Mr. Elena Lopez, “Get him handcuffed and search him.” Officer Mazur stepped towards W-10, reached out to grab her and walked her towards the front of the store.





Officer Escobar moved down the aisle towards Mr. Elena Lopez and began to give commands, ordering him to turn around and get on his stomach. Mr. Elena Lopez did not respond. His hands were concealed under his body. Officer Head moved down the aisle after the shooting and reached Mr. Elena Lopez. Officer Head grabbed Mr. Elena Lopez's left arm and rolled him onto his stomach. After rolling Mr. Elena Lopez over, Officer Head stated, "hold up, his hand's underneath. I can't get the...hand out."

At 11:49:54 a.m., Sergeant Case broadcast to LAPD Communication Division "15L50, shots fired." Officer Krauss requested two ambulances, one for Mr. Elena Lopez and one for W-10.

At 11:50:00 a.m., Officer Mazur broadcast to LAPD Communications Division "We're gonna need two RA's, one for a female, head trauma, conscious and breathing, and one for a male, gunshot wounds." "RA" is a LAPD term for Rescue Ambulance, referring to notifying LAPD CD to request the Los Angeles Fire Department's response.

Police Officer III Mark Stratton responded to the call for backup and assisted Officer Head after Mr. Elena Lopez was rolled onto his stomach, grabbing Mr. Elena Lopez's left hand, and bringing it behind Mr. Elena Lopez's back for handcuffing. As he did this, Officer Stratton asked, "where's his gun?" Officer Escobar passed his shotgun to Sergeant Case and assisted in handcuffing Mr. Elena Lopez. After Mr. Elena Lopez was handcuffed, Officer Stratton again asked, "Where's the gun? Where's the gun?" Officer Escobar yelled "Somebody get a med kit!" and officers began life-saving efforts on Mr. Elena Lopez. While they were putting on gloves, Officer Stratton again asked, "Where is the gun?" and Officer Head replied, "It was a bicycle lock, they said." A black bicycle lock was located next to Mr. Elena Lopez's body.

At 11:50:10 a.m., screaming could be heard from a fitting room that was located behind Mr. Elena Lopez. Officer Krauss moved forward, passing Mr. Elena Lopez, and approaching the

closed door at one of the fitting rooms. He attempted to open the door, but it was locked. Officer Krauss announced, “Police.” The fitting room door opened, and Officer Krauss told the other officers, “We might have another victim down.” Officer Krauss and several other officers located W-1123, lying on the floor inside the fitting room. Next to her was her daughter, Valentina Orellana Peralta, who was also on the fitting room floor.

Officer Krauss observed Ms. Orellana Peralta and stated to other officers, “We have one down, one down.” After finding that there was an additional victim, at 11:52:11 a.m., Officer Mazur broadcast to LAPD CD, requesting an additional rescue ambulance for Ms. Orellana Peralta.

During a subsequent interview, W-11 told investigators that she had been Christmas shopping with her daughter to buy gifts at Burlington. They went to the fitting room to try on clothes. While inside the fitting room they heard fighting outside and latched the door. They were seated in the dressing room when a gunshot came through the wall, striking her daughter.

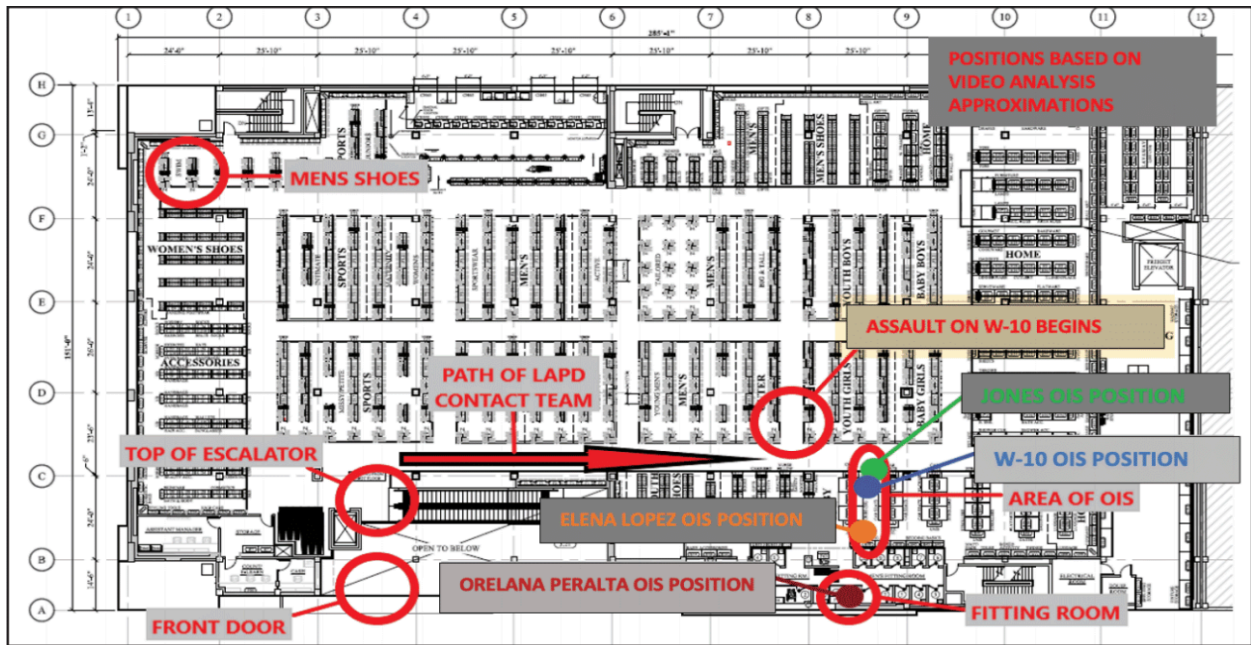
At 11:58:53 a.m., LAPD officers started life-saving efforts on Ms. Orellana Peralta until relieved by Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel at 12:02 p.m. LAFD Rescue Ambulance 89 responded and treated Ms. Orellana Peralta for a gunshot wound to her torso and pronounced her dead at the scene. LAFD Rescue Ambulance 889 also responded and treated Mr. Elena Lopez for a gunshot wound to his torso and pronounced him dead at the scene.

Scene Description

The Burlington Coat Factory store is located at 12121 Victory Boulevard, Unit 100 in North Hollywood. The Officer-Involved Shooting occurred on the second floor of the store. The building is on the northwest corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard, which runs north/south and Victory Boulevard, which runs east/west.⁴



⁴ California Department of Justice Report — <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tf28zx8y5r7yyyu14kvzc/CA-DEPT.-OF-JUSTICE-REPORT.pdf?rlkey=8wc2va3zj94dpi6l6w14ghjs4&st=llzxo1a3&dl=0>



This diagram was provided by the Burlington Coat Factory. The placement of people and events on the diagram was done via video analysis from surveillance cameras inside the store and BWV from the involved officers.

Evidence Recovery

The California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services was notified of the OIS, and Senior Criminalists C. Hughes, J. Dernoncourt and G. Humphreys responded to assist with processing the scene. They arrived at the location on December 23, 2021, at approximately 5:40 p.m.

At approximately 6:44 p.m. LAPD Criminalist J. Dorrell, Serial No. N5003 and Criminalist C. Hunter, SerialNo. N6279 conducted an examination of the OIS scene for ballistic impacts, trajectories, and projectiles. As a result of their examination numerous items of evidence were recovered and documented on a LAPD Property Report. There were sixty total items recovered at scene and booked as evidence.



Incident Scene Evidence – Bullet Impacts

The LAPD Forensic Science Division (FSD) completed a Laboratory Report (SID-21-018839) at the request of investigators to diagram the impacts discovered at the scene. The Impacts and pathways were photographed by Photographer M. C. Sallaberry, Serial No. N3637 under LAPD D# 0802513, as well as Photographer G. Baker, Serial No. N5831 under D# 0801022. The bullet path analysis was performed by visually examining evidence for possible projectile related defects. It should be noted that impact labels do not indicate a sequence.

Impact A - Perforating impact, located on the west surface of the ottoman bench against the east wall

Impact A1 - Perforating impact, located on the east surface of the ottoman bench against the east wall

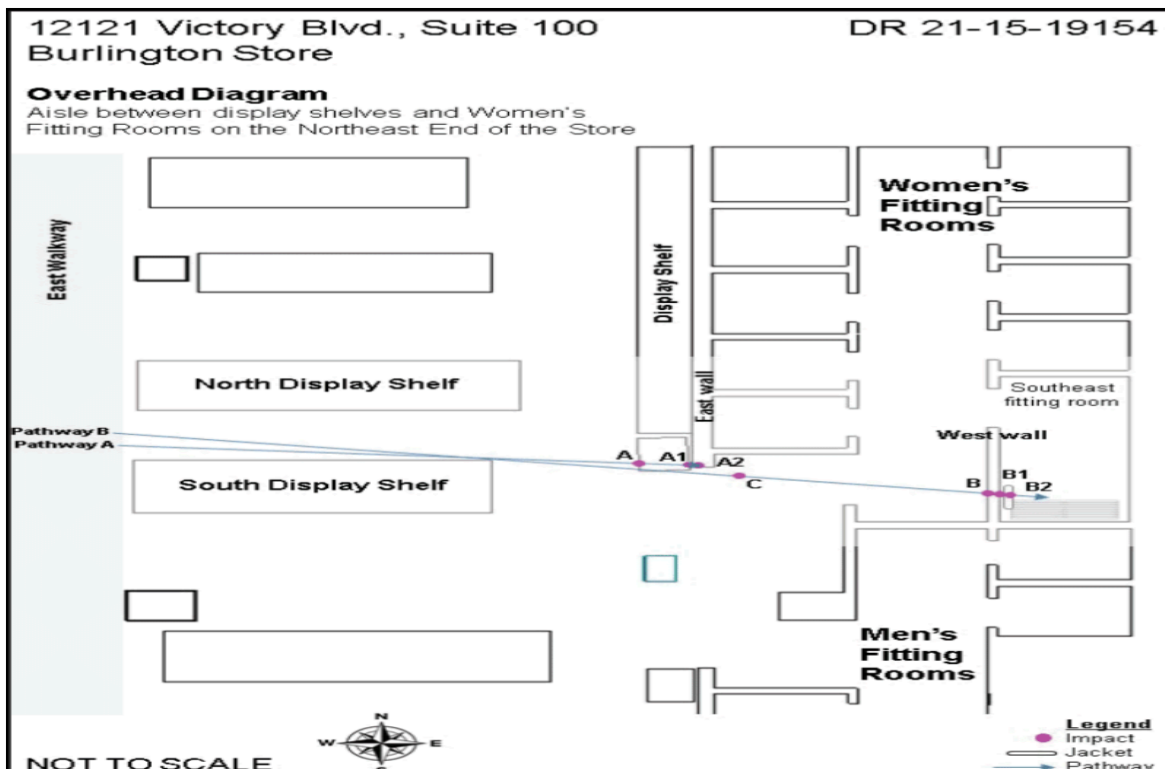
Impact A2 - Penetrating impact, located on the west surface of the east wall.

Impact B - Perforating impact, located on the west surface of the west wall (drywall) of the southeast women's fitting room.

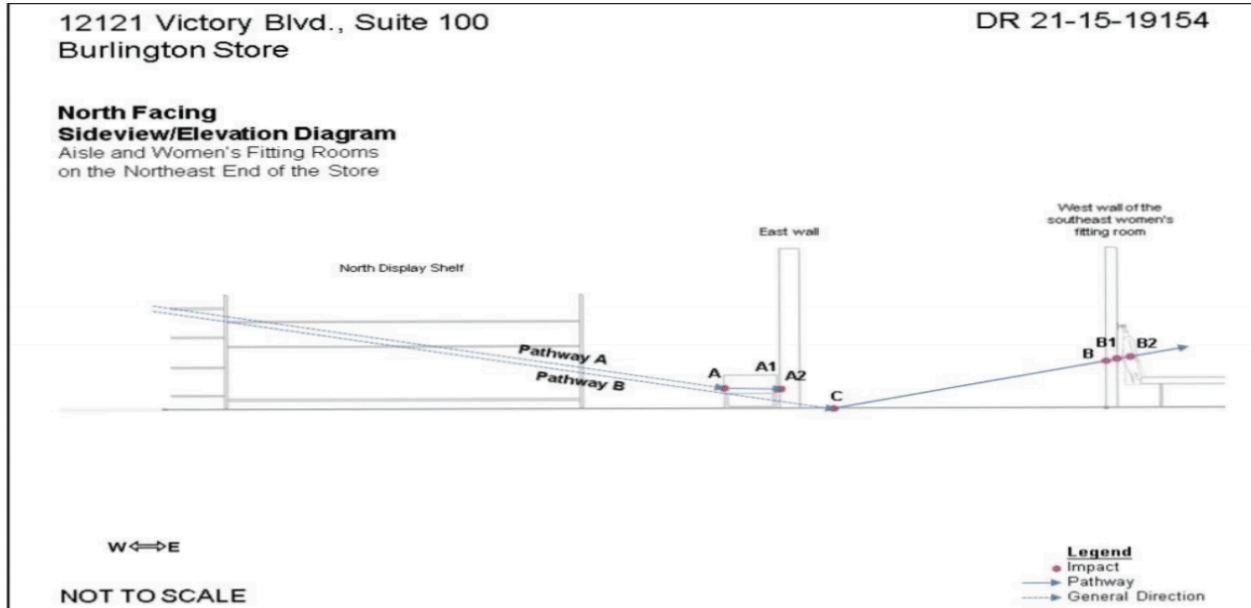
Impact B1 - Perforating impact, located on the east surface of the west wall (drywall) of the southeast women's fitting room. Note: The interior space between the drywall of impact B and the drywall of impact B1 was hollow.

Impact B2 - Perforating impact, located on the jacket hanging on the west wall of the southeast women's fitting room.

Impact C - Non-penetrating impact, located on the floor of the entrance to the women's fitting room area.



LAPD Criminalist J. Dorrell, Serial No. N5003 came to the following conclusions after reviewing the relevant evidence (see diagram below): Pathway A (including impacts A, A1, A2) is consistent with a bullet initially traveling from north to south, west to east, and in a downward direction, deflecting at impact A and continuing to impact A1. Pathway B (including impacts C, B, B1, B2) is consistent with a bullet initially traveling from north to south, west to east, and in a downward direction, deflecting at impact C in an upward direction and continuing to impact B. Pathway labels do not indicate the sequence of shots fired. The impact labels listed within each pathway are arranged in the order of occurrence.



Officer Jones fired three rounds from his rifle. One round struck Mr. Elena Lopez. One round struck a piece of furniture behind Mr. Elena Lopez and subsequently was recovered from a wall behind the furniture. One round struck the ground behind Mr. Elena Lopez, skipped off of a floor tile, entered the wall of the fitting room behind Mr. Elena Lopez, penetrated the wall, and then struck Ms. Orellana Peralta.



Autopsy Report⁵

Department of Medical Examiner, Autopsy performed by Abubakr Marxouk, MD on December 24, 2021 at 8:00 am

Anatomic Summary

- I. Gunshot Wounds (GSW) of Chest:** A single penetrating GSW of the chest, with no soot or stippling noted, consistent with indeterminate range of fire.
 - **Entrance wound:** On left side of chest.
 - **Exit wound:** None noted.
 - **Path & Injuries:** Through diaphragm, spleen, left lung, aorta, and right lung with associated bilateral hemothorax, and soft tissue of right arm.
 - **Trajectory:** Left to right, slightly back to front and upward.
 - **Projectile:** Projectile recovered from the right arm.
- II. Toxicology:**
 - No ethanol (alcohol) or illicit drugs of abuse detected.

Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of the Chest

Manner of Death: Homicide

Identification: The body is identified by Medical Examiner's identification tag around the right big toe bearing the decedent's name, case number, and demographics.

Witnesses: Assisting is Forensic Autopsy Specialist Katia Montoya. Detectives J. Kim from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Special Agent P. Stone from State of California Department of Justice (DOJ) attended examination.

Clothing: The decedent is clad in black jacket, white shirt, black pants, white socks, and black boots when initially viewed.

Medical Intervention: EKG pads noted, with no signs of active resuscitation.

External Examination:

The body is that of a normally developed and well-nourished Hispanic female appearing consistent with the listed age of 14 years. The length is 67 inches, and the weight is 148 pounds as received. The body is well preserved, cold, and has not been embalmed. Rigidity is fully developed in the jaw and extremities.

Lividity is non-blanching on the back.

⁵ Autopsy Report — <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/pdafhq1mk6ef42k5xh8sw/AUTOPSY-REPORT.pdf?rlkey=yypzxlpzpeay1lvgcgn0axhbme&st=wxg81yp7&dl=0>

The head is normocephalic with long brown-red hair. The irises are brown, corneas are clear, sclerae are white, and conjunctivae are free of petechiae. The ears are normally formed and pierced. The nose is intact and unobstructed. The lips are normally formed. The teeth are natural and in good condition. The neck is without injuries, deformities, or excessive nobility.

The chest and breasts are normally formed, symmetrical, and without palpable masses or deformity. GSW is noted on the left middle axillary line of chest, see "Evidence of Injury". The abdomen is flat and soft, with no palpable masses. The external genitalia are those of an adolescent female. The back is straight and symmetrical with no deformity or defects.

The extremities are normally formed. No needle punctures, track marks, amputations, or deformity noted.

Body Markings: No tattoos or major surgical scars are noted.

Evidence of Injury:

A single penetrating GSW of the chest is noted. No soot or stippling noted consistent with indeterminate range of fire.

The GSW is described in the standard anatomic position.

GSW of the Chest:

- **Entrance wound:** On the mid-axillary line of left chest. It measures 1 x 1/2-inch in its largest dimensions with surrounding a symmetric abrasion rim measuring 1/16-inch in width, centered 29 inches from the top of the head, 9 inches left of the anterior midline, and 8 inches from the axilla. No soot or stippling noted.
- **Exit wound:** None noted.
- **Path & Injuries:** The projectile path is through the posterior chest wall through 11th rib and 10th intercostal space, posterior-lateral, with perforation of the diaphragm and injury of the underlying spleen. The projectile continued through the chest cavity with injuries to lower lobe of left lung, thoracic aorta, and all lobes of right lung. The projectile exited the right chest cavity through 3rd inter costal space, lateral, and into the soft tissue of axilla and right arm. The GSW is associated with bilateral hemothorax 700 mL on the right and 400 mL on the left.
- **Trajectory:** Left to right, slightly back to front, and upward.
- **Projectile:** Deformed fully jacketed projectile is recovered from the soft tissue of right arm/axilla.

Other Injuries:

Two very small superficial abrasions are noted superior and inferior to the entrance wound, probably from intermediary target; no clinical significance.

Opinion of Medical Examiner

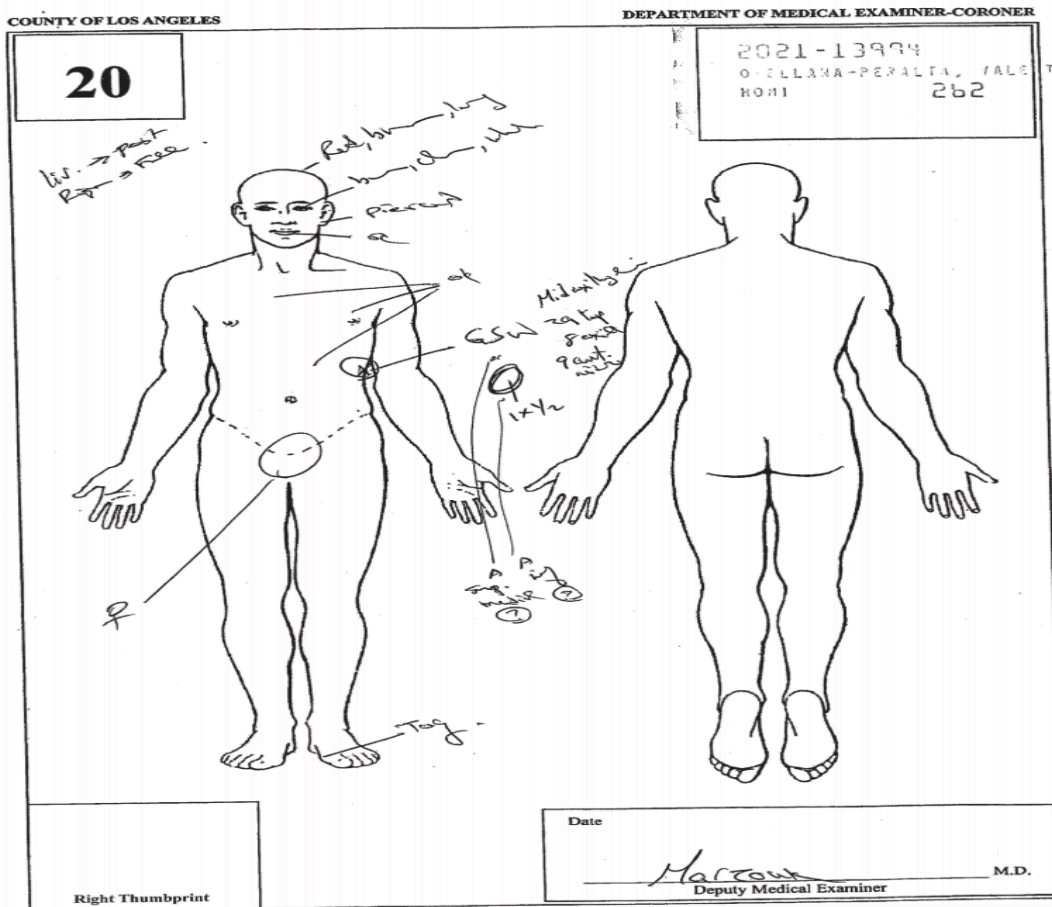
According to the Investigator's Report, on 12/23/2021 at approximately 1149 hours, this 14-year-old adolescent female sustained a GSW while in a dressing room at Burlington Coat Factory during an officer involved shooting of a suspect (companion case 2021-13992) who was acting erratically, assaulting customers, and severely injuring one. The decedent was found beyond resuscitation and was pronounced at 1252 hours. Three gunshot were reportedly fired at the suspect from a police service rifle with .556 ammunition.

External examination revealed a well-developed Hispanic female with a penetrating SW of the chest, and no other injuries or signs of natural disease.

The penetrating GSW had an entrance wound on the left chest and no exit wound. No soot or stippling noted consistent with indeterminate range of fire. The GSW was associated with injuries to aorta, lungs, spleen, diaphragm, fractured rib, and bilateral hemothorax. trajectory was left to right, slightly back to front, and upward. A fully jacketed projectile was recovered from the soft tissue of the right arm; photographed and submitted as evidence.

Toxicology testing was negative for alcohol and illicit drugs of abuse.

Based on the autopsy finding and the circumstances surrounding the death, the cause of death is gunshot wound of the chest and the manner of death is homicide.



Investigator's Narrative

County of Los Angeles, Department of Coroner, completed by Investigator Joseph Cronin on May 29, 2022.

Investigation:

On 12/23/2021 at 1532 hours Los Angeles Police Department Force Investigation Division, Detective D. Kort #34872 reported this apparent Homicide (gunshot wound) death to Coroner Investigator K. McGuire. I was assigned this Field Call by Coroner Captain E. Tauscher at 1757 hours. I arrived on scene at 1905 hours and completed the scene investigation at 2155 hours. Coroner Forensic Attendant B. Bey transported the decedent to the Forensic Science Center, assigned Crypt #262.

Police requested a delayed Coroner response due to their scene investigation.

A routine criminal history inquiry revealed no record.

Informant/Witness Statements:

I spoke with Detective D. Kort #34872 at scene. Information is preliminary as the investigation is ongoing.

He informed that on 12/23/2021 the decedent, Orellana-Peralta, Valentina, was shopping with her mother at the Burlington Coat Factory. At approximately 1149 hours a male suspect, 2021-13992, entered the department store and was stealing clothing, acting erratic and assaulting customers, including assaulting a woman with a bicycle-type cable lock. Multiple 911 calls were received. Police responded to the scene with reports of a possible active shooter. Several police officers entered the building and approached the area where they encountered the suspect actively assaulting a woman. The woman being assaulted woman, bleeding, was crawling away from the suspect towards the approaching police. One of the police officers with a .556 caliber service rifle engaged the suspect and an officer-involved shooting occurred. One of the projectiles from the service rifle traveled through a wall and struck the decedent who was hiding in a nearby dressing room with her mother.

Scene Description:

The location is a department store located on the northwest corner of Victory Boulevard and Laurel Canyon Boulevard in North Hollywood. The multi-story department store is rectangular in design and arranged lengthwise from north to south. The department store building is shared with other businesses and is accessed from a parking lot along the east side of the property. The location was secured by multiple marked police patrol vehicles, posted police officers, and yellow barrier tape.

Department Store: The main entrance to the Burlington Coat Factory section of the building was located on the east side towards the south. The incident occurred in the northeast area of the

second floor, which is arranged with a white tiled main aisle in the center floor that runs in a north/ south direction and flanked by multiple perpendicular aisles, which are approximately 5' tall with multiple shelves of miscellaneous items. Blood was observed on the floor of the main aisle, and perpendicular aisle west of the suspect and dressing room area.

Dressing Room: the decedent was located in a dressing room positioned in the northeast area of the second floor. The main entrance to the dressing room was located at the south side, approximately 20' east of east/west arranged perpendicular aisles. The decedent's dressing room was located just southeast of the dressing room area main entrance. The approximate 5'x8' dressing room, which is designed lengthwise from north / south, was arranged with the entrance door at the north side of the west wall, a bench seat at the south wall, and mirror on the west wall. Two full clothing baskets were observed on the floor at the north side of the dressing room. The bench seat along the south wall was positioned approximately 10" away from the west wall. A gray hoodie-style sweatshirt was hanging from a coat hook on the west wall next to the west side of the bench seat. A cell phone was observed on the bench seat and a mask on the floor near the bench seat and east wall.

Projectile Strike Mark: an apparent projectile strike mark / perforation was observed in the west wall of the dressing room, that apparently traveled through the wall, through the gray hoodie-sweatshirt that was on a coat hook and struck the decedent. Apparent drywall dust from the wall was observed on the gray hoodie-sweatshirt, decedent and dressing room area. Another apparent projectile strike mark was observed in a gray bench seat and wall just west of the suspect.

Decedent: the decedent was observed lying supine on the gray linoleum-type floor of the dressing room, positioned with her head near the bench seat and legs towards the entrance door. Blood gathered beneath the decedent from the injury. Apparent drywall dust was observed on her black pants. Eyeglasses were observed on the decedent's head, positioned above the forehead.

Suspect (2021-013992): the suspect was observed lying supine in the northeast area of the second floor, positioned approximately 20' west of the dressing room entrance area.

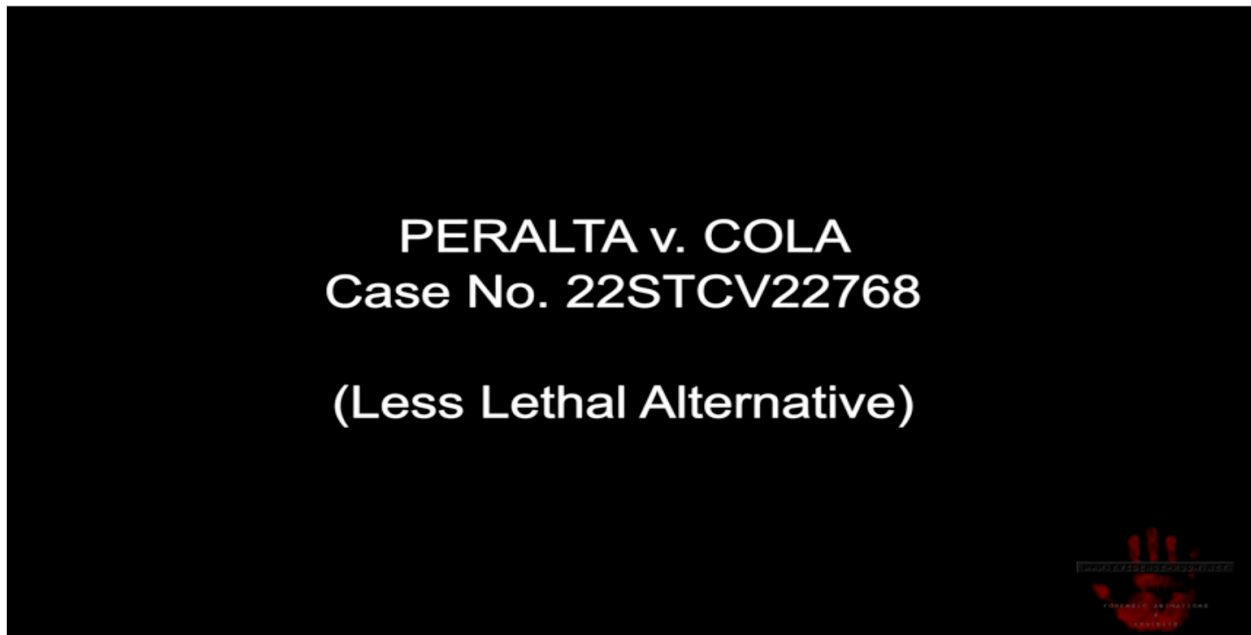
Property: the decedent was wearing glasses, earrings and a nose ring. Her cellular telephone was located on the bench seat in the dressing room.

Evidence:

Physical Evidence: I collected a Gunshot Residue Kit and Fingernail Kit at scene. I collected a Hair Kit at the Forensic Science Center and booked all at the Forensic Science Center.

Evidence Room Reconstruction Animations & Links:

Peralta v. City of Los Angeles - Less Lethal Alternative⁶



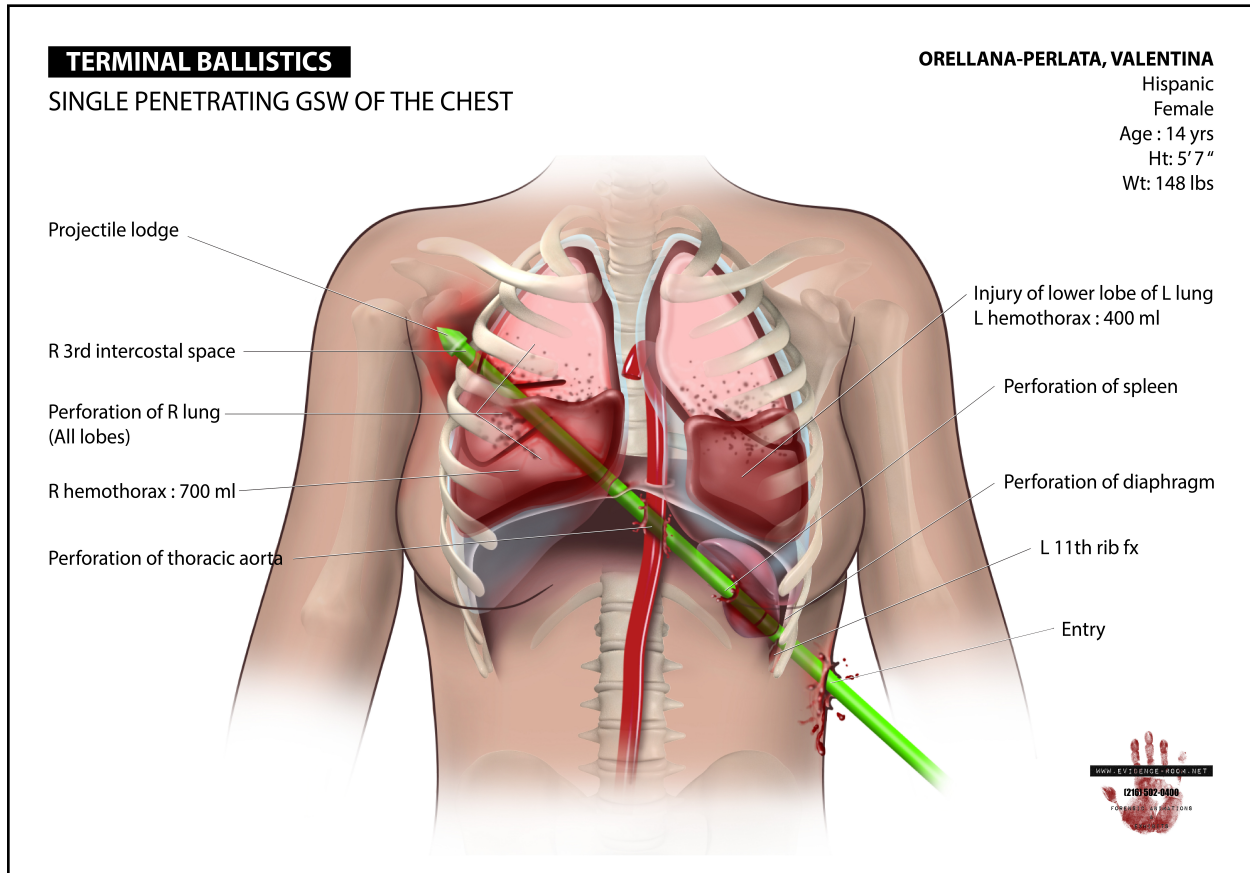
Peralta vs City of Los Angeles - OIS Reconstruction⁷



⁶ Peralta v. COLA - Less Lethal Alternative — <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jcarb859fqv6ru09dse0x/Less-Lethal-Alternative.mov?rlkey=qct43zthhly1v2jszng9o2v3r&st=3h0lkbdm&dl=0>

⁷ Peralta vs LAPD - OIS Reconstruction — <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/s0yfs7mcbj1eo2wmdbyoy/Peralta-OIS-Reconstruction.mp4?rlkey=sqpldba3y9t7h1q04qzbsg7my&st=e69287og&dl=0>

Peralta v. City of Los Angeles - Terminal Ballistics⁸



Opinion

The chronological timeline and shooting scene reconstruction are derived from evidence obtained through discovery and independent investigation. All analysis and conclusions are presented to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty and are based on established forensic methodologies.

At engagement distances of 16 to 32 feet, the AR-15 rifle is inherently more accurate and controllable than standard handgun platforms. Accordingly, the errant rifle round that ricocheted into an occupied dressing room, fatally striking a bystander, cannot be attributed to the limitations of the weapon system. Rather, it demonstrates shooter-induced error under stress. This error reflects two distinct failures: (1) a tactical error in judgment by deploying a rifle in a confined retail environment without clearing the backstop or prioritizing less-lethal alternatives, and (2) a performance error in execution by failing to fire within the expected accuracy envelope of the AR-15 platform.

⁸ Peralta v. City of Los Angeles - Terminal Ballistics — https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/a8g8o18250sjktandhati/Peralta_Terminal-Ballistics.jpg?rlkey=v1atln6w695zugblohohfr4pu&st=ft2q2s8a&dl=0

Ballistic testing data from the California Department of Justice, cited by LAPD use-of-force expert Greg Meyer, established that .40 caliber handgun rounds fired from a Glock Model 22 and 5.56 millimeter rounds fired from a Colt M16A1 demonstrated nearly identical penetration capabilities. These findings directly refute any claim that the AR-15 was uniquely suited to managing penetration or precision concerns. In a confined environment such as a retail store, both weapon systems pose comparable risks of wall penetration and unintended injury to unseen bystanders.

In this case, less-lethal options were both available and tactically appropriate. The suspect was armed with a bike-lock chain, not a firearm. The responding officers had access to OC spray, a Taser, a beanbag shotgun, and numerical superiority to effect hands-on control. These options were viable at the observed distances of 8 to 20 feet and presented substantially less risk to uninvolved persons than discharging a rifle toward a backstop known to be an occupied dressing room.

Final Conclusion

The discharge of the AR-15 in this setting represents a dual breach of professional duty: first, the tactical failure of prematurely resorting to lethal force with a rifle when less-lethal tools were sufficient and available; and second, the execution failure of producing an errant shot with a weapon platform designed for superior accuracy and control. The combined effect of these failures was the creation of an unjustifiable hazard to uninvolved civilians, culminating in a preventable fatality.

Background and Expertise of Evidence Room, LLC.:

Evidence Room Curriculum Vitae⁹

Mr. Scott Roder's Qualifications

The information below will affirm the qualifications of Mr. Scott G. Roder, Executive Head and Evidence Specialist of The Evidence Room, LLC, to testify in cases involving police officers' use of force. Mr. Roder brings a rare combination of field-tested forensic expertise, courtroom experience, and internationally recognized work in complex use-of-force investigations.

Mr. Roder founded The Evidence Room in 2001 and has since consulted on more than 1,500 criminal and civil cases, both in the United States and internationally. He has been qualified as an expert in numerous forensic disciplines including shooting and crime scene reconstruction,

⁹ Evidence Room CV — <https://docs.google.com/document/d/102jZiyAeqop2JqjjwIERoC7KoOhZKCYnI-5wGkAcYXI/edit?usp=sharing>

forensic animation, forensic photography, evidence collection, and video analysis. His work has been admitted and relied upon in federal and state courts across the country.

Mr. Roder's forensic reconstructions are rooted in scientific accuracy, often integrating time-distance analysis, biomechanics, trajectory, blood pattern interpretation, and physical evidence modeling. His reconstructions are particularly invaluable in police-involved shooting investigations, providing fact-based assessments that are visually demonstrative and methodologically sound.

He has been involved in numerous high-profile cases such as the Oscar Pistorius trial, police-involved shootings, and investigations of suspicious deaths, suicides, and in-custody fatalities. His work has also contributed to television documentaries and legal education programs, including contributions to the Henry C. Lee Institute's Markle Symposium on Officer-Involved Shootings and the "Making an Exoneree" program at Georgetown University.

Mr. Roder holds certifications and training in advanced bloodstain pattern analysis (Bevel, Gardner & Associates), officer-involved shooting investigations (PATC, Ohio State Highway Patrol), crime scene investigation (NFSTC), and modern homicide techniques (IHIA). He has undergone over 500 hours of accredited training in forensic science disciplines relevant to use-of-force investigations.

Additionally, Mr. Roder is a member of professional organizations including:

- Ethics Board of the Crime Scene Reconstruction Association of America
- Police Policy Studies Council (PPSC)
- International Association for Identification (IAI)
- International Association of Forensic & Security Metrology (IAFSM)
- International Homicide Investigators Association (IHIA)
- Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction (ACSR)

His work has directly contributed to trial outcomes, settlement decisions, and post-conviction relief in criminal, civil, and federal matters—particularly those involving officer-involved shootings (OIS) and alleged civil rights violations.

1. Demonstrated Impartiality and Balance

Mr. Roder is distinguished by his unwavering objectivity. He has been retained by both plaintiffs and defendants, including municipal police departments, federal law enforcement, civil rights attorneys, public defenders, and innocence projects. His findings are driven by scientific analysis, not ideology. Whether reconstructing an officer's decision-making under high-stress conditions or evaluating alleged misconduct in wrongful death claims, Mr. Roder consistently applies established forensic methods with neutrality and precision.

Notable examples of this impartiality include:

- **State v. Christopher Dunn (St. Louis, 2023):** Retained by the Innocence Project to conduct a forensic crime scene reconstruction in support of post-conviction relief.
- **Ohio v. Ray Tensing (2017):** Retained by law enforcement in a controversial OIS. Mr. Roder was qualified as an expert through a *Daubert* hearing and provided trial testimony as a reconstruction, shooting dynamics, and video analysis expert.
- **Akron OIS / Jayland Walker (2023):** Led a comprehensive forensic reconstruction of a high-profile police shooting.
- **Shaun Cunningham v. Stark County:** Retained by the defense to reconstruct an officer-involved shooting incident.
- **Griffin v. Atlanta Police Department (Federal):** Testified as a plaintiff's expert in a civil rights lawsuit arising from a disputed shooting.

This balance in casework has earned Mr. Roder a reputation as a credible and nonpartisan forensic witness, trusted by both sides of the aisle in litigation.

2. Consistent Engagement in Officer-Involved Shooting Cases

Over the past two decades, Mr. Roder has been retained in more than **50 OIS investigations**, offering technical expertise in:

- **Bullet trajectory and impact modeling**
- **Scene reconstruction and evidence spatialization**
- **Video deconstruction and surveillance interpretation**
- **Forensic animation for trial presentation**
- **Expert deposition and live trial testimony**

Representative matters include:

- **Mondragon v. Miskalla (Hayward Police, 2022):** Provided bullet trajectory analysis and forensic animation in a disputed OIS incident.
- **Coucke v. Houston (2023):** Federal litigation following a fatal police shooting; Mr. Roder was retained to analyze scene evidence and force dynamics.
- **Daniels v. Oakland (2021) and Daniels v. Fremont (2023):** Reconstructed multiple OIS scenes across different jurisdictions involving the same decedent.
- **Rowlett v. City of Chicago (2021):** Offered expert trial testimony in an OIS wrongful death case.

- **Love v. Cleveland, Hives v. Oakland, Doucet v. LAPD, Jackson v. Austin**, among others: Mr. Roder provided comprehensive forensic visuals, trajectory reconstructions, or testimony addressing the reasonableness and proportionality of force used.

These assignments often involved complex evidentiary records, multiple officers, conflicting witness accounts, and the need for demonstrative visuals to clearly present findings to triers of fact.

3. National and International Recognition

Mr. Roder's forensic expertise has been sought not only across the United States, but also in internationally scrutinized investigations involving the use of lethal force and disputed death determinations. His involvement in these cases reflects both global credibility and a deep understanding of diverse law enforcement standards and protocols.

Significant international engagements include:

- **Amy Wensley Death Investigation (Australia, 2024):** OIS reconstruction in a controversial shooting by law enforcement.
- **South Africa v. Oscar Pistorius:** Reconstructed one of the world's most watched homicide trials involving a high-profile shooting.
- **Australia: Constable Rolfe Case (2021):** Expert consultant in a controversial OIS matter involving Aboriginal-police relations and use-of-force scrutiny.
- **FBI Miami Platt/Matix Shooting (Historical Reconstruction):** Retained by the FBI Fallen Heroes Foundation and Miami-Dade PD to reconstruct a landmark law enforcement gun battle for training and archival purposes.

Positioning Statement

With a history of successful courtroom qualification—including under *Daubert* and *Frye* standards—Mr. Roder is well-positioned to provide credible, technically sound, and courtroom-ready expert testimony in matters involving law enforcement use of force. His experience spans state and federal venues, both civil and criminal. He is trusted by **civil rights plaintiffs, defense counsel, law enforcement agencies, and government oversight bodies** alike.

In a legal landscape increasingly shaped by video evidence, evolving standards of police accountability, and the demand for precise forensic interpretation, **Scott A. Roder's balanced perspective, technical acumen, and extensive case experience uniquely position him to serve as a qualified expert in matters involving use of force, fatalities, and scene reconstruction.** His history of courtroom-tested expert testimony, rigorous training, and objective, evidence-based approach make him exceptionally capable of providing clear and credible analysis in law enforcement use-of-force investigations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Roder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "R".

Scott G. Roder, Evidence Specialist
Roderevidence@icloud.com
216-502-0400

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Frate". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large initial "M" and "F".

Megan Frate, MCJ., Forensic Analyst
megan_frate@icloud.com