OFFICER-INVOLVED FATAL INCIDENT REPORT

Employer Agency: Santa Rosa Police Department
Lead Investigating Agency: Sonoma County Sheriff's Department
Decedent: Matteo Alexander Ramirez-Santos
Incident: August 14, 2025

Report Prepared by:
SONOMA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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I. INTRODUCTION

On August 14, 2025, twenty-one-year-old Matteo Alexander Ramirez-Santos was shot with a single round discharged from a firearm by Santa Rosa Police Department Officer Sean Keaney. Mr. Ramirez-Santos died because of those gunshot wounds.

Following Mr. Ramirez-Santos' death, the Santa Rosa Police Department invoked the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Employee-Involved Fatal Incident Protocol ("protocol"). The purpose of this protocol is to set forth procedures and guidelines to be used by Sonoma County law enforcement agencies in the criminal investigation of specifically defined incidents involving law enforcement employees. Under this protocol an outside law enforcement agency is designated to investigate officer-involved fatalities.[1]

In this case, members of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department assumed responsibility for the investigation of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' death. Members of the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office participated in the investigation in a supporting role, in accordance with the protocol.

Under the protocol the role of the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office is to review the investigation to determine if there exists any criminal liability on the part of involved parties including the law enforcement employees, to provide assistance to the investigating agency regarding legal issues, to supplement the investigation when necessary, and, when appropriate, prosecute those persons believed to have violated the law.

Once the investigation is complete the District Attorney is required by the protocol to complete a thorough review of the investigation and prepare a report summarizing the investigation and documenting her conclusions. A copy of this report is to be submitted to the foreperson of the Sonoma County Grand Jury.

This report includes a summary of facts surrounding the death of Matteo Alexander Ramirez-Santos, a statement of the applicable law, legal analysis and conclusions. This report does not and cannot include all of the information contained in the reports and digital media reviewed in its preparation. However, every effort has been made to include in this report a summary of all of the relevant, material evidence gathered by the involved agency and the investigating agencies over the course of its extensive investigation of this death.

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1 Effective January 1, 2021, the California Legislature enacted Government Code section 12525.3. Section 12525.3 provides that the Attorney General shall investigate officer-involved shooting incidents that result in the death of an unarmed civilian. The Attorney General was made aware of this incident but took no part in this investigation following their determination that this investigation was related to an officer-involved shooting of an armed civilian, as opposed to that of an unarmed civilian.

II. SCOPE OF REVIEW

The purpose of the District Attorney's investigation and review of any critical incident is to establish the presence or absence of criminal liability on the part of any involved party, including law enforcement employees.

The District Attorney does not examine issues such as compliance with the policies and procedures of any law enforcement agency, police training, or issues involving civil liability. This report should not be interpreted as expressing an opinion on those matters.

III. STANDARD OF REVIEW

The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement official of Sonoma County. The District Attorney is responsible for deciding what cases to prosecute and has the responsibility to review and approve the filing of all criminal cases in the county. The District Attorney has discretion to determine whom to charge, what charges to file and pursue, and what punishments to seek.

The California Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 3.8, provides that prosecutors shall not institute criminal charges when the prosecutor knows that the charges are not supported by probable cause. Although a prosecutor can institute criminal charges when supported by probable cause, in filed criminal cases the District Attorney has the burden of proving a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the highest burden of proof found in the law. A defendant facing criminal charges is entitled to have the question of their guilt determined by a jury. That jury, consisting of twelve people from the community, must vote unanimously for guilt before a defendant can be convicted of a charged criminal offense.

When determining whether criminal charges are appropriate the District Attorney must consider all of the evidence, including evidence that supports an affirmative defense, such as a claim of self-defense or defense of others. Criminal charges are warranted only when the District Attorney determines that the evidence of guilt is of such convincing force that it would support a conviction for the crime charged by a reasonable and objective jury after hearing all the admissible evidence, including evidence of any defenses.

IV. SUMMARY OF FACTS

A. DECEDENT'S BACKGROUND

Records indicate that Matteo Alexander Ramirez-Santos was born on December 17, 2004. Mr. Ramirez-Santos is also known as: Matteo Alexsander Ramirez, Matteo Santos, Alexsander Mat Santosramirez, Matteo Alexsander Santos.

On February 26, 2024, Mr. Ramirez-Santos was convicted of a felony charge of possession of a machine gun and a misdemeanor of possession of a firearm without serial numbers in Sonoma County. Mr. Ramirez-Santos was granted probation with gang terms. Mr. Ramirez-Santos was ordered to serve 180 days in jail. He was not to possess firearms and was given "gang terms," which precluded him from having any association with gang members and not to possess gang indicia, among others. In addition to his probation terms, as a convicted felon, Mr. Ramirez-Santos was prohibited from possessing firearms. In July 2024 and again in October 2024, Mr. Ramirez-Santos was found to be in violation of the terms of his probation. On each occasion, he was sanctioned to serve time in jail and was continued on probation. At the time of his death, Mr. Ramirez-Santos had a no bail fully extraditable warrant for his arrest for another probation violation based on charged offenses set forth below that was issued on June 13, 2025.

On June 5, 2025, the District Attorney filed felony charges for robbery, a violent felony under California law, and conspiracy against Mr. Ramirez-Santos for events alleged to have occurred on May 5, 2025. At the time of his death, Mr. Ramirez-Santos had not yet appeared in court on this case, having failed to appear on June 23, 2025, and had a no bail fully extraditable warrant out for his arrest.

On August 7, 2025, the District Attorney filed felony charges of domestic violence causing injury, criminal threats, a serious felony under California law, dissuading a witness from reporting a crime, a serious felony under California law, against Mr. Ramirez-Santos for events alleged to have occurred on August 1, 2025 and August 2, 2025. The victim, who will be referred to herein as Jane Doe, was Mr. Ramirez-Santos' girlfriend with whom he had a child in common. Jane Doe had physical injuries that were visibly present when she met with law enforcement. Jane Doe also told law enforcement that Mr. Ramirez-Santos told her that he would kill her if she reported anything to law enforcement. Jane Doe was also involved in the events precipitating the shooting involved in this investigation as set forth in more detail below. At the time of his death, Mr. Ramirez-Santos had not yet appeared in court on this case and had a no bail fully extraditable warrant out for his arrest.

In each of the cases referenced above, the Santa Rosa Police Department was the law enforcement agency involved.

B. EVENTS ON AUGUST 13, 2025

On August 13, 2025, at 2212, Jane Doe called 911. On the recorded call, she is clearly upset and was crying as she spoke to the 911 dispatch operator. She said that she had just left her residence located on Keagan Dr. in Santa Rosa and that her ex-boyfriend, Mr. Ramirez-Santos, had gone into the residence with an "old" black revolver. When she was asked by the 911 dispatch operator if Mr. Ramirez-Santos had shown her the gun, she replied "yes" and that he "grabbed me by the hair" and "held it to my head." She said that her parents were home. She said that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had threatened to shoot her and her parents. Santa Rosa Police Department officers arrived both at Jane Doe's location and at the residence on Keegan Dr. within minutes.

Initial contact with Jane Doe

Officer Lilah Gavlick arrived at Jane Doe's location, near the corner of Gardner Ave. and Lombardi Lane, which is approximately 0.3 miles from the residence on Keegan Dr. Officer Gavlick noted that Jane Doe was "visibly shaken and was crying hysterically." She was holding her two-month-old infant (L.P.), a baby she had with Mr. Ramirez-Santos. She said that her parents were home sleeping when Mr. Ramirez-Santos entered the residence on Keegan Dr. and that she had made several attempts to reach her father by phone to alert him, finally reaching him. During her phone call with her father, Jane Doe could hear Mr. Ramirez-Santos yelling at him in the background. Officer Gavlick had Jane Doe call her father. Officer Gavlick then spoke to Jane Doe's father who said that he and his wife were outside of the residence and that Mr. Ramirez-Santos was inside of the residence and in a back bedroom. Officer Gavlick then conducted a more in-depth domestic violence interview with Jane Doe about her history with Mr. Ramirez-Santos and what had happened earlier in the evening.

Jane Doe said that she had been in an "on and off" relationship with Mr. Ramirez-Santos for approximately a year and a half and that they were currently broken up. Jane Doe stated that there was a history of domestic violence involving Mr. Ramirez-Santos, the most recent of which was the early August incident noted above.

Jane Doe said that at approximately 1800 hours that evening she picked Mr. Ramirez-Santos up from his residence so he could spend some time with L.P. The three returned to the residence on Keegan Dr. where they remained for most of the evening. At some point, they decided to drive to In-N-Out on Santa Rosa Ave. Surveillance video taken from the residence on Keegan Dr. shows Mr. Ramirez-Santos entering the passenger side of Jane Doe's vehicle and a firearm can be seen in his waistband.

While at In-N-Out, Mr. Ramirez-Santos wanted to leave as he thought people were staring at him. Jane Doe said Mr. Ramirez-Santos was "extremely paranoid." She said that he had not been taking his prescribed mental health medications.

On the way back to the residence on Keegan Dr., L.P. became "extremely fussy" and was crying loudly, so she decided to pull into a McDonald's parking lot to try to comfort L.P. Jane Doe took L.P. out of her car seat and had her on her lap while she remained in the driver's seat. Mr. Ramirez-Santos was in the front passenger's seat. Mr. Ramirez-Santos was upset that L.P. was crying. He then yelled at L.P. and blamed Jane Doe for L.P. crying. Mr. Ramirez-Santos told Jane Doe: "You make me want to kill you."

At this point, Jane Doe attempted to get out of the car through the driver's door. Mr. Ramirez-Santos grabbed her by her hair and yanked her back into the vehicle. He then reached across her and pulled the driver's door shut, striking L.P. in the head during the struggle. Mr. Ramirez-Santos then pulled a black revolver out his waistband and struck Jane Doe in the head with it. He then held the firearm to her head and threatened to kill her. Jane Doe tried to calm Mr. Ramirez-Santos down by apologizing and telling him she loved him. She was able to convince him to let her drive them back to the residence on Keegan Dr.

During the drive back to the residence on Keegan Dr., L.P. continued to cry, resulting in Mr. Ramirez-Santos "ripping" L.P. out of her car seat and yelling at her, which only caused L.P. to cry more. He also continued yelling at Jane Doe and making degrading comments about her. At one point, Mr. Ramirez-Santos told Jane Doe: "If you call the police I'm going to shoot the police and have a shoot out. I'm gonna go out."

When they arrived at the residence on Keegan Dr., Jane Doe was able to get Mr. Ramirez-Santos to hand L.P. to her. He then exited the vehicle. Fearing that Mr. Ramirez-Santos was going to kill her, she then quickly drove away. Mr. Ramirez-Santos chased her briefly before running back and entering the residence. Mr. Ramirez-Santos then began texting her. In those text messages, Mr. Ramirez-Santos said he was going to die that night.

Initial response to residence on Keegan Dr.

Officer Andres Lindsay responded directly to the residence on Keegan Dr. Jane Doe's parents had exited the residence prior to law enforcement arrival. Officer Lindsay spoke with her father. The father said that at approximately 2200 hours, his daughter, Jane Doe, called him and reported that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had assaulted her with a firearm. Jane Doe told him that she was able to get away from him. During this phone call, Mr. Ramirez-Santos entered the residence and began yelling about his relationship with Jane Doe. Mr. Ramirez-Santos went to Jane Doe's bedroom located at the back of the residence. The parents then exited the residence. The mother provided a substantially similar statement.

The father showed Officer Lindsay a text message exchange he had with Jane Doe.

Jane Doe:	"He's going to kill me."
Father:	"Call the police to come get him."
Jane Doe:	"He has a gun."
Father:	"Where?"
Jane Doe:	"He held it to my head. He's gonna kill the cops if I call them. I'm

fucking scared."

Additional events that evening

Jane Doe was being evaluated and treated in an ambulance. During this process, Mr. Ramirez-Santos tried to call her and sent her text messages. One of the messages stated: "I will kill the cops if you contact the cops." Members of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' family also attempted to contact Jane Doe but she did not respond.

Per protocols, Officer Lindsay completed a domestic violence packet with Jane Doe, which included a violence checklist and lethality screening, which was screened in as "high danger." At Jane Doe's request, officers secured an Emergency Protective Order (EPO), which issued at 2251 hours. In addition to the three outstanding felony warrants for Mr. Ramirez-Santos' arrest noted above, officers developed probable cause to arrest Mr. Ramirez-Santos for the following felony crimes committed that evening: domestic violence involving a traumatic injury for the visible contusions observed on Jane Doe (Penal Code §273.5(a)), criminal threats to shoot Jane Doe while holding a firearm to her head (Penal Code §422(a)), assault with a firearm for striking Jane Doe with a firearm and holding a firearm to her head (Penal Code §245(a)(2)), child endangerment for striking L.P. in the head (Penal Code §273a), dissuading a victim by threats for telling Jane Doe not to call law enforcement while armed with a firearm (Penal Code §136.1(c)(1)), false imprisonment for preventing Jane Doe from leaving her vehicle while holding a firearm to her head (Penal Code §236) and probation violations for these same crimes.

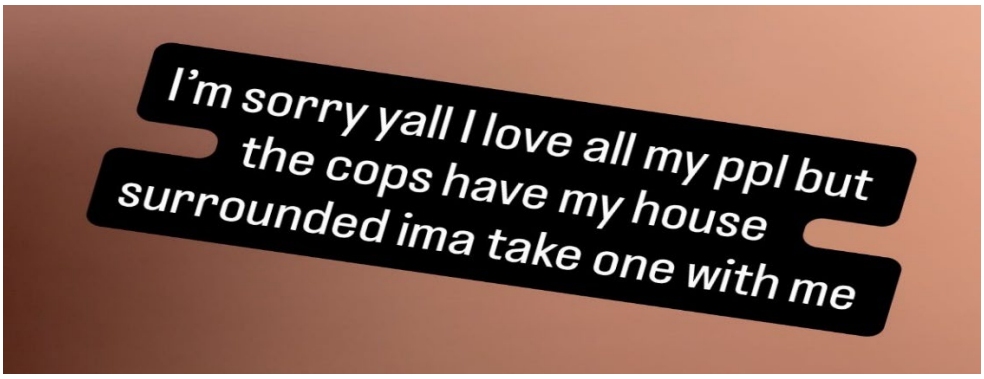
Multiple additional officers responded to the residence on Keegan Dr. and set up a command post. A perimeter around the residence was established. Drone surveillance was conducted on the exterior of the residence. Neighbors were advised to shelter in place. The Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) and Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) personnel were also requested to respond. In addition to the above, the responding officers were advised through dispatch of additional particulars involving Mr. Ramirez-Santos including the following: he was a member of the Norteno criminal street gang and that he was possibly suicidal.

At 2300, all units were advised: "Objective is to contain him and convince him to communicate." At 2307, law enforcement personnel began making public address announcements advising of their presence and commands for Mr. Ramirez-Santos to surrender peacefully. Based on subsequent interviews with several neighbors, these announcements were heard throughout the neighborhood over the course of that evening and the following morning. At 2310, Jane Doe reported that Mr. Ramirez-Santos sent her a text message saying that he is "going to die because of this."

At 2327, Mr. Ramirez-Santos made the following post to Facebook:

C. EVENTS ON AUGUST 14, 2025 (EARLY A.M.)

At 0008, Mr. Ramriez-Santos made the following post to Instagram:



As of 0036, both HNT and SWAT teams were on scene. Throughout the early morning hours, PA announcements continued to regularly be made for Mr. Ramirez-Santos to exit the residence and peacefully surrender. At 0126, the Santa Rosa Police Department's armored rescue vehicle (ARV) arrived at the residence and parked in the front yard facing the front of the residence.

HNT team members, Officers Tanya Wagner and Justin Mahre, met with Mr. Ramirez-Santos' adoptive mother/aunt and biological mother at the scene at approximately 0127. Use of a recorded third-party intermediary (TPI) recording, which is a tool utilized to facilitate communication and attempt to convince a barricaded subject to surrender peacefully was discussed with each. Mr. Ramirez-Santos' adoptive mother/aunt agreed to participate but her biological mother declined because she thought it would make him think she was aligned with law enforcement against him. She did suggest, however, that the HNT team members refer to L.P. as they continued to try to negotiate with Mr. Ramirez-Santos.

Mr. Rarmirez-Santos' biological mother told Officer Mahre that she had spoken with Mr. Ramirez-Santos by phone at 2300. Mr. Ramirez-Santos told his biological mother "goodbye" and that "the house was surrounded." She responded by telling him: "Don't do anything fucking stupid." Mr. Ramirez-Santos then hung up on her. At 2309, Mr. Ramirez-Santos' adoptive mother/aunt informed Officer Wagner that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had sent her a text message, which stated: "Sorry, Bye I Love You."

At 0154, Officer Mahre spoke on the phone with Mr. Ramirez-Santos' brother. His brother said that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had called him at 2313 last evening. Mr. Ramirez-Santos told his brother that he was sorry and that he loved him.

At 0212, Mr. Ramirez-Santos adoptive mother/aunt informed Officer Mahre that she had called Mr. Ramirez-Santos and he was crying and blaming his family members and Jane Doe for pushing him away. She told him that he was "having an episode" and that "he was not in the right mind." She told him that he "needs to not do this." He then hung up on her. Officer Mahre then placed over a dozen calls to Mr. Ramirez-Santos, none of which were answered. Officer Mahre also sent him several text messages and never received a response. At 0239, Mr. Ramirez-Santos adoptive mother/aunt called Officer Mahre again and reported that she had just spoken to Mr. Ramirez-Santos and that he had told her "he was not coming out" and that "it was not going to end well." He told her that "he's good with God." Officer Mahre again tried to call Mr. Ramirez-Santos both from his adoptive mother's phone and from his own to no avail. Throughout the course of the early morning hours, public address announcements continued to be made for Mr. Ramirez-Santos to exit and surrender.

At 0408, a search warrant was issued permitting the forced entry into the residence. SWAT officer planned a coordinated deployment of gas canisters into the residence in order to facilitate an evacuation of the residence by Mr. Ramirez-Santos. At 0425, the front door of the residence was breached by the ARV. More commands were given at this time directly from the ARV for Mr. Ramirez-Santos to surrender. At 0428, a drone was deployed in through the front door. Several rooms and areas were cleared but a rear bedroom door was closed. Additional surrender commands were given with no response.

At 0453, gas was deployed into the residence. SWAT team member Officer Sean Keaney was positioned in the turret of the ARV. Mr. Ramirez-Santos was observed running across the front doorway from right to left at 04:55:09. It appears he has a firearm in his hand.

At 04:55:11, Mr. Ramirez-Santos' hands can be seen with what appears to be a firearm on the left edge of the doorway. A "bang" is heard at this same time.

At 04:55:16, Mr. Ramirez-Santos exits the house and runs toward the rear of the ARV. It appears he has a firearm in his right hand.

The three still shots above were taken from Officer Keaney's body worn camera (BWC). It is difficult to capture the critical, split-second moments in a series of still shots, which is all that is available to incorporate into this written report. When watching the video, however, it is much easier to definitively see and hear what transpires. A firearm can be seen in Mr. Ramirez-Santos' hand as he runs from right to left across the front doorway. A left portion of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' upper extremity and the firearm are seen along the left edge of the doorway simultaneously with the sound of a gunshot. Seconds later, Mr. Ramirez-Santos can be seen running out of the doorway holding a firearm in his right hand.

Subsequent investigation revealed that a surveillance camera was positioned on the residence pointing towards the walkway up to the front door. This viewpoint also captures the portion of the front yard where the ARV was parked. This camera captured Mr. Ramirez-Santos as he exited the residence and ran towards the officers positioned at the driver's side rear of the ARV. The time stamp on this image does not reflect the actual time of the event. Subsequent investigation determined the time to be 31 minutes fast. In this still shot, Mr. Ramirez-Santos' right hand is seen and it appears he has a firearm in his right hand.

At 04:55:18, a second "bang" is heard on Officer Keaney's BWC. By this time, Mr. Ramirez-Santos was not captured by Officer Keaney's BWC due to his location and the angle of the BWC but there is no break in the video and the sound is present. This is the fatal shot fired by Officer Keaney. Mr. Ramirez-Santos fell immediately and was secured by several officers. Moments later, Mr. Ramirez-Santos was pronounced deceased. The residence was cleared and secured by officers. Pursuant to the Sonoma County Chief's Association Fatal Incident Protocol, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Violent Crimes Investigations Unit would conduct the investigation. Sheriff's Office personnel responded to the scene to begin their investigation.

In front of the closed garage door, a few feet away from where Mr. Ramirez-Santos' body was located, officers found a black and gold black powder revolver. The hammer was seated against a percussion cap, which appeared to have been fired. The percussion cap had black soot on the exterior of the cap appeared distorted. The cylinder, directly in line with the fired percussion cap contained a deformed lead projectile, which appeared to have been pushed up against the cylinder and barrel having failed to travel through the barrel as designed.

D. EVENTS ON AUGUST 14, 2025 (LATER A.M.)

At 0610, Officer Robert Scalercio responded to a call for service at a residence on Elmwood Ave. in the Santa Rosa Police Department's jurisdiction involving a man running into and out of a residence yelling. When Officer Scalercio arrived, he spoke with Mr. Ramirez-Santos' adoptive mother/aunt sitting in a vehicle near the residence. Once Officer Scalercio realized her connection to the events earlier that morning, he offered her his condolences and offered support services. Mr. Ramirez-Santos's brother then ran out of the house yelling at Officer Scalercio saying that they had killed his brother. When Officer Scalercio was about to leave, he was approached by Mr. Ramirez-Santos' adoptive father/uncle who asked to speak with him. He told Officer Scalercio that he "knew this was coming" and that Mr. Ramirez-Santos was "so sad all the time." The adoptive father/uncle was talking to Mr. Ramirez-Santos' brother and Officer Scalercio when he said that Mr. Ramirez-Santos "wanted it." "Matteo wanted fucking death by cops. He wanted to go out like that. I know he did."

E. SUBSEQUENT SEARCH OF SOCIAL MEDIA

As a part of their investigation, Sheriff's Officer investigators served search warrants on various social media platforms for various accounts owned by Mr. Ramirez-Santos. In addition to confirming the Instagram and Facebook posts noted above, that were observed in real time and known to officers at the scene, several other communications between Mr. Ramirez-Santos and others during the times pertinent to this investigation were discovered.

On August 13, 2025 at 2311, Mr. Ramirez-Santos sent the following message to an associate: "ima die rn the cops have my house surrounded."

On August 13, 2025 between 2311 and 2317, one of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' associates sent him the following message: "Brother, come on blood, U will only get a year or less, don't crash, be a man homies wouldn't want you to crash homie, I love you brother think blood, use your brain, my pops taught you better than that nigga, nigga think blood, niggas care about you, don't crash, just serve yo time, like a gangsta, aaron wouldn't want this, don't be stupid blood, you got a kid, yo kid needs a dad, think the homies wouldn't want this, we not crash outs."

On August 14, 2025 between 0437 and 0440, Mr. Ramirez-Santos and an a associate had the following exchange:

Associate:	Pls don't do anything that finna traumatize us bro, I can't lose my girl and my brother in the same year.
Ramirez-Santos:	Fuck you put your feelings first idc you never cared, that's gonna be what humbles you in life.
Associate:	bro why you lashing out at us?
Ramirez-Santos:	bc I can't walk to you guys.
Associate:	just think about your daughter bro don't you love her, wym
Ramirez-Santos:	yeah but her mom hates me.

Associate:	so what, your daughter bro, that's the main focus.
Ramirez-Santos:	Ik im fucjed up bro you don't even understand.
Associate:	your little girl bro, Ok but dying isn't gonna do shit, just give up bro pls, don't make it worst, don't take my brother away from me.

F. SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS OF OFFICERS

Sean Keaney

On August 13, 2025, Officer Keaney, an officer with eleven years of experience between Oakland and Santa Rosa, was on duty and working patrol as a part of the Santa Rosa Police Department's Special Enforcement Team. Officer Keaney is also a member of SWAT. At approximately 2200, he was dispatched to the residence on Keegan Dr. Officer Keaney was familiar with the address and with Mr. Ramirez-Santos from a domestic violence call for service at that address involving Mr. Ramirez-Santos as the suspect. He had personal knowledge of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' status as a Norteno gang member, involvement with weapons, and outstanding felony warrants for his arrest.

Once Officer Keaney arrived at the residence on Keegan Dr., he was briefed on the events of that evening, including that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had struck his ex-girlfriend with a firearm while she was holding their two-month-old infant, threatened to kill her and her family members and was barricaded alone in the residence and refusing commands to exit the residence and peacefully surrender.

Over the course of the next several hours, Officer Keaney was stationed inside of the ARV. He flew the drone through the residence as noted above. He also rotated assignments with fellow SWAT members, including positioning in the turret. During the late evening hours of August 13 and early morning hours of August 14, Officer Keaney was present when ongoing public address announcements were made from the ARV for Mr. Ramirez-Santos to surrender peacefully and exit the residence. He, along with the other officers present, was briefed in real time of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' social media posts and communications with his family members stating his knowledge that law enforcement was present and had the residence surrounded and that it was his intent to kill officers, which would result in his own death.

He had just rotated back into the assignment of positioning in the turret when gas was going to be deployed into the residence. From his vantage point in the turret, his focus was on the front door. He could see smoke from the gas billowing out of the front door. He then saw a person he believed to be Mr. Ramirez-Santos (no other individual was in the residence) run across the open doorway from right to left. Seconds later, Officer Keaney sees Mr. Ramirez-Santos partially appear (portion of his left body) along the left edge of the front door. He saw Mr. Ramirez-Santos point a firearm at him and fire directly at him. He then sees Mr. Ramirez-Santos disappear to the left of the doorway. Seconds later, Officer Keaney sees Mr. Ramirez-Santos exit the residence with a firearm in his right hand, in a fire-ready position pointing away from his body and towards the rear of the ARV.

Officer Keaney knew fellow SWAT officers were stationed at the rear and outside of the ARV affording them limited ballistic protection from incoming fire. In this moment, Officer Keaney was aware that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had threatened to kill officers over the course of an hours-long standoff, that he had fired a round at him seconds earlier and was now running towards fellow officers with his firearm in a fire-ready position. Officer Keaney, believing Mr. Ramirez-Santos had the intent to kill his fellow officers and would be in position to do so in seconds, fired one round from his rifle, hitting Mr. Ramirez-Santos. He then lost sight of Mr. Ramirez-Santos but could hear fellow officers shouting commands and taking him into custody. He then heard medic staff summoned and an announcement that Mr. Ramirez-Santos was pronounced deceased. Consistent with protocols, Officer Keaney was then sequestered away from the scene pending his interview.

Jeff Badger

Detective Badger is with the Santa Rosa Police Department and was on the SWAT team during the incident. He was in the driver's seat of the ARV seat during the incident. Shortly after the gas deployment, Detective Badger saw Mr. Ramirez-Santos run from right to left past the open doorway and saw "something black in his hand." He told his fellow officers that he had observed something in his hand. He saw Mr. Ramirez-Santos run out of the doorway with a firearm in his hand. He announced to his fellow officers "He's got a gun, he's got a gun." He then hears Officer Keaney's shot. Detective Badger believed that if Officer Keaney had not been successful in shooting Mr. Ramirez-Santos, he would have reached the other officers and been in a position to kill or seriously injure them.

Matthew White

Sgt. White is with the Santa Rosa Police Department and was on the SWAT team during the incident. He was in the passenger's seat, also known as the "spotter" seat, during the incident. Shortly after the gas deployment, Sgt. White saw Mr. Ramirez-Santos run from right to left past the open doorway and could see a firearm in his hand. He then sees Mr. Ramirez-Santos "lead with the gun" partially exiting the door before hearing a "bang." He then sees Mr. Ramirez-Santos exit through doorway and yells "gun, gun, gun." He then hears Officer Keaney's shot. Sgt. White said that "I firmly believe that had he not made that shot" and "ended the suspect's flight right there" he would have reached the other SWAT team members at the rear of the ARV.

Hunter Sollom

Santa Rosa Police Department Officer Sollom was present at the scene. He was personally familiar with Mr. Ramirez-Santos based on prior law enforcement contacts, specifically involving his gang ties and firearms. He had also been briefed about the events of the evening of August 13 and earlier in the morning of August 14. He was positioned behind a patrol car and had a viewpoint of the ARV, which was in front of him, and the walkway leading to the open doorway at the residence during the critical moments when the gas was deployed into the residence. He was able to see Mr. Ramirez-Santos run across the front of the doorway from right to left. Seconds later, he saw what appeared to be the upper portion of Mr. Ramirez-Santos' left arm and shoulder moving abruptly near the left side of the doorway. He then heard a loud

"bang," and ducked for cover. Believing that Mr. Ramirez-Santos had fired at him and fellow officers, he pointed his rifle towards the front doorway when he briefly saw Mr. Ramirez-Santos when he emerged from the doorway but quickly lost visual as he approached the front of the ARV. He then heard Officer Keaney's shot.

Eduardo Espina

Santa Rosa Police Department Officer Espina was present at the scene and was positioned behind a patrol car and had a viewpoint of the ARV, which was in front of him, and the walkway leading to the open doorway at the residence. Officer Espina could see Mr. Ramirez-Santos run out of the open doorway and down the walkway adjacent to the ARV and towards the location of additional SWAT officer who were positioned behind the ARV with what appeared to be a firearm in his hand.

V. LEGAL STANDARDS

Matteo Ramirez-Santos died during an officer-involved shooting on August 14, 2025. Santa Rosa Police Department Officer Sean Keaney fired a single shot from his rifle at close range that resulted in the death of Mr. Ramirez-Santos.

When a law enforcement officer is involved in a fatal shooting, possible criminal charges include murder (Penal Code §187), manslaughter (Penal Code §192), assault with a firearm (Penal Code §245), and assault by a police officer (Penal Code §149). Homicide is justifiable when it results from a peace officer's use of force that is in compliance with Penal Code §835a. (Penal Code §196.)

Homicide is justified if committed in lawful self-defense. When a person is charged with a homicide-related crime and claims self-defense, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the homicide was not committed in self-defense. (*People v. Winkler* (2020) 56 Cal.App.5th 1102, 1167.) Penal Code §196, et seq. detail the law of self-defense in homicide cases. A homicide committed by a peace officer is justified if the use of force complies with Penal Code §835a. That section permits an officer to use deadly force when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that deadly force is necessary to:

1. Defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person; or
2. Apprehend a fleeing person who has committed a felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, and the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury if not immediately apprehended.

Penal Code §835a addresses a police officer's use of force. Section 835a was substantially amended in 2019 by the passage of Assembly Bill 392. The current version of section 835a applies to this investigation.

A peace officer may arrest a person if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a felony. (Penal Code §836, subd. (a)(3).) Although "probable cause" is a fluid concept incapable of precise definition, the substance of all the definitions of probable cause is a reasonable ground for belief of guilt. (*People v. Scott* (2011) 52 Cal.4th 452, 474.) "If a person has knowledge, or by the exercise of reasonable care, should have knowledge, that he is being arrested by a peace officer, it is the duty of such person to refrain from using force or any weapon to resist such arrest." (Penal Code § 834a.) Using a weapon means to fire a gun, hit somebody with the weapon, or to display the weapon in a menacing manner. (See *People v. Bland* (1995) 10 Cal.4th 991, 997; *People v. Johnson* (1995) 38 Cal.App.4th 1315, 1319–1320.) "A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from their efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested. A peace officer shall not be deemed an aggressor or lose the right to self-defense by the use of objectively reasonable force in compliance with subdivisions (b) and (c) to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. For the purposes of this subdivision, "retreat" does not mean tactical repositioning or other deescalation tactics." (Penal Code §835a, subd. (d).)

"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." (Penal Code §835a, subd. (b).) "[A] peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons: (A) To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person. (B) To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts." (Penal Code §835a, subd. (c)(1).)

Section 835a provides that "[a] threat of death or serious bodily injury is 'imminent' when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed." (Penal Code § 835a, subd. (e)(2).) Section 835a provides that the " '[t]otality of the circumstances' means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force." (Penal Code § 835a, subd. (e)(3).)

In assessing the reasonableness of a peace officer's actions, the inquiry is whether the officer's actions are objectively reasonable from the perspective of a reasonable officer on scene. (*Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396.) This standard is also codified in section 835a: "the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the

perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force." (Penal Code §835a, subd. (a)(4).)

VI. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

For the purpose of this evaluation, the District Attorney's Office relied on the investigation conducted by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, including the body warn camera videos and videos from the Keegan Drive residence.

As previously discussed, criminal charges are appropriate only when the District Attorney determines that the evidence of guilt is of such convincing force that it would support a conviction for the crime charged by a reasonable and objective fact finder after hearing all the admissible evidence, including evidence of any defenses. Although Officer Keaney shot and killed Mr. Ramirez-Santos, accounting for applicable legal standards, the circumstances of this case and the available evidence do not provide an evidentiary basis from which the District Attorney could prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the killing was not justified. As is evident from Mr. Ramirez-Santos' owns words and actions from the evening of August 13 and throughout the early morning hours of August 14, it was never his intent to peacefully surrender to law enforcement. Rather, it was his intention to commit "suicide by cop," as well as to take law enforcement officers with him. In consideration of the totality of the circumstances, Officer Keaney reasonably believed that deadly force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself or to his fellow officers.

VII. CONCLUSION

The District Attorney acknowledges and agrees with the Legislature's declaration in section 835a that, "the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated carefully and thoroughly, in a manner that reflects the gravity of that authority and the serious consequences of the use of force[,]" and that has occurred with respect to the officer-involved killing of Mr. Ramirez-Santos. Accounting for the totality of the circumstances on August 14, 2025, the legal standards related to the filing of criminal charges as well as the legal standards related to a peace officer's use of force, the District Attorney finds that criminal charges are not warranted against any law enforcement personnel related to Mr. Ramirez-Santos' death.

Carla Rodriguez

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