



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

Update Death Investigation Officer Involved Shooting, City of Lompoc

Santa Barbara--

The Sheriff's Coroner's Office is conducting the death investigation of the subject that was fatally injured on Monday November 21, 2016, in the officer-involved shooting with the Lompoc Police Department. Lompoc resident Michael Giles 27 years old was fatally shot on Monday, an autopsy was conducted yesterday, Tuesday November 22, 2016. The preliminary cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the chest with a second gunshot wound to the right hand. An official cause and manner of death is pending toxicology and lab results which will take several weeks to complete.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's is conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the shooting as requested by the Lompoc Police Department. Once the investigation is complete, it will be forwarded to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office for review to determine the lawfulness of the force used.

Several witnesses have been interviewed, physical evidence including the knife that was in the possession of Mr. Giles was collected as well as surveillance photos from area businesses and witnesses obtained. Several witnesses along with officers involved confirmed that Mr. Giles was wielding a knife in a threatening manner throughout the foot pursuit as well as at the multi-use trail where the shooting took place. The investigation also revealed that Mr. Giles had made disturbing statements earlier in the day that he would not be hesitant to use his knife if confronted, all of which will be released upon completion of this investigation.

Questions regarding the ongoing investigation should be directed to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. Questions regarding the operation or procedures of the Lompoc Police Department should be directed to that agency.

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