



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO
District Attorney

DATE: November 10, 2025

TO: Sheriff Jim Cooper
Sacramento Sheriff's Office
4500 Orange Grove Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95841

FROM: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: Officer-Involved Shooting Case No. SSO-21-391061
Shooting Officers: SSO Deputy Jaycob Garrison #699
SSO Deputy Matthew Lorigan #939
SSO Deputy Michael Keegan #957
Person Shot: Kevin Slaughter (D.O.B. 03/19/77)

The District Attorney's Office, as an independent agency, has completed its investigation and review of the above-referenced officer-involved shooting. We only address whether there is sufficient evidence to support the filing of a criminal action in connection with the shooting of Kevin Slaughter. For the reasons set forth, we conclude that the shooting was lawful.

The District Attorney's Office received and reviewed written reports and other documentary items. These items include Sacramento Sheriff's Office (SSO) report number 21-391061, video and audio recordings, dispatch calls, witness interviews, photographs, diagrams, and evidence logs.

FACTUAL SUMMARY

On December 24, 2021, at approximately 6:00 p.m., an employee left his workplace and walked to his 2018 black Ford Explorer which was parked at 9821 Business Park Drive. The employee observed a male individual, later identified as Kevin Slaughter, walk through the parking lot. The employee started his vehicle using the key fob and opened the rear back passenger door to place a bag inside his Explorer. As the employee stood near the back seat, Slaughter approached the employee and said, "Give me your wallet." Slaughter removed a black semi-automatic handgun from his back waistband and racked the slide of the handgun. Standing approximately 3-5 feet from the employee, Slaughter pointed the gun at the employee's chest. The employee removed his wallet and gave it to Slaughter. Slaughter patted the employee's pockets, but he did not find anything. The employee walked away, and Slaughter yelled at him to walk the other direction. Slaughter wanted to watch the employee as he left the area. Slaughter entered the

driver's seat and realized he did not have the key fob. He demanded it from the employee, who threw the key fob towards Slaughter. Slaughter drove away toward Bradshaw Road.

The employee fled and called 9-1-1. The employee reported to dispatchers that he had been carjacked by a white or Hispanic male with a handgun wearing a mask and blue or black jacket.

Deputy Jonathan Firman responded to the scene and spoke to the employee. The employee had the "FordPass" mobile application, which provided the GPS location of his Explorer. Using the application, Deputy Firman tracked the vehicle to an apartment complex at 5135 El Camino Avenue.

Apartment Complex

Deputy James Avalos responded to the area of the El Camino apartment complex and observed Slaughter walking eastbound across Walnut Avenue in the middle of traffic. Slaughter then ran eastbound on El Camino Avenue towards the apartment complex. Deputy Avalos activated his overhead lights and siren on his marked patrol vehicle and drove into the apartment complex. After exiting his vehicle to search for Slaughter inside the complex, Deputy Avalos heard gunshots and ran through the parking lot and across Walnut Avenue towards Mountain Mike's Pizza.

Deputy Jacob Garrison was on duty wearing a SSO uniform and was driving a marked patrol vehicle. Deputy Garrison also responded to the apartment complex, observed the Explorer, and determined it was unoccupied. Dispatchers announced the suspect was nearby. Deputy Garrison entered his patrol vehicle, drove out of the parking lot, proceeded southbound on Walnut Avenue, and approached El Camino Avenue.

During this time, Deputy Matthew Lorigan was also on duty wearing a SSO uniform. Based on the information provided by dispatchers, Deputy Lorigan responded to the apartment complex driving a marked patrol vehicle. Upon arrival, Deputy Lorigan determined that the Explorer was abandoned. He entered his patrol vehicle and drove out of the complex.

Deputy Michael Keegan was also on duty wearing a SSO uniform. He was a passenger in a marked SSO patrol vehicle being driven by Deputy Casey Pitto. They also responded to the apartment complex and based on information provided by dispatchers, the deputies drove out to Walnut Avenue and turned northbound to look for Slaughter.

Intersection - Walnut Avenue and El Camino Avenue

At the intersection of Walnut Avenue and El Camino Avenue, a brown 2017 Nissan Altima was the second car in the left turn lane on southbound Walnut Avenue. The female driver of the Altima was preparing to turn left onto El Camino Avenue. Her driver's side window was partially open, approximately 1 inch. Slaughter approached the driver's side and placed his hand on the window like he was trying to enter the car. Slaughter stated to give him the "fucking" car and get out. The female driver rolled up her window and said, "No." Slaughter pointed a black handgun at the female driver and said he was not "fucking" joking. Slaughter hit the car window

twice with the butt of the gun. The female driver turned her head away from Slaughter because she thought he was going to kill her.

As Deputy Garrison approached the intersection, his patrol vehicle's overhead lights were flashing, and the siren was activated. Deputy Garrison observed Slaughter attempting to carjack the Altima. Deputy Garrison parked his vehicle behind the Altima and began to exit to approach Slaughter. Slaughter was approximately 15-20 feet away and fired multiple gunshots at Deputy Garrison. Because Deputy Garrison was concerned for his safety and others around him, he tried to press the gas pedal and run the suspect over to eliminate the threat, but the patrol vehicle was in the park position. The vehicle in front of the Altima drove off, which allowed the female driver to turn left onto El Camino Avenue and drive away.

Slaughter ran to another vehicle stopped in the center lane of the intersection. He attempted to open the driver's side door, but the vehicle drove away.

Slaughter then approached the driver side of a blue Toyota Prius, which was stopped in the far-right lane. He pointed the black handgun at the driver through the windshield, and stated, "Get out of the car, get out of the car." The front passenger opened the door and exited the Prius. Slaughter entered the car through the front passenger's side. The driver then got out of the Prius.

Deputy Garrison observed Slaughter run to the Prius and attempt to carjack the car. Deputy Garrison pulled out his duty rifle from his patrol vehicle. After the victims exited the Prius, and Slaughter started to drive the car away, Deputy Garrison fired four shots from his rifle at the Prius and the driver's area.

As Deputies Keegan and Pitto were driving northbound on Walnut Avenue, they heard gunshots behind them. Deputy Pitto made a U-turn, turned on the vehicle's emergency lights, and drove back southbound on Walnut Avenue. When they were near the intersection, the deputies observed people getting out of the Prius and Slaughter entering the Prius. Deputy Pitto stopped the patrol vehicle. Deputy Keegan exited and confirmed Slaughter was inside the blue Prius. The deputies then heard gunshots from the Prius. Deputy Keegan fired two shots from his duty pistol towards the Prius.

Deputy Lorigan also approached the intersection and heard multiple gunshots. He looked to the left and observed Deputy Garrison's patrol vehicle stopped with its driver side door open. He drove towards the patrol vehicle. Deputy Lorigan exited his vehicle, ran towards Deputy Garrison's patrol vehicle, and heard gunshots coming from the patrol vehicle and down the street. Because he was on the backside of the patrol vehicle, Deputy Lorigan could not see down the street and could not determine the whereabouts of these gunshots. Deputy Lorigan proceeded to the driver's side where Deputy Garrison was standing and firing his rifle. Deputy Lorigan heard gunshots strike Deputy Garrison's patrol vehicle.

Slaughter drove the Prius, turned right, and fled westbound on El Camino Avenue.

Mountain Mike's Pizza

Slaughter drove approximately 100 feet, entered the Mountain Mike's Pizza parking lot, and drove up approximately 30 yards on the west side. Deputy Garrison followed behind in his patrol vehicle. Slaughter stopped the Prius and was approximately 40 yards away from Deputy Garrison. Deputies Keegan and Pitto also drove into the Mountain Mike's Pizza parking lot in their patrol vehicle. As Deputies Keegan and Pitto arrived in the lot, Deputy Keegan began to exit the passenger side. Slaughter exited the Prius and fired rounds in the deputies' direction.

Another vehicle drove through the lot and attempted to get out of the way. Slaughter ran towards this vehicle. His gunshots struck this vehicle, shattered the car window, and caused minor injury to the driver's left cheek.

There were customers inside the restaurant and Deputy Garrison was concerned that Slaughter would enter the restaurant and take others hostage or commit another carjacking. Deputy Garrison retrieved his rifle and fired six shots at Slaughter. Deputy Keegan also fired multiple shots towards Slaughter. Slaughter dropped to the ground. Deputy Keegan observed Slaughter collapsing on the ground and lying next to the open driver side door of the Prius. He yelled at Slaughter to not move, but Slaughter kept moving. Deputy Keegan could not see the gun and believed Slaughter was trying to find his gun on the ground to shoot again. Deputy Keegan fired one more round at Slaughter while he was on the ground.

Deputy Lorigan had also driven to the Mountain Mike's Pizza parking lot. When he arrived, Deputy Lorigan heard more gunshots coming from the direction of the Prius and where the other deputies were positioned. Deputy Lorigan grabbed his rifle and ran to the back of another patrol vehicle that was parked in front of him. Deputy Lorigan waited for a couple seconds, then ran to the back side of another patrol vehicle. Slaughter was laying on the ground next to the Prius, still moving, with a handgun lying next to him. Slaughter reached for the gun. Deputy Lorigan observed apartment buildings, open businesses, cars at the intersection, and pedestrians in the area. Deputy Lorigan feared Slaughter would grab the gun and continue shooting at deputies, so he fired one round at Slaughter.

Slaughter did not follow the deputies' commands to crawl away from his firearm, which was within reach of his right arm, or roll on his stomach. Slaughter also ignored multiple commands to keep his hands out of his waistband. Slaughter just flipped off the deputies and stated, "Fuck you. Shoot me, I want to die." Slaughter then rolled onto his side and his back was to the gun. Deputy Keegan holstered his handgun, grabbed his rifle from the patrol vehicle, and began to approach Slaughter, who was still moving on the ground. Deputy Keegan yelled commands at Slaughter to keep his hands visible, roll on his stomach, and crawl to the deputies without anything in his hands. Slaughter continued moving on the ground and moving his hands towards his waistband but did not pull anything out. Deputy Keegan told Slaughter that if he crawled to them, deputies would immediately provide medical aid. Slaughter did not comply with these commands.

After some time, deputies decided to move patrol vehicles forward and use them as cover to approach Slaughter and take him into custody. As deputies got closer, a black handgun was

observed on the ground above Slaughter's head. He was flailing his arms, with the back of his hand smacking the gun. Deputies were able to secure the firearm, a black Glock 22 .40 caliber handgun, which was approximately two feet away from Slaughter.

The deputies provided immediate medical aid. Slaughter had one gunshot wound to his torso. Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and medical personnel responded to the scene, provided further medical treatment, and transported Slaughter to Mercy San Juan Hospital.

Subsequent investigation determined that two Sheriff patrol vehicles were struck by gunshots. The black Glock 22 .40 caliber handgun was examined and determined to have an empty 10-round magazine.

A round count and examination of casings recovered established that Deputy Keegan fired seven handgun rounds from his Glock 17 9mm handgun, Deputy Garrison fired ten rifle rounds from his Colt M4 rifle, and Deputy Lorigan fired one round from his Colt M4 rifle. Slaughter fired eight rounds from the Glock 22 .40 caliber handgun at deputies.

Body-worn camera videos from Deputies Keegan, Garrison, and Lorigan and in-car camera videos from their vehicles, as well as surrounding security camera videos, were reviewed. The videos depict the events as described above.

Slaughter was charged in Sacramento Superior Court docket number 22FE000018. He was convicted of robbery, carjacking (two counts), attempted carjacking, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, attempted murder of a peace officer, and assault on a peace officer with a semi-automatic firearm (three counts). Gun enhancements and prior convictions were found true. He was sentenced to 212 years to life, consecutive to an additional 130 years in state prison.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

An officer who has reasonable cause to believe a person has committed a public offense or is a danger to others may use reasonable force to affect arrest or detention, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. (*Tennessee v. Garner* (1985) 471 U.S. 1, 11; *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396; *Kortum v. Alkire* (1977) 69 Cal.App.3d 325; California Penal Code section 835a(b); CALCRIM 2670.) The person being detained or arrested may be subjected to such restraint as is reasonably necessary for his arrest and detention and has a concomitant duty to permit himself to be detained. (*People v. Allen* (1980) 109 Cal.App.3d 981, 985; CALCRIM 2670, 2671, 2672.) Officers do not need to retreat or desist their efforts if the person they are arresting or detaining resists or threatens resistance; nor shall the officer be deemed an aggressor or lose the right to self-defense by use of reasonable force. (California Penal Code section 835a(d).)

Here, Slaughter approached a victim and demanded his wallet. Slaughter stood 3-5 feet from the victim and removed a black handgun from his back waistband. He racked the slide of the handgun, which on this type of semi-automatic handgun would chamber a round from the magazine to prepare it to fire, and pointed the gun at the victim's chest. The victim gave his

wallet to Slaughter. After Slaughter patted the employee's pockets and did not find anything, he yelled at the victim to walk away. Slaughter sat in the victim's vehicle. He determined that he did not have the key fob. Slaughter demanded it and the victim threw the fob towards him. Slaughter then fled in the vehicle. The victim called 9-1-1.

Dispatchers reported that a white or Hispanic male, wearing a mask and blue or black jacket, committed a carjacking with a handgun. Deputies were able to track Slaughter to an apartment complex on El Camino Avenue using the victim's mobile application with GPS.

Based on the information provided by dispatchers, Deputies Garrison, Lorigan, and Keegan responded to the apartment complex and observed the unoccupied Explorer. The deputies then proceeded out towards the intersection of Walnut Avenue and El Camino Avenue to search for Slaughter.

At the intersection, Slaughter approached a brown Altima in the left turn lane on southbound Walnut Avenue. He placed his hand on the driver's side window, which was partially open. Slaughter demanded the Altima and ordered the victim to get out. The victim closed her window and said, "No." Slaughter pointed his handgun at the victim and stated he was not "fucking" joking. Slaughter used his handgun to strike the car window twice.

Deputy Garrison approached the intersection in his patrol vehicle and saw Slaughter, who matched the description of the carjacker from the initial call. Deputy Garrison then observed Slaughter attempting to carjack the Altima. Deputy Garrison reasonably believed that Slaughter had committed numerous public offenses. Deputy Garrison had legal authority to take Slaughter into custody for carjacking and attempting to carjack his victims. Slaughter had an obligation to allow himself to be detained.

A peace officer may use deadly force under circumstances where it is reasonably necessary for self-defense or defense of another. California law permits the use of deadly force if the officer actually and reasonably believed he was in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury. (CALCRIM 505, 507, 3470; California Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(A).) An officer who uses deadly force must actually believe that force is necessary. The appearance of danger is all that is necessary; actual danger is not. (*People v. Toledo* (1948) 85 Cal.App.2d 577; *People v. Jackson* (1965) 233 Cal.App.2d 639.) Thus, the officer may employ all force reasonably believed necessary. (CALCRIM 3470.) The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with 20/20 hindsight. The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. (California Penal Code section 835a(a)(4); *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386.)

Additionally, California Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(B) provides that a peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon a fleeing person if the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary "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 person 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 reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.”

As Deputy Garrison approached the intersection to conduct an arrest, he was aware that Slaughter previously used a gun to carjack the Ford Explorer based on dispatch reports. Slaughter suddenly fired multiple gunshots at Deputy Garrison, who was only standing about 15-20 feet away as he was exiting his patrol vehicle. Deputy Garrison was concerned for his safety and others around him, so he tried to press the gas pedal and run Slaughter over with his marked patrol vehicle, but the vehicle would not move. Fortunately, the Altima turned left onto El Camino Avenue and fled. Slaughter ran to another vehicle in the center lane and attempted to open the driver’s side door, but that car also drove away.

Slaughter went to the blue Prius, which was stopped in the far-right lane, and pointed his black handgun at the driver. Slaughter said, “Get out of the car, get out of the car.” The front passenger exited the Prius, which allowed Slaughter to enter the car through the front passenger’s side. The driver also exited the Prius. While still in possession of the handgun, Slaughter fled in the Prius.

Deputy Garrison fired four gunshots at Slaughter as he drove the Prius attempting to flee. Under these circumstances, it was reasonable for Deputy Garrison to believe his life and the lives of others around him were in immediate danger. It was similarly reasonable for him to believe that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to subdue the threat and apprehend Slaughter.

Likewise, Deputy Keegan was aware that Slaughter used a handgun to carjack the Ford Explorer based on previous dispatch reports. Deputy Keegan also heard gunshots as he and Deputy Pitto drove northbound on Walnut Avenue to search for Slaughter. After hearing the gunshots, they turned around and drove to the intersection, where Deputy Keegan observed Slaughter forcibly enter the Prius. Moments later, Deputy Keegan heard more gunshots coming from the Prius. Deputy Keegan fired two gunshots at the Prius. Deputy Keegan reasonably believed that Slaughter was firing his handgun and feared for his own safety and the safety of others nearby. It was similarly reasonable for him to believe that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to subdue the threat and apprehend Slaughter.

Slaughter drove to the Mountain Mike’s Pizza parking lot in the Prius. Deputies Garrison and Lorigan followed him.

After Slaughter stopped the Prius in the parking lot approximately 40 yards away from Deputy Garrison, Slaughter exited the Prius and began firing gunshots at the deputy’s patrol vehicle. Slaughter ran towards another vehicle driving through the lot, which was struck by his gunshots. The car window was shattered, and the driver’s left cheek was injured. Deputy Garrison fired his rifle at Slaughter. Deputy Garrison observed Slaughter continuing to fire his handgun at him and he now reasonably feared for his safety and the safety of others in the restaurant and parking lot. Thus, it was reasonable for him to believe that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to again subdue the threat and apprehend Slaughter.

Deputy Lorigan heard more gunshots coming from the direction of the Prius and his left side. After grabbing his rifle from the patrol vehicle, Deputy Lorigan ran behind a couple other patrol vehicles. He could see a handgun next to Slaughter, who was laying down and moving. Deputy Lorigan observed Slaughter reach for the gun. Deputy Lorigan knew that Slaughter used his handgun to commit the carjacking and intentionally fired multiple rounds at the deputies while at the intersection, even striking a patrol vehicle. Deputy Lorigan fired one round at Slaughter. Deputy Lorigan reasonably believed that Slaughter could grab the gun and continue shooting at deputies. It was reasonable for him to believe that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to subdue the threat and apprehend Slaughter.

After arriving in the Mountain Mike's Pizza parking lot, Deputy Keegan exited his patrol vehicle and observed Slaughter exit the Prius and fire rounds in the deputies' direction. Deputy Keegan believed Slaughter presented an immediate danger of death or great bodily injury to the deputies and others around them based on his continued shooting, so Deputy Keegan fired gunshots towards Slaughter. As Deputy Keegan moved around to the other side of the patrol vehicle, he observed Slaughter lying next to the Prius. Slaughter did not comply when Deputy Keegan ordered Slaughter to not move. Deputy Keegan fired one more round at Slaughter while he was on the ground. Based on Deputy Keegan's inability to see Slaughter's gun and his belief that Slaughter was trying to find his gun on the ground to shoot again based on his movements, Deputy Keegan reasonably believed that the immediate use of deadly force was again necessary to subdue the threat and apprehend Slaughter.

Given these circumstances, the actions of Deputies Garrison, Keegan, and Lorigan in using deadly force against Slaughter were justified to protect their safety and the safety of their fellow deputies and nearby civilians.

CONCLUSION

Slaughter robbed an individual and carjacked his Ford Explorer at gunpoint. Slaughter then fled the scene.

Slaughter arrived at an apartment complex on El Camino Avenue. He eventually walked to the intersection at Walnut Avenue and El Camino Avenue. Slaughter pointed his handgun at the driver of an Altima and attempted to carjack the vehicle. Deputy Garrison approached the Altima and exited his patrol vehicle. While standing only 15-20 feet away, Slaughter fired approximately four gunshots at Deputy Garrison. Slaughter attempted to carjack another nearby vehicle in the center lane. Slaughter then approached a Toyota Prius in the far-right lane. He pointed his handgun at the driver and carjacked the vehicle. As Slaughter drove away, Deputy Garrison fired multiple gunshots at the Prius. Deputy Keegan also arrived at the intersection, and he fired gunshots towards the Prius.

As Slaughter drove away and stopped the Prius in the nearby Mountain Mike's Pizza parking lot, he exited the vehicle and fired more gunshots at deputies who followed him into the parking lot. Deputies Garrison and Keegan fired gunshots at Slaughter. After falling to the ground, Slaughter did not follow the deputies' commands and continued moving around with the handgun nearby.

Deputies Keegan and Lorigan fired gunshots at Slaughter.

Fearing for their safety and the safety of other deputies and nearby civilians, Deputies Garrison, Keegan, and Lorigan reasonably believed that firing their weapons was necessary to subdue the deadly threat Slaughter presented. Their actions were justified under the circumstances.

Accordingly, we will take no further action in this matter.

Cc: SSO Deputy Jaycob Garrison #699
SSO Deputy Matthew Lorigan #939
SSO Deputy Michael Keegan #957
SSO Detective Nick Sareeram #967
Kevin Gardner, Sacramento County Office of Inspector General