



MEMORANDUM

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DATE: September 8, 2020

TO: Supervising Deputy District Attorney Charles Gonzalez

FROM: Criminal Investigators Steve McCarthy and Brian Bell

SUBJECT: Officer Involved Shooting Incident (SPD Event #20-261223)
Albert Wheeler, DOB: 03/28/1970 (XREF #1328195)

NOTIFICATION:

On September 1, 2020, at 19:15 hours (Tuesday): Investigators Steve McCarthy and Brian Bell were notified of an officer involved shooting that occurred at [REDACTED] Wisconsin Avenue within the City and County of Sacramento. Both Investigator Bell and I (McCarthy) responded to the shooting scene to monitor the Sacramento Police Department's investigation. We arrived at approximately 20:09 hours.

BRIEFING:

At 21:11 hours, the initial briefing was given by Sacramento Police Sergeant Jeff Morris, Badge #3023. Sergeant Morris gave an overview of the incident and identified Officer Vincent Catricala, Badge #0379 as the only Sacramento Police Officer that discharged his weapon.

The subject being investigated was identified as ALBERT DEAN WHEELER, DOB: 03/28/1970 (XREF #1328195). WHEELER had an active arrest warrant for using a firearm during an attempted murder of Sacramento Police Sergeant Andy Hall on August 5, 2020. (SPD Event #20-233265).

Today, (September 1, 2020) at 14:45 hours, WHEELER was observed at [REDACTED] Wisconsin Avenue. Due to the seriousness of WHEELER's alleged crime, a SWAT Team, K-9 Officers, Crisis Negotiators, and Air Units responded to assist with taking him into custody.

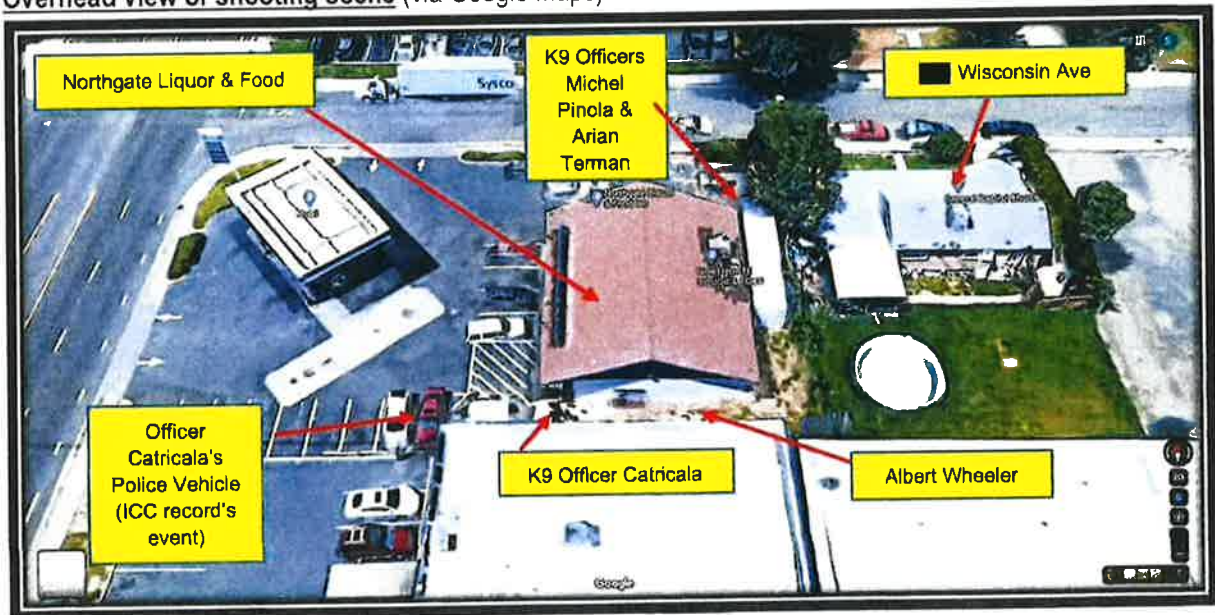
At approximately 19:10 hours, WHEELER attempted to flee by escaping out the rear yard of [REDACTED] Wisconsin Avenue. As WHEELER ran west along the south side of the business Northgate Liquor and Food, he was shot by Officer Vincent Catricala who was positioned at the southwest corner of the business. The shooting was captured by Officer Vincent Catricala's patrol car's ICC.

SCENE:

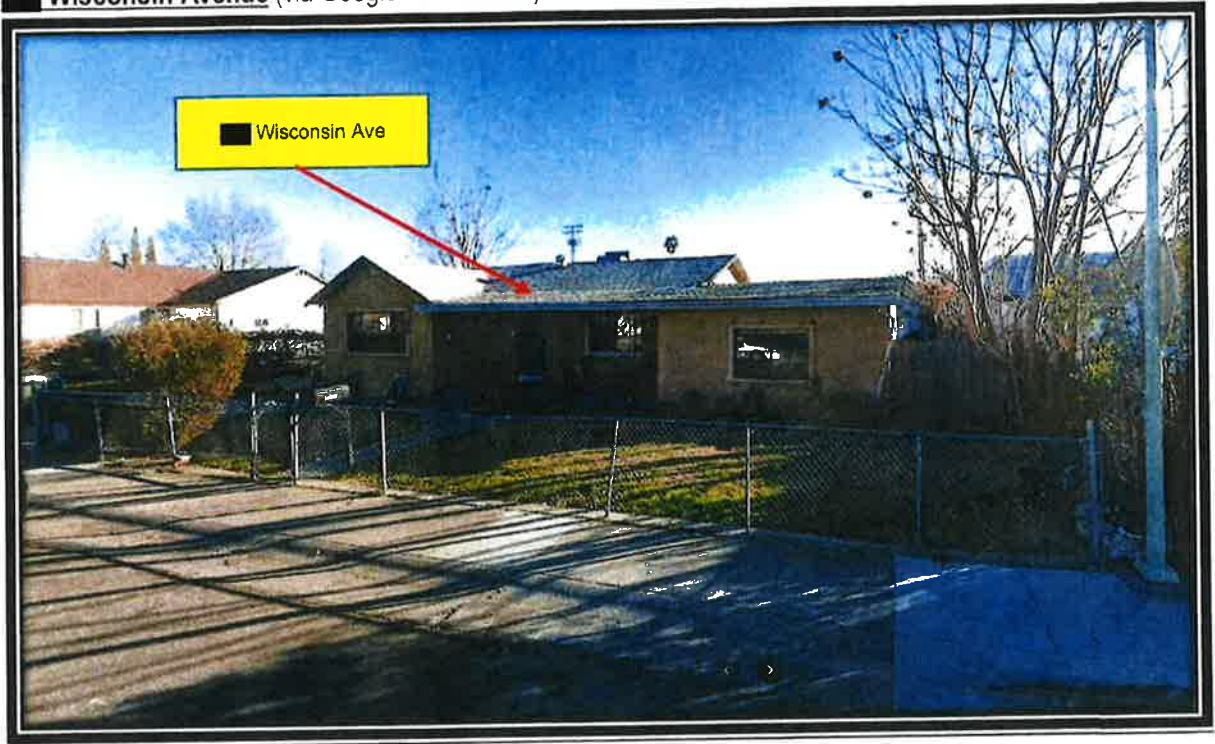
ALBERT WHEELER was first observed in the front yard of [REDACTED] Wisconsin Avenue. He was also observed multiple times walking back and forth in the rear yard by the Sacramento Police Department's "Air-1" helicopter unit.

The shooting occurred on the south side of Northgate Liquor and Food located at [REDACTED] Northgate Blvd., which is to the west of the residence. Shortly after the SWAT Team began making announcements near the front of the residence, the helicopter unit observed WHEELER run to the west edge of the rear yard and crawl under the backyard fence. As WHEELER crawled out from under the fence, Officer Pinola sent his K9 along the eastern side of Northgate Liquors in an attempt to take him into custody. WHEELER was able to get up before being caught by the K9 and continued running toward Officer Catricala's location. WHEELER was then shot in a breezeway area along the south side of Northgate Liquor and Food. Immediately after the shooting, the helicopter unit observed a handgun near WHEELER's body. (Refer to the attached Google map of the area).

Overhead view of shooting scene (via Google Maps)



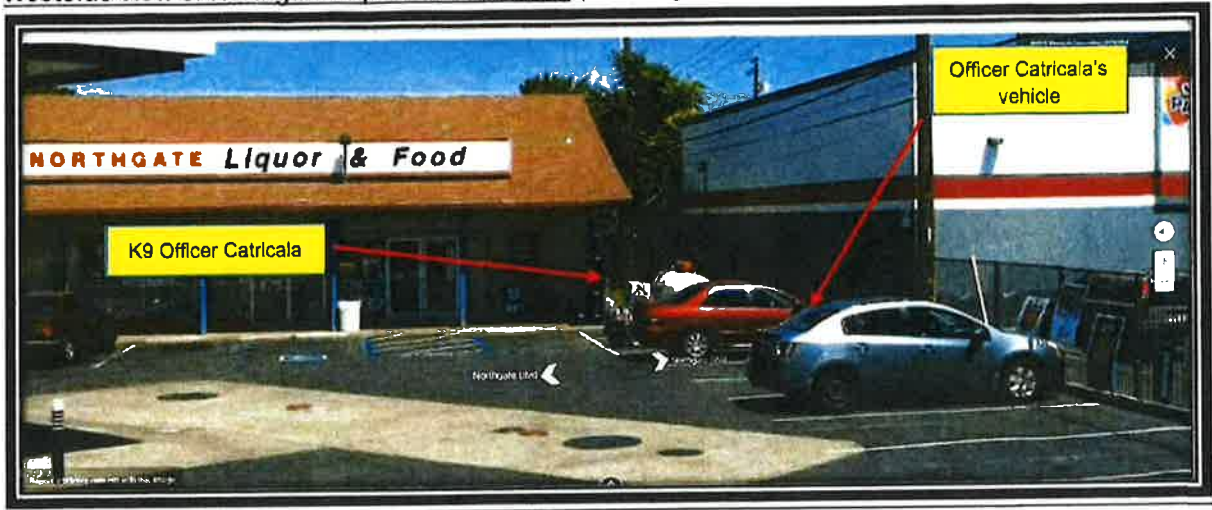
Wisconsin Avenue (via Google Street View)



Northside view of Northgate Liquor & Food Store (via Google Street View)



Westside view of Northgate Liquor & Food Store (via Google Street View)



Weapon found near Albert Wheeler's body (Sacramento Police Department Press Release)



OFFICER STATEMENTS:

On September 2, 2020, at 02:45 hours, Criminal Investigator Brian Bell and I (McCarthy) spoke with Detective Scot Krutz who summarized Officer Vincent Catricala's statement.

K-9 Officer Vincent Catricala, Badge #0379

On 9/2/2020, SPD K-9 Officer Vincent Catricala provided a voluntary statement to SPD Detective Krutz and SPD Detective Sergeant Ellis. Attorney [REDACTED] from the Mastagni Holstedt Law Firm was present in the room with them. Due to the ongoing concern of the Coronavirus and the safeguards put in place, the interview was conducted in a room without the capability of being monitored remotely on video. Due to that fact, CI Bell and CI McCarthy were unable to monitor the interview live. At the conclusion of the interview, Detective Krutz provided us with a synopsis of the interview. At approximately 0305 hours, Detective Krutz provided the following information in summary:

Officer Catricala stated he was on the perimeter to assist in the apprehension of a wanted subject, Albert Wheeler. He was familiar with the circumstances surrounding Wheeler and knew he was wanted for the attempted murder of an officer and he was possibly armed. Wheeler had been observed by officers at the target location. Officer Catricala was set up on the south side of the liquor store behind a wrought iron fence. He was facing the east to the target location of [REDACTED] Wisconsin. His K-9 partner was not with him at his assigned position. He originally had a cover officer with him, but SWAT redirected them to provide cover to K-9 Officer Pinola. From Officer Catricala's position, he could hear SWAT officers in the Bearcat giving orders to the suspect.

Officer Catricala heard an update that the suspect was going over the fence in his direction. He saw the suspect appear from around the back of the building. He observed Wheeler was armed and was running toward him with his gun pointed right at him. Officer Catricala advised he thought he was going to be shot by the suspect, so he fired multiple rounds at Wheeler. Wheeler fell to the ground, as did Officer Catricala as he tried to retreat. Officer Catricala could see the suspect on the ground turn toward him with the gun pointed at him again. Officer Catricala fired one round, striking the suspect. SWAT officers approached and provided medical aid to the suspect.

End of Statement

On 9/2/2020, Officer Bell contacted SPD Detective Trimpey for an update regarding the scene. Per Detective Trimpey, they did not locate any expended casings in the area that possibly came from the suspect's firearm, and no evidence that he fired his weapon. As they inspected the suspect's Beretta semi-automatic firearm, they observed there were 16 live rounds forced into the magazine that was manufactured to only hold 15 rounds.