



# MEMORANDM

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DATE:** December 20, 2018  
**TO:** Supervising Deputy District Attorney Tan Think  
**FROM:** Criminal Investigators Denise Phillips and Shirley Scheffler  
**SUBJECT:** Officer Involved Shooting / 12-17-2018  
SPD #18-398311 & SSD 18-446660  
**Travis Coleman York - X-Ref # 2587161 / DOB: 8/2/62 / deceased**

**OFFICERS INVOLVED:**

SSD Detective Jose "Joey" Lemus #1459 / Major Crimes Bureau (MCB)  
SSD Brian Bell #867 / Special Enforcement Detail (SED)

**NOTIFICATION:**

December 17, 2018 at 1230 hrs (Monday): Criminal Investigators Shirley Scheffler and Denise Phillips were advised of an Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) at 3291 Truxel Rd in the city of Sacramento involving Sacramento Sheriff deputies. We (Scheffler and Phillips) responded to the command post in the parking lot of Food Maxx, 3291 Truxel Rd, Sacramento 95833. (Within the Sacramento city limits.)

*(The investigation is being handled by the Sacramento Police)*

**BRIEFING:**

We were advised by Sgt. Jason Start of the Sacramento Police Department that he would act as the lead investigator.

A briefing was held by Sgt. Buchanan of the Sacramento Police Department. Sgt. Buchanan stated the Sacramento Police Department responded to the location upon receiving a broadcast from Air – 1 of shots fired, Code 93 (Code 3 Cover call). The first SPD Officer arrived at about 1211 hrs. SPD determined that the incident involved members of the Sheriff's Department Major Crimes Bureau, who were tracking a parolee at large, wanted for carjacking and burglary out of Elk Grove. The deputies apparently followed the suspect vehicle, a white Isuzu Rodeo from the area of Bercut and Richards Blvd. to the shopping center. During the trip, deputies observed the male suspect reaching to the back of the vehicle. At the shopping center, deputies saw a gun in the suspect's waistband, and observed the suspect with a gun in his hand.

The suspect was identified as Travis C. York, XREF # 2587161, DOB: 07/29/1976, ██████ Frosses Court, Sacramento. York had a California Driver's License of ██████

Sgt. Buchanan stated York succumbed to multiple gunshot wounds, and he was pronounced deceased by Medic Van Such # 1055 at 1216 hrs.

Sgt. Buchanan went on to advise that there were a number of shell casings, including a shell casing on a Dodge Charger, license plate ██████/CA. The Dodge Charger was apparently parked near the suspect vehicle.

Sgt. Buchanan stated officers retrieved a store surveillance video from Food Maxx covering the time period of 1140 – 1240 hrs., but the video quality was blurry.

The suspect vehicle was identified as a 2002 Isuzu Rodeo, ██████/CA. Registered owner of ██████ of Elk Grove. The driver of the white Isuzu Rodeo was identified as

[REDACTED]

Involved deputies were identified as Brian Bell from the Special Enforcement Detail. Bell was driving fully marked Sheriff's Department SUV, and Detective Jose "Joey" Lemus of the Major Crimes Bureau. Detective Lemus was driving an unmarked Sheriff's vehicle, later identified as a dark blue Chevrolet Van.

**SCENE:**

The scene of the shooting occurred at 3291 Truxel Rd, in Sacramento. The location is a strip mall with a common parking lot on the S/W corner of Truxel Ave and San Juan Rd. Food Maxx being the anchor business. Most of the businesses face east as does Food Maxx. The shooting occurred during daylight hours, no fog or rain.

A white Isuzu Rodeo, license plate [REDACTED] (suspect vehicle) was parked in a parking stall several stalls east of the entrance to the Food Maxx. The deceased suspect (York) was lying face up, in the next parking stall next to the suspect vehicle. There were several expended shells from a rifle round on the pavement by the suspect vehicle and deceased suspect.

**STATEMENT:** SSD Detective Jose "Joey" Lemus

Prior to the statement Detective Sgt. Scott McCafferty conducted a round count with Detective Lemus. Detective Lemus had fired his department issued Colt M4 LE rifle during the incident. Detective Lemus stated that he had one 30 round (.223 rounds) magazine which he loaded. After firing his rifle there were 24 rounds left in the magazine. Detective Lemus had a Glock Model 17, 9mm handgun which he stated he did not fire.

On 12-17-18, 1905 hours, Detective Coughran interviewed Detective Lemus. The following is what he said in summary:

On Sunday, 12-16-18, Elk Grove PD asked for assistance from the Sacramento Sheriff's Department on attempting to locate and arrest York. Detective Lemus went to a briefing (along

with other deputies) on York and knew that York was identified as being involved in a several crimes in Elk Grove the day before, including an armed (gun) carjacking. Detective Lemus said the York had an extensive criminal history and was currently a PAL (parolee at large), and considered armed and dangerous.

Detective Lemus was driving an unmarked law enforcement vehicle and was in plainclothes. He stated that he had a black tac vest on with "SHERIFF" on the front and back. Detective Lemus further stated that he had gray flannel type jacket over his black tac vest, but he flung it open at some point before he exited his vehicle.

York's cellphone was being pinged and Detective Lemus and the other deputies attempted to locate York on Sunday with no luck. On Monday (12-17-18) York's cellphone pinged around the area Richards Blvd and I-5. Detective Lemus said that he was advised about a white Isuzu with a white female driver and a male passenger leaving the Executive Inn & Suites (216 Bannon St). Lemus stated that it was not certain that the male passenger was York.

Detective Lemus was directed to follow the Isuzu and see if York was the passenger. The Isuzu got onto I-5 north at Richards Blvd. Detective Lemus stated that the male passenger (York) was reaching into the back seat and grabbed a bag or backpack and brought it to the front seat area. Deputy Lemus believed that York was probably the passenger because the driver seemingly was about to take the Garden Highway off ramp, but it made an abrupt lane change to remain on N/B I-5. Detective Lemus heard that there was an update on the pinged cellphone. The updated location was E/B I-80. Detective Lemus was confident that York was in the Isuzu. The Isuzu then went E/B I-80 to Truxel Ave exit.

The Isuzu went S/B Truxel, past San Juan Avenue, the Isuzu made a right turn into the shopping center. The Isuzu drove around the shopping center. The Isuzu vehicle pulled into a parking stall near the entrance to Food Maxx and parked.

Detective Lemus saw the passenger door open quickly and the right leg and right hand of the male passenger come out. In the right hand of the passenger, Detective Lemus saw a black hand

gun. Detective Lemus was getting out of his vehicle. Detective Lemus was face to face with York and positively knew the subject was York. York was advancing toward Detective Lemus. Detective Lemus said he lost sight of the gun and yelled "let me see your fucking hands", "Sheriff's Department, show me your hands". Detective Lemus feared that York was going to shoot him. Detective Lemus said that there was an Asian female in the car next to the Isuzu and another person in another car on the other side of the Isuzu. Detective Lemus was very concerned for the safety of the citizens, other officers arriving at the scene and himself.

Since one of the crimes that York was involved in was a carjacking, Detective Lemus was worried that the female driver of the Isuzu could also be a victim.

Detective Lemus thought York was attempting to go back to the Isuzu and he was not complying with Detective Lemus's commands. Detective Lemus shot his rifle at York about six times and he went down. Detective Lemus also heard Detective Bell shoot his rifle.

Detective Lemus then approached the female driver and detained her.

**STATEMENT:** SSD Detective Brian Bell

At approximately 1748 hrs., Detective Sgt. Scott Maclafferty of the Sacramento Police Department conducted a round count in an interview room of the Sacramento Police Department Detective Bureau.

Deputy Brian Bell produced his department issued rifle, a Colt M-4 LE .556 with an attached light. Serial Number # LE085897. The magazine from the weapon produced 20 rounds. Deputy Bell stated he normally carries 29 rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber of the rifle. Deputy Bell's remaining two magazines held 30 rounds each.

Deputy Bell's handgun, a Glock 17 9 mm, serial number XFY800 held 17 rounds in the attached magazine and one round in the chamber. Both of Deputy Bell's remaining two magazines held 17 rounds each.

At about 1843 hrs., Sacramento Police Detective Travis Hunkapiller conducted an interview with Deputy Bell in Interview Room # 6. An attorney from the Law Offices of Mastagni and Holstedt was also present. The following information was related in summary:

Deputy Bell was hired by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department in April 2015 and he is currently assigned to the Special Enforcement Detail with normal work hours of 1400/2400.

Deputy Bell was previously a police officer with the Sacramento Police Department.

Deputy Bell was wearing his patrol vest with badge. A large patch identified him as "Sheriff" on the front and back of the vest. He was wearing BDU pants.

Deputy Bell related he was called to assist the Major Crimes Bureau on 12/16/2018 at about 1000 hrs. to locate an armed carjacking suspect (later identified as Travis York) from a store in Elk Grove. The outstanding suspect had produced a gun. There was a pursuit in Elk Grove. The suspect used a firearm in an unsuccessful attempt to carjack a citizen, before he succeeded in carjacking another citizen. The suspect was identified by the Elk Grove Police Department and he was known to have a prior military history. During the briefing, Deputy Bell stated he received a photo of the suspect, who was identified as a parolee at large, with a history of weapons, resisting arrest, and robberies. Travis York was considered armed and dangerous.

Deputy Bell indicated the Major Crimes Bureau had received authorization from a warrant to track York's cellphone.

On 12/16/2018, Deputy Bell and other units tracked York's cellphone in the Lincoln area and later, in the Sacramento area. But the deputies weren't able to contact York.

On Monday, 12/17/2018, Deputy Bell responded to the area of Bercut and Richards Blvd. York's cellphone had pinged in the area. Deputy Bell was driving a marked Sacramento County Sheriff's SUV. Moments later, Detective Joey Lemus reported he was behind the suspect vehicle, which was northbound on I-5 from Richards Blvd. with a female driving. Deputy Bell effected a U-Turn to respond. During the drive on N/B I-5, Detective Lemus stated York was hunkering down and moving something from the backseat to the front of the vehicle. The

suspect vehicle seemingly was about to take the Garden Highway off ramp, but it made an abrupt turn to remain on N/B I-5. Deputy Bell stated his awareness heightened from the suspect vehicle's apparent attempts to evade by driving at a high rate of speed. Deputy Bell estimated Detective Lemus was approximately 1 – 2 car lengths behind the suspect vehicle, and he was approximately five car lengths behind.

Shortly after the suspect vehicle turned right onto E/B I-80 at a high rate of speed, Deputy Bell received a ping indicating the suspect was nearby. The suspect vehicle ran a red light S/B on Truxel from I-80. At S/B Truxel, past San Juan Avenue, the suspect vehicle made a right turn into the shopping center. The suspect vehicle drove around the shopping center. During this time, Deputy Bell got a good look at the suspect passenger and confirmed it was Travis York. Deputy Lemus requested additional units and air support. There were civilians in the shopping center. The suspect vehicle pulled into a parking stall near the entrance to Food Maxx and parked.

Deputy Bell saw York get out of the vehicle and walk towards the Detective Lemus. Detective Lemus and Deputy Bell triangulated York, but Deputy Bell was also aware of people around in the area. Deputy Bell heard Detective Lemus giving commands to York of, "Show us your hands" repeatedly. York was not complying or responding. Deputy Bell indicated he ordered York to "Stop" and "Stop moving".

Deputy Bell saw York turn around and reach toward his waistband while backpedaling towards the suspect vehicle. Deputy Bell indicated he was in fear for his safety and for the safety of civilians around them. Deputy Bell was aware of a person in a car next to the suspect vehicle. York was noncompliant to the deputies' commands. York went to the right front passenger seat of the suspect vehicle. Deputy Bell saw York reach into the waistband of his pants and was pulling a black object out of it. Deputy Bell heard Detective Lemus yelling, "Gun, gun, gun". In fear for his life and for those around them, Deputy Bell stated he discharged 4 – 5 rounds from his department issued rifle.

Deputy Bell indicated York appeared to turn towards him and York fell to the ground. York laid with one hand outstretched and the other hand underneath his torso. Medical was summoned. York appeared to be breathing at that time. Deputy Bell felt the suspect was still a threat due to his inability to see York's hand underneath his torso. While Detective Lemus detained the female driver, Deputy Bell kept his rifle trained on York until responding units arrived. Deputy Bell was then able to retrieve the gun underneath York's body and he placed it on the bumper of the suspect vehicle. The gun was later retrieved by another deputy who placed it in an unmarked unit.