



Union City Police Department

34009 ALVARADO-NILES ROAD
UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA 94587
(510) 471-1365 FAX: (510) 471-5974

News Release

Date of Investigation: January 18, 2016

Incident: Officer Involved Shooting

Location: 3800 block of Amy Place, Union City

Suspect/Deceased: Vasilios Alexander Katsouras, 29 year old male, resident of Hayward

Criminal Record: V. Katsouras was convicted in 2005 for 2nd degree Burglary (459PC-Felony) and convicted in 2014 for carrying a concealed weapon (25400 PC-Felony)

Officers Involved:

Officer Manuel Leon, 11-year veteran police officer with the Union City Police Department at the time of this incident.

Officer Eulogio Cota, 9-year veteran police officer with the Union City Police Department at the time of this incident.

Summary:

This is a summary of events that took place on January 18, 2016, obtained through an in-depth investigation that was completed by the Union City Police Department and a parallel independent investigation by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. The officers were cleared of any criminal/policy violations by the Union City Police Department. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office concluded "given the totality of the circumstances, it appears that Officers Cota and Leon reasonably believed that they were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death when they shot Mr. Katsouras". Both the UCPD investigation and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office investigation have concluded that the officers acted within the law.

On January 18, 2016, at approximately 10:20 PM, an elderly couple living in a single-family residence called 911, stating that an unknown subject was knocking on their rear yard bedroom window for the past five minutes. In an attempt to scare off the intruder, the elderly couple turned on the lights; however, the knocking persisted. At 10:27 PM, the residents reported to the dispatch center that the knocking had stopped.

Shortly after 10:27 PM, Officer Cota and Officer Leon contacted the elderly couple at their front door. The officers informed the couple they would be checking the backyard for the intruder and requested that they remain inside. Officer Cota and Officer Leon, in full police uniform, walked along the side of the house, and entered the backyard where the knocking had occurred. Officer Cota immediately encountered a male subject, later identified as Vasilios Katsouras, crouching in the backyard not far from his and Officer Leon's location. Officer Cota immediately and repeatedly gave commands for Mr. Katsouras to show his hands. Mr. Katsouras did not comply with Officer Cota's orders and instead stood up holding a metal three pronged cultivator in his right hand. Officer Cota ordered Mr. Katsouras to drop the weapon and further warned that he would shoot if Mr. Katsouras did not comply. Mr. Katsouras refused the officers' lawful commands and charged towards them raising the weapon, consistent with an attack. Fearing for

their own safety and for the safety of each other, both officers fired their duty weapons at Mr. Katsouras, fatally striking him. The officers fired their duty weapons in a combined ten (10) shots during this incident, stopping Mr. Katsouras only a few feet from their location.

Officers were unsure if there were additional suspects in the yard. Officer Cota remained with Mr. Katsouras as Officer Leon check the remainder of the yard. Officers Cota and Leon provided Mr. Katsouras with medical aid, including CPR. Mr. Katsouras was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office-Coroner Division toxicology report revealed that Mr. Katsouras had potentially toxic levels of methamphetamine/amphetamine in his system, along with a moderate level of Morphine.

The Union City Police Department understands the gravity of this investigation, and how it affects Mr. Katsouras' family, friends, and members of our department and their families. Senate Bill 1421 and Assembly Bill 748 recently amended State law to make reports and video and audio recordings of certain critical incidents subject to disclosure. We do caution viewers that this video is graphic in nature and not suitable for children.

Please click the below link to view the redacted body-worn camera video of the incident from January 18, 2016.

[Katsouras OIS BWC Footage](#)