



Union City Police Department

Investigative Summary

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

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 History:

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 (years of service at time of incident):

- Officer Manuel Leon, 11-year veteran police officer with the Union City Police Department
- Officer Eulogio Cota, 9-year veteran police officer with the Union City Police Department

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. Mr. Katsouras refused the officers' lawful commands and he charged towards Officers raising the weapon, with intention to violently attack the Officers. Fearing for their own safety and for the safety of each other, both officers fired their duty weapons at Mr. Katsouras, fatally striking him. After the initial shots, Mr. Katsouras continued to advance towards the Officers with the metal weapon still in his hand. The Officers' shots stopped Mr. Katsouras, only a few feet from them. According to the Alameda County Coroner's investigation, Mr. Katsouras had been struck approximately twelve times.

Officers were unsure if there were additional suspects in the yard. Officer Cota remained with Mr. Katsouras as Officer Leon checked the remainder of the yard. Officers Cota and Leon provided Mr. Katsouras with medical aid, including CPR. They also immediately called for medical personnel to respond. 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.



Vasilios Alexander Katsouras,
29-year-old male; resident of Hayward



Metal three-pronged cultivator