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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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April 20, 2026

Scott Campbell
Chief of Police
South San Francisco Police Department
1 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

RE: San Mateo County District Attorney's Office
Bureau of Investigation Case # 25-1208-01

Dear Chief Campbell,

The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office has completed our investigation and legal review of the facts surrounding the officer involved shooting that resulted in non-fatal injuries to Mr. Luis Franciscomanzo on December 8, 2025. The officers directly involved in the incident are Officer Martin Corona and Officer Brendan Hart. It is my conclusion that the use of force by Officers Corona and Hart under the circumstances encountered by them on that date was lawful under California Penal Code Section 196.

The investigation conducted by the District Attorney's Office included interviews of the involved officers, other responding officers, paramedics, firefighters and civilian witnesses; review of audio and video recordings, including the 911 dispatch call, and body worn camera footage; and review of lab reports.

Factual Summary

On December 8, 2025 at 5:06 a.m. Ms. Raquel Franciscomanzo called 911 from 975 Sandra Court, Apartment 1, in South San Francisco to report that her son, Luis Franciscomanzo, had been using drugs and threatening to kill himself while armed with a knife. Seven officers responded and were on scene by 5:11 a.m. Mr. Franciscomanzo was located in a communal hallway connecting the units at 975 Sandra Court to the street. Officers commanded Mr. Franciscomanzo to show them his hands and walk backwards toward them. Mr. Franciscomanzo complied at first, but when he got to within three to five feet of the officers, Mr. Franciscomanzo pulled a knife from his pants pocket and held it out from his body as he walked forwards toward the officers.

The officers retreated as they commanded Mr. Franciscomanzo to drop the knife. Officer Brendan Hart and Officer Edmund Lahlouh deployed their Tasers. The Taser probes struck Mr. Franciscomanzo in the back with minimal effect. Mr. Franciscomanzo walked past the officers

and ran into the street. Officers followed behind in a semi-circle formation while issuing commands to drop the knife and get on the ground. Mr. Franciscomanzo did not comply.

After traveling 20 to 30 feet, Mr. Franciscomanzo made a sharp turn and walked toward the officers with his knife pointed toward them. As Mr. Franciscomanzo got within ten feet of Corporal Anthony Pappas, Officer Martin Corona fired three rounds. Mr. Franciscomanzo remained standing while clutching the knife and moved toward Officer Brendan Hart. Officer Brendan Hart fired one round. At this point Mr. Franciscomanzo dropped the knife and fell to the ground.

After securing the knife and handcuffing Mr. Franciscomanzo, officers rendered medical aid. During this time Mr. Franciscomanzo repeatedly asked the officers to “kill” and “shoot” him. Mr. Franciscomanzo sustained gunshot wounds to his abdomen, chest and cheek. He was treated at San Francisco General Hospital and released on January 3, 2026. Lab results show that Mr. Franciscomanzo had fentanyl (79 ng/mL) in his system at the time of this incident.

On January 7, 2026 Mr. Franciscomanzo was charged by the San Mateo District Attorney’s Office in case number 26-NF-000761-A with one felony count of assault on a peace officer (Penal Code Section 245(c)), and four felony counts of resisting an executive officer (Penal Code Section 69) with a use of a deadly weapon allegation (Penal Code Section 12022(b)(1)) for his conduct on December 8, 2025.

Evidence at the Scene

The knife used by Mr. Franciscomanzo was a steak knife with a four-inch blade. Officer Martin Corona carried a Glock 17 Gen 5 9 mm semiautomatic pistol that was determined to have fired three rounds. Officer Brendan Hart carried a Glock 17 Gen 5 9 mm semiautomatic pistol that was determined to have fired one round.

Law Relating to Use of Force

Penal Code § 196, as amended effective January 1, 2020, provides that a homicide committed by a peace officer is justified “When the homicide results from a peace officer’s use of force that is in compliance with § 835a.” Penal Code § 835a(c)(1), also amended effective January 1, 2020, provides that “... a peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary ...(A) To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.”

Penal Code § 835a(e) defines a threat as “imminent” when “based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed.” The “totality of the circumstances” refers to “all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force.”

In amending Section 835a, the Legislature made the following findings and declarations bearing on the use of deadly force:

(1) That the authority to use physical force, conferred on peace officers by this Section, is a serious responsibility that shall be exercised judiciously and with respect for human rights and dignity and for the sanctity of every human life. The Legislature further finds and declares that every person has a right to be free from excessive use of force by officers acting under color of law.

(2) As set forth below, it is the intent of the Legislature that peace officers use deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case, and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.

(3) That the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated carefully and thoroughly, in a manner that reflects the gravity of that authority and the serious consequences of the use of force by peace officers, in order to ensure that officers use force consistent with law and agency policies.

(4) That the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force.

(5) That individuals with physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities are significantly more likely to experience greater levels of physical force during police interactions, as their disability may affect their ability to understand or comply with commands from peace officers. It is estimated that individuals with disabilities are involved in between one-third and one-half of all fatal encounters with law enforcement.

Precedent of the United States Supreme Court defines the use of deadly force by the police. In *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985) 471 U.S. 1, 3, the High Court made clear that a police officer is entitled to use deadly force when “the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others.”

The Court makes clear that the “‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.” *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386 “With respect to a claim of excessive force, the same standard of reasonableness at the moment applies: ‘Not every push or shove, even if it may later seem unnecessary in the peace of a judge's chambers,’ violates the Fourth Amendment.

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.” *Id.* at 396-7. An objective standard is applied: “the question is whether the officers' actions are ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation.” *Ibid.*

California law is in accord. As noted above, Penal Code § 835a(a)(1) requires evaluation from the perspective of the reasonable officer in the same situation with the information known to or perceived by the officer at that time rather than with the benefit of hindsight and with a recognition that officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force.

Conclusion

Applying these principles to the facts as determined by the investigation, under California law I find that Officer Martin Corona and Officer Brendan Hart were justified in their use of lethal force against Mr. Franciscomanzo on December 8, 2025. Further, I find that both officers’ belief in the need for the immediate use of lethal force to defend against an imminent threat of death or great bodily injury by Mr. Franciscomanzo reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances within the meaning of Penal Code Section 835a(c)(1)(A).

The call for service was for a man who was armed with a knife and threatening to kill himself after having ingested drugs. At first Mr. Franciscomanzo complied with the officers’ commands to show his hands and walk backward toward them. However, when he got to within striking distance of the officers he abruptly, and without warning, turned to face them with a knife in his hand. At this point the officers had confirmation that Mr. Franciscomanzo had the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to police officers.

Despite the escalation in Mr. Franciscomanzo’s behavior, officers continued to issue verbal commands while they retreated. As Mr. Franciscomanzo closed the gap between himself and the officers, two officers used non-lethal Tasers, which had no effect. Mr. Franciscomanzo walked past the officers and into the street. The officers issued more commands to drop the knife but Mr. Franciscomanzo did not comply. After advancing 20 – 30 feet, Mr. Franciscomanzo suddenly changed direction and moved toward the officers with the knife in his hand. This provided further confirmation of Mr. Franciscomanzo’s intent to cause harm to the officers. It was at this point that Officer Martin Corona and Officer Brendan Hart used lethal force.

I find that Officer Martin Corona and Officer Brendan Hart reacted to the imminent threat posed by Mr. Franciscomanzo, who had the present ability and apparent intent to cause death or to inflict great bodily injury by advancing on several officers with a knife. Based on the totality of the circumstances that were then known to Officers Corona and Hart, this threatening conduct caused them to reasonably believe they must instantly confront and address this threat, and they reasonably used deadly force to protect themselves and others. I believe their actions to have been objectively reasonable based on the facts and circumstances known to them at the time.

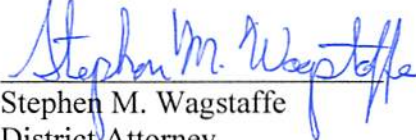
In conclusion, I note that all the South San Francisco Police Department officers involved in this event fully cooperated with the investigation and provided complete and detailed answers

narrating what they saw, did, heard and said during this dangerous, traumatic event. They answered all questions posed to them by my investigators and the Department complied fully with the County-wide Involved Officer Protocol, which greatly contributes to our and the public's ability to have a comprehensive understanding of these events.

I have carefully read all of the police reports and reviewed all of the video in this case. The situation facing Officer Corona and Officer Hart was volatile and developing quickly. There were private citizens living in the area and other officers in the immediate vicinity of the confrontation. In his effort to provoke the officers to end his life, Mr. Franciscomanzo was brandishing his knife in a menacing manner. It is my conclusion that Officers Corona and Hart are to be commended for taking steps to ensure the safety of all of the nearby citizens and officers. It is always difficult to be thrust into circumstances such as the officers faced on that December day, but the willingness of Officers Corona and Hart and the other officers to step up and protect the members of our community earns the gratitude of all of us.

Continuing the practice of this District Attorney's Office to provide transparency, our complete investigative report, other than materials which are legally protected and not subject to disclosure, will be made available to the public after you have received this letter. If you have any questions regarding our investigation or my conclusions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,


Stephen M. Wagstaffe
District Attorney