

**VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

M E M O R A N D U M



DATE: March 21, 2022
TO: Commander Cory Rubright
FROM: Captain Ian Laughlin
SUBJECT: Complaint Initiation – Formal IA #22-020

ILH 3/21/22



Complainant	Department Initiated
Named	Deputy Tyler Hackworth #5336 [REDACTED] Currently Assigned, Patrol Services, Thousand Oaks
Allegations	Excessive Force (OIS)
Supervisor	Sergeant Steve Hanie
BWC	Recorded Event
CPRA Disclosure (1421)	OIS / UOF (Shooting at a Vehicle)

Complaint Background

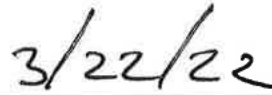
On March 19, 2022, around 5:06 a.m., Deputy Tyler Hackworth was working a patrol shift in Thousand Oaks. Hackworth was in uniform driving a marked Sheriff's Office Tahoe patrol vehicle. Hackworth responded to a call of a possible catalytic converter theft occurring.

Hackworth located two possible suspect vehicles leaving the area. Hackworth began a pursuit of one of the vehicles. At one point the driver stopped. Hackworth briefly got out of his vehicle and the driver fled again. Hackworth pursued the vehicle for a second time.

The driver turned into a cul-de-sac on [REDACTED] and stopped again. Hackworth got of the vehicle and pointed his weapon at the vehicle. The drive suddenly turned and drove toward Hackworth in an attempt to flee. Hackworth fired several rounds at the drive of the vehicle. The driver continued to flee from the area and the vehicle was abandoned in another area.

Recommendation

I recommend this matter be forwarded to Internal Affairs for further inquiry.



Approved: Cory Rubright, Commander

Date:

**VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

M E M O R A N D U M



DATE: November 29, 2023
TO: Commander Cory Rubright
FROM: Captain Ian Laughlin *CL #2017*
SUBJECT: Complaint Review and Determination – IA #22-020

Complainant Department Initiated
Named Deputy Tyler Hackworth #5336
[REDACTED]
Currently Assigned, Patrol Services, Thousand Oaks
Allegations Shooting at a moving vehicle (OIS)
Supervisor Sergeant Steve Hanie
BWC Recorded Event
SB 1421/SB 16 Public Record) Yes
(SB 2 Reportable 10 days) Yes

Complaint Background

On March 19, 2022, around 5:06 a.m., Deputy Tyler Hackworth was working a patrol shift in Thousand Oaks. Hackworth was in uniform driving a marked Sheriff's Office Tahoe patrol vehicle. Hackworth responded to a call of a possible catalytic converter theft occurring.

Hackworth located two possible suspect vehicles leaving the area. Hackworth began a pursuit of one of the vehicles. At one point the driver stopped. Hackworth briefly got out of his vehicle and the driver fled again. Hackworth pursued the vehicle for a second time.

The driver turned into a cul-de-sac on [REDACTED] and stopped again. Hackworth got of the vehicle and pointed his weapon at the vehicle. The driver suddenly turned and drove toward Hackworth in an attempt to flee. Hackworth fired several rounds at the vehicle. The driver continued to flee from the area and the vehicle was abandoned in another area of Thousand Oaks. Major Crimes detectives responded and began an attempted murder on a peace officer investigation which is currently open and active.

The administrative review of this deputy involved shooting included a response to the scene by Internal Affairs investigators and Captain, monitoring of the voluntary statement provided by Deputy Hackworth, a review of reports, body worn camera video, interview statements, scene diagrams, other documents in the open attempted murder investigation file.

Complaint Review

This administrative review was greatly aided because the entire event was captured on Deputy Hackworth's body worn video. The following is a summary of the evidence that supports Deputy Hackworth acted in a lawful and reasonable manner that was within Department policy.

In this case, Deputy Hackworth was in full uniform driving a marked Sheriff's Tahoe patrol vehicle. A community member phoned Sheriff's Dispatch around 5:06 a.m., to report people taking a catalytic converter from a vehicle. Hackworth responded to the crime that was in progress.

The citizen reported seeing two vehicle speeding from the area. Deputy Hackworth located the vehicles and started to pursue one of the vehicles. During the pursuit, one of the vehicles stopped in the roadway. Hackworth stopped his patrol vehicle, opened his driver side door, pointed his weapon at the vehicle and ordered the driver to stop. The driver did not comply and fled.

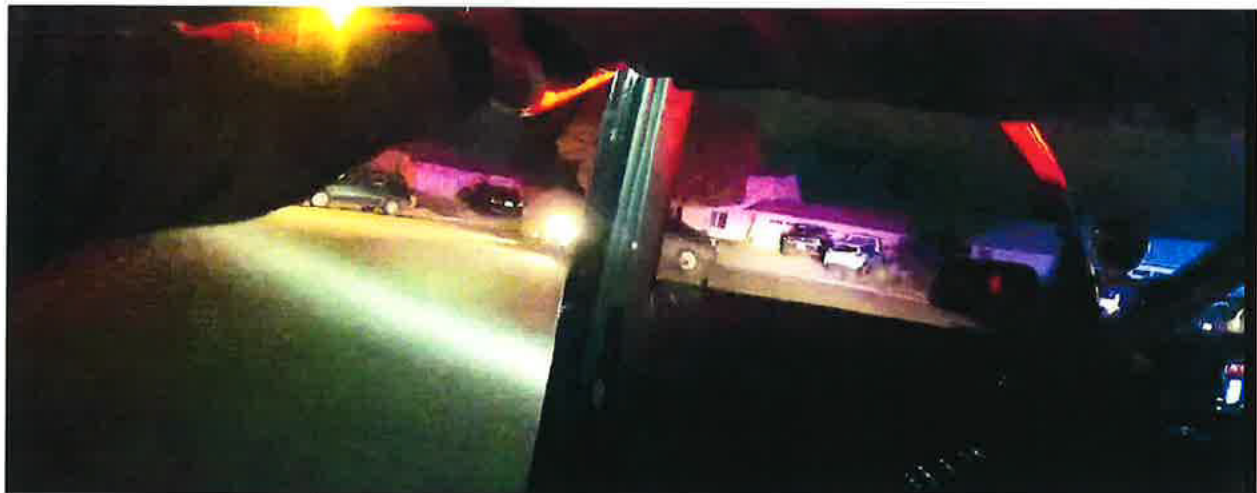


Body worn video recorded Hackworth continuing the pursuit and he maintained proper communication with Sheriff's Dispatch. Hackworth provided an update of the pursuit location, direction, and the driver's conduct of stopping and fleeing again.

Within 28 seconds, the driver stopped again in a cul-de-sac. Hackworth updated Sheriff's Dispatch that the driver stopped and he got out of his vehicle.



Hackworth again pointed his firearm at the vehicle and yelled stop. Body worn video captured the sound of the vehicle's tires screeching as the driver accelerated and made a turning movement. Hackworth moved to his left and was standing more behind the driver door. As the vehicle accelerated, the driver drove toward Hackworth. Hackworth moved backward as he yelled stop and fired at the vehicle.



The shooting occurred within four seconds of the driver stopping. During the four seconds, the driver accelerated, made a turning movement, and drove toward Hackworth as Hackworth moved back from the patrol vehicle's driver side front door, pointed his firearm at the vehicle, yelled stop and fired his weapon at the vehicle.

In his voluntary interview, Hackworth spoke with detectives and indicated the driver turned around quickly and he was unable to reposition himself. Hackworth said the event happened too quickly to think of another plan and he felt he was going to die. Body worn video corroborated Hackworth's statement and his belief he could be killed was reasonable under the circumstances.





After Hackworth fired his duty weapon at the vehicle, he ran back to his unit. As Hackworth ran to his vehicle, he updated Sheriff's Dispatch that shots were fired and he spontaneously told Sheriff's Dispatch "the vehicle tried to hit me".

Hackworth got back in his unit and attempted to continue the pursuit. Hackworth was unable to continue the pursuit of the vehicle because he collided with a parked car. Hackworth ended the pursuit and coordinated with responding units and community members who had come out of their homes. Hackworth updated Dispatch, spoke with community members in a professional manner, and coordinated with responding patrol deputies and patrol sergeant.

In summary, the use of deadly force is justified when a deputy reasonably believes it is necessary to protect him/herself from what he/she reasonably believes is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the deputy. Deputy Hackworth's voluntary statement, body worn video, along with his spontaneous statement to Sheriff's Dispatch establishes he felt the driver of the vehicle tried to hit him, an act that would cause great bodily injury or potential death. Hackworth's belief the driver tried to hit him, justified his actions of firing his issued weapon at the moving vehicle and was reasonable because the threat was imminent.

The threat of death or serious bodily injury did exist because the driver of the vehicle accelerated and drove towards Hackworth. Hackworth was standing at the driver side of his patrol vehicle and a reasonable deputy in the same situation would believe that the driver of the vehicle had the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the deputy. The threat from the driver of the vehicle was imminent and it was reasonable for Deputy Hackworth to believe it required instant attention.

Although Hackworth fired his weapon at a moving vehicle, body worn video and Hackworth's voluntary statement support he neither had time nor the ability to move out

of the path of the oncoming vehicle. Hackworth was standing at the side of his patrol vehicle and had moved backward from the driver's front door. Hackworth had no ability to move to his right, no time to turn and run to the rear of the vehicle or easily reenter the driver's side of the vehicle. Hackworth believed the driver was going to hit him and he discharged his firearm at a moving vehicle because he reasonably believed there was no other option available to avoid being killed.

In conclusion, the situation Deputy Hackworth faced was rapidly evolving and tense and his use of force was reasonable and necessary given the facts and circumstances. Deputy Hackworth acted lawfully and properly when he fired his duty weapon at a moving vehicle because he reasonably believed he faced a threat of death or great bodily injury.

At the time of the incident, Deputy Hackworth was engaged in a legitimate law enforcement action, faced an imminent threat of death or great bodily injury from the driver of a vehicle and his conduct was neither excessive nor in violation of Sheriff's Office policy.

Prior Discipline/Performance Issues:

[REDACTED]

Annual Performance Appraisal Review

[REDACTED]

Determination

In this case, the administrative review, body worn camera video analysis, and Hackworth's voluntary interview statement; shows and supports Deputy Hackworth acted lawfully and properly. The force used was reasonable and within Sheriff's Office policy and he is Exonerated.



Approved: Cory Rubright, Commander



Date:

VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MEDIA RELEASE

BILL AYUB, SHERIFF
www.venturasheriff.org



Nature of Incident: UPDATE**Ongoing investigation for officer involved shooting

Report Number: RB# 22-35758

Location: 3000 block of Rollings Ave., Thousand Oaks

Date & Time: 03/19/22 @ 05:03 AM

Unit(s) Responsible: Thousand Oaks Police Department

Narrative:

The following is updated information regarding the officer involved shooting. The suspect's vehicle was reported stolen out of Los Angeles County. The vehicle is reported to have damage to the front windshield and to at least one of the side windows on the vehicle.

Suspect Vehicle: Dark Gray 2016 Nissan Sentra four door, 8JYS273/CA

The investigation is still on going and being handled by Sheriff's Major Crimes Bureau.

Anyone with information regarding this vehicle, contact Sgt. William Hutton at (805) 384-4727

Prepared by: Deputy Wendell Campbell

News Release Date: March 19, 2022

Media Follow-Up Contact: Captain Cameron Henderson
Cameron.henderson@ventura.org
(805) 797-6394

Approved by: Captain Victor Medina

***Ventura County Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 reward for information, which leads to the arrest and criminal complaint against the person(s) responsible for this crime. The caller may remain anonymous. The call is not recorded. Call Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477).
###***

VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MEDIA RELEASE

BILL AYUB, SHERIFF
www.venturasheriff.org



Nature of Incident: Ongoing investigation for officer involved shooting

Report Number: RB# 22-35758

Location: 3000 block of Rollings Ave., Thousand Oaks

Date & Time: 03/19/22 @ 05:03 AM

Unit(s) Responsible: Thousand Oaks Police Department

Narrative:

Deputies are actively investigating an officer involved shooting in the 3000 block of Rollings Avenue in the city of Thousand Oaks. The suspect fled in a vehicle and is being sought.

The officer involved shooting took place following the end of a short pursuit when the suspect tried to ram a deputy with their vehicle. The deputy involved was not harmed and there were no known injuries to the suspect.

The suspect vehicle – a dark grey 4-door 2016 Nissan Sentra – is still outstanding, and the investigation remains ongoing.

If located, please contact Sgt. William Hutton at 805-765-0426.

Prepared by: Natalie Hernandez

News Release Date: March 19, 2022

Media Follow-Up Contact: Captain Cameron Henderson
Cameron.henderson@ventura.org
(805) 797-6394

Approved by: Captain Victor Medina

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Body camera footage released from Thousand Oaks deputy-involved shooting

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Jeremy Childs, Ventura County Star

May 3, 2022 · 3 min read



A still from the body camera footage released by the the Ventura County Sheriff's Office on May 3 depicting a deputy-involved shooting in Thousand Oaks on March 19.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office published body-worn camera footage Tuesday from a deputy-involved shooting that took place in Thousand Oaks earlier this year.

The shooting involved Deputy Tyler Hackworth, a 5½-year veteran of the department, after a pursuit of a catalytic converter theft suspect in the 300 block of Rollings Avenue in March.

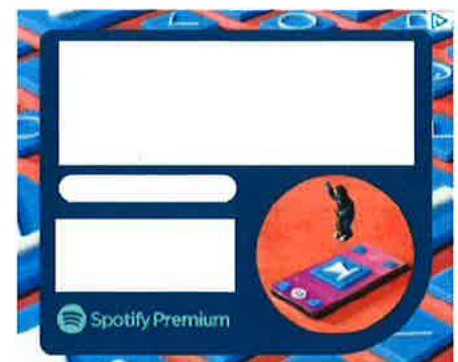
The footage was posted late Tuesday morning in an age-restricted [YouTube video](#) lasting six-and-a-half minutes. The video is bookended by narration from Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub as he provides context.

"In our commitment to being open and transparent with the communities we police, it is important to share with you a critical incident that occurred in Thousand Oaks in the early



TRENDING

1. Mexico police find 45 bags containing body parts 'matching characteristics' of missing call center staff
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4. 'I'd do it again:' Georgia sheriff stops scam suspects by shooting at truck tire
5. Biden thanks Air Force Academy graduates for choosing 'service over self'; he stumbles after speech



morning on Saturday, March 19, 2022," Ayub said at the video's start.

The incident began after a reported catalytic converter theft in the 3100 block of Radcliffe Road. A neighbor reported seeing two male subjects in separate vehicles — both described as silver sedans — steal a catalytic converter from a parked car before driving away. It was unknown if there were additional suspects inside either of the sedans.

Hackworth was the first deputy to arrive and found two cars that matched the caller's description. He said over the radio he tried to stop the cars but neither yielded.

Hackworth began a pursuit of one of the sedans, a 2016 Nissan Sentra, eastbound on Peterson Road and continued southbound into a neighborhood along Calle Estepa. At the intersection with Rollings Avenue, Hackworth can be seen getting out of his patrol vehicle and yelling, "Hey, stop! Stop!" toward the Nissan, which had briefly yielded before speeding away again on Rollings.

More news: [COVID-19 cases surge in Ventura County but hospitalizations remain low](#)

"It initially stopped and took off from me when I went out," Hackworth can be heard saying over the radio.

Ayub explained that it is normal procedure for a deputy to draw his or her weapon during a high-risk traffic stop.

Hackworth continued to pursue the Nissan eastbound on Rollings Avenue when the sedan turned onto a cul-de-sac. Hackworth got out of his vehicle again, pointed his firearm at the suspect's car and yelled at him to stop.

The video shows the driver doing a U-turn in the cul-de-sac and heading back out through the narrow bottleneck. As the sedan passed him, Hackworth fired five shots at the car and continued yelling at the driver to stop.





Hackworth briefly continued pursuing the vehicle but stopped after hitting a parked car. The footage ends with Hackworth reporting the collision over the radio.

Officials [previously noted](#) Hackworth was placed on administrative leave for three days after the shooting. He has since returned to patrol duties with the Thousand Oaks Police Department full time. The sheriff's office is contracted to provide police services in Thousand Oaks.

The Nissan was later found unoccupied in Los Angeles a few days after the shooting. It had previously been reported as stolen and was found with multiple bullet holes and glass shattered on the passenger side, authorities said.

"It is unknown whether anyone in the suspect vehicle was struck by the gunfire," Ayub said.

The video ends with Ayub explaining the two concurrent investigations that take place after an officer-involved shooting: an investigation by the department's major crimes unit that will be reviewed by the Ventura County District Attorney's Office to determine whether the incident was unlawful, and an administrative investigation into whether Hackworth's actions followed internal protocol.

"This incident is still under active investigation. No conclusions about the deputy's actions will be made until the investigation is completed," Ayub said.

On April 28, two officers with the Simi Valley Police Department shot dead a man who reportedly [fired at them when they tried to make contact](#), according to police. The man had been sought by the Los Angeles Police Department as a suspect in a murder case there.

Jeremy Childs is a breaking news and public safety reporter covering the night shift for the Ventura County Star. He can be reached by calling 805-437-0208 or emailing jeremy.childs@vcstar.com. You can also find him on Twitter [@Jeremy_Childs](https://twitter.com/Jeremy_Childs).

[REDACTED]