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For Immediate Release:

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Friday, June 11, 2021

APD Releases Details of Recent Officer-Involved Shooting

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The Albuquerque Police Department released details today of a recent officer-involved shooting.

April 17, 2021

Location: 10416 Coyote Canyon Pl., N.W.

Deceased Individual: Juan James Cordova (7/24/1969)

Involved Officer:

- **Officer Bryce Willsey**, who has been with the department since 2015, has been involved in three prior officer-involved shootings.

Summary of OIS:

On April 17, 2021, at 9:50 p.m., officers were dispatched to a domestic dispute at 10416 Coyote Canyon Pl., N.W. in the Ventana Ranch neighborhood. The caller was Susan Vasquez, the girlfriend of Juan Cordova.

Susan was no longer at the residence and told APD dispatch she and suspect Cordova were involved in a verbal dispute.

Officers arrived on scene about 9:57 p.m. and contacted Susan by cell phone to gather information of the incident. Susan said Cordova put a gun to his head and told her he “could take both of them out.” Cordova discharged his weapon, striking the sunglasses he had on top of his head. A projectile was found to have traveled through the wall, through the window, and struck the exterior of the neighbor’s residence.

Susan also said Cordova told her he was aware police were coming and he would engage officers if they approached him.

A sergeant arrived and attempted to contact Cordova by cell phone three times, but it went to voicemail. During this time, another officer said he saw Cordova coming out of the driveway and pointing his gun in the officer’s direction.

The sergeant entered his vehicle and slowly drove down Pony Hill Street. Another sergeant and three officers were on the passenger side of the vehicle for cover. Once he was able to get a visual of the suspect, the sergeant had an officer give public announcements. Suspect Cordova responded with statements such as he was only leaving in a body bag.

As a supervisor contacted the SWAT Unit and the Crisis Negotiation Team, the officer who was making public announcements said she did not feel comfortable in her position because it appeared Cordova had moved, and had a direct line of sight of her while she was in the passenger seat. Another officers started making public announcements from outside the vehicle. During this time, Cordova discharged one round.

The officer making public announcements told Cordova he was not free to leave, and officers could guarantee his safety if he would walk toward them with his hands free and clear.

Officer Willsey, who was armed with a rifle, found a position at the residence at the corner of Pony Hills and Coyote Place. During a later interview with investigators, Officer Willsey said when he initially heard the call, he was concerned because he heard Cordova had been drinking, already fired a shot inside the residence, and was still armed with a gun.

When he found a position with cover, Officer Willsey said he saw Cordova waving a gun toward officers and making statements such as, "he's not going to leave there unless he leaves in a body bag, and he has a 45, 1911." Cordova was also cussing at the officers.

Officer Willsey said he was aware Susan had left the house, but she was in close proximity, and he was concerned Cordova would walk the neighborhood looking for her. Officer Willsey also said he was concerned because Cordova was waving the gun, and said he knew it was likely people are at home and Cordova could possibly discharge the firearm, striking an occupied home.

Officer Willsey said he saw Cordova point the gun in the direction of the officers to the north and then the officers to the west. At this time, Officer Willsey said he believed the officers, along with the residents, were in danger and he fired his rifle one time.

Officers approached and rendered aid to Cordova. However, he succumbed to his wound.

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