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For Immediate Release:

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2019

APD releases details of recent officer-involved shooting

ALBUQUERQUE – The Albuquerque Police Department released details today of an officer-involved shooting on Aug. 20, 2019.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

Date of Incident: **Aug. 20, 2019**

Location: **5410 Lomas Blvd NE**

APD officers were dispatched at 4:05 p.m. to the area of San Pedro and Lomas NE in reference to an individual driving recklessly in the intersection. A witness contacted Albuquerque dispatch and stated an individual, later identified as Isaiah Debaca, was driving his vehicle recklessly, revving his engine, driving in circles in the intersection and holding a handgun to his (Debaca's) head.

Officers separately advised they observed Debaca driving recklessly in circles in the intersection of San Mateo and Lomas Blvd. Officers stated Debaca appeared to have a gun in his hand. Debaca's vehicle went westbound on Lomas and drove in circles just west of San Mateo. Debaca then drove eastbound in the westbound lanes of Lomas.

As Debaca drove eastbound in the westbound lanes of traffic, multiple vehicles had to perform defensive and evasive driving maneuvers to avoid being stuck by Debaca's vehicle. A witness stated he observed Debaca's vehicle driving straight at him; head-on with his vehicle. The witness turned his vehicle sharply to the left jumping over the center median and into the eastbound lanes of traffic facing westbound. He did this to avoid being hit by Debaca's vehicle. The witness also observed Debaca waving a gun as he passed him.

Several witnesses stated they observed Debaca drive deliberately and intentionally eastbound in the westbound lanes of Lomas physically forcing his way through traffic. As Debaca was driving the wrong way in traffic, he struck three witness/victims vehicles causing injury to one of the victims.

One victim said Debaca's vehicle came to a stop at Madeira and Lomas where she observed him stand on the roof of his vehicle waving what appeared to be a firearm.

A witness stated she was exiting her place of employment at 5400 Lomas Blvd NE when she noticed Debaca's vehicle driving the wrong way in traffic and striking multiple vehicles. She observed Debaca drive into the parking lot of the salon next to where she was standing.

She then observed Debaca exit his vehicle, climb onto the hood and then onto the roof of his vehicle. He began pointing what she believed to be a firearm at her. She stated she screamed and ran back into the business and locked the door. She stated she then heard two gun shots and was afraid she was going to be shot.

Another witness observed Debaca standing on the roof of his vehicle waving what appeared to be a firearm and point it at a police officer. The witness observed the police officer fire at Debaca.

Subject: **Isaiah Christopher Debaca, 23**

Involved Officers:

- **Tommy Benavidez**, who has been with the department since 2009, has not been involved in prior officer-involved shootings.

Over the next several months, APD will continue to investigate and analyze this incident. Detectives will continue interviewing any new witnesses that come forward and complete any forensic tests. After the investigation is complete, APD's Force Review Board will forward the findings to the Superintendent of Police Reform to determine if this incident met the high standards of the Albuquerque Police Department. The Multi-Agency Task Force will forward its case to the District Attorney's Office to make any determination of criminal charges.

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