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**For immediate release**

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## **APD Releases Details of Recent Officer-Involved Shooting**

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

### Summary of OIS

#### **March 30, 2020 – 917 Edith SE**

- At 12:52 p.m., a report of a welfare check at 917 Edith Blvd SE was generated by Albuquerque Police Dispatch.
- The caller told the dispatcher that Valente Acosta-Bustillos had not been heard from in 4-5 days and that he had not been to work or picked up his check. The caller identified himself as Valente's son-in-law. He also stated that Valente's cell phone was off and this was unusual behavior.
- The son-in-law also indicated Valente had not been diagnosed with a mental health illness, and it was unknown if drugs, alcohol or weapons were involved with the call.
- At 12:58pm, officers from the Valley Area Command were dispatched to the call and arrived at approximately 1:13 p.m.
- The responding officers had previous contacts with Valente. Officer Edgar Sandoval approached Valente who was on the side of the house, holding a shovel.
- Officer Sandoval said in his interview that he and his partner had previous contacts with Valente, and he built a rapport with him. Officer Sandoval said he knew Valente could understand English, but Spanish was Valente's preferred language. So he chose to speak to Valente in Spanish.
- While discussing the reason for the call with Valente, officers checked to see if Valente had any outstanding warrants.

- Valente was found to have one confirmed felony warrant for aggravated assault. At that point, the call changed from a welfare check to a felony arrest, which the officers were obligated to enforce.
- Officer Sandoval told Valente he had an arrest warrant and that Valente was going to have to go with the officers. Valente argued that his court date was sometime in April, the papers were fake, and he wanted to talk to a lawyer.
- Valente stepped backward inside his doorway and tried to close the security door. Officers followed Valente into the house.
- Once inside the doorway, Valente briefly raised the shovel sideways above his head. He then lowered the shovel to his side and walked away from officers into a dark bedroom.
- He was given a verbal command to “get down” and to “put the shovel down.” Valente refused and attempted to shut the bedroom door on officers. Officer Sandoval drew his handgun and the assisting officer drew his taser.
- Valente stopped moving backward and continued to grasp the shovel as it was lowered to his side. He refused to drop the shovel.
- Officers gave verbal commands and warned Valente to back up or he would be tased. Additional commands and warnings to put the shovel down or he would be tased.
- The assisting officer discharged his taser, which was ineffective.
- Valente raised the shovel over his head with a two handed grip, and swung downward toward the officers, in what can be described as an Axe motion. Officers backed up, creating distance from Valente.
- Valente moved toward officers with the metal blade of the shovel extended forward toward officers.
- The primary officer reported that Valente raised the shovel toward him while closing distance, causing him to fear being struck with the blade of the shovel. The primary officer reported he discharged his handgun five times.

**Offender:** Valente Acosta-Bustillos (3/9/1968)

**The officer involved in the shooting was:**

- **Officer Edgar Sandoval**, who has been with the department since 2018, has been not been involved in any prior officer-involved shootings.

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