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APD Releases Details of Aug. 19 Officer-Involved Shooting

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Today, the Albuquerque Police Department released details of the Aug. 19 officer-involved shooting in which an armed offender was seriously wounded. APD officials released audio and video related the incident.

Officers in the Southeast Area Command responded to a 911 emergency call on Sunday, Aug. 19 at 1:43 p.m. The caller alerted the 911 operator that a neighbor, later identified as Lambert Joe (DOB: July 1980), was threatening neighbors with a gun and had discharged at least one round from the weapon in the parking lot.

Officers arrived on scene at 219 Dallas St., NE at 1:53 p.m. They were told by the caller that Joe also had a handgun in his back pocket. Upon the arrival of officers, Joe exited his apartment at 225 Dallas, N.E. #6, then walked back inside and slammed the front door.

Joe's brother advised officers that Joe was a security guard and he had a gun in the apartment. The brother called Joe and tried to get him to exit the apartment. A trained Crisis Intervention detective also called Joe several times, and reported that Joe was very upset about a recent break-up with his girlfriend and wanted to die.

During his final phone call with police, Joe told police he wanted to die. He stopped answering his phone at 2:55 p.m. Joe's brother told police that Joe was intoxicated and was recently using meth.

Joe exited the apartment at 3:19 p.m. armed with a rifle and appeared to be talking to someone on his cell phone. He walked into the parking lot, but ignored all commands given by officers to drop the rifle and surrender. He walked back into his apartment.

Another trained Crisis Intervention officer took over negotiation duties and repeatedly tried to call Joe, who did not answer. At 3:47 p.m., Joe is heard yelling from inside his apartment that he wanted officers to kill him.

Joe exited the apartment a second time at 3:57 p.m., still armed with a rifle. As officers gave commands for Joe to drop the rifle, he pointed the barrel of the rifle to the east and began to turn in a counter-clockwise direction. Officer Ian Ross said when he saw the

rifle pointed toward him, he fired three rounds at Joe, one of which struck Joe's rifle, causing it to splinter. Wood fragments from Joe's rifle injured his right forearm.

Joe was still carrying the rifle as he continued to walk east in the parking lot. Officers who were positioned around a corner and to the south of 219 Dallas NE, thought Joe was firing at officers. When he appeared, still holding a rifle, Officer Richard Whitton fired two rounds. One round struck Lambert's rifle and ricocheted, hitting him in the scrotum.

Joe was treated at UNMH and has since been released. He was charged with aggravated assault. He is currently detained at the Metropolitan Detention Center.

The officers involved in the shooting were:

- Officer Ian Ross, who has been with the department for three years. This is his first officer-involved shooting.
- Richard Whitton, who has been with the department for 10 years. This is his first officer-involved shooting.

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