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LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT FINDS DISCIPLINE NOT WARRANTED FOR DETECTIVE INVOLVED IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE DURING MAY 30, 2020 PROTEST

The La Mesa Police Department's (Department) review of Detective Eric Knudson's use of less-lethal force (the firing of a beanbag from a shotgun), during a protest on the evening of May 30, 2020, in the City of La Mesa, which struck Ms. Leslie Furcron on the forehead causing serious injury, did not warrant imposing discipline. The Department based its decision on the totality of the circumstances, an independent review by a qualified expert in the areas of use of force and less lethal munitions (R.K. Miller, National Training Concepts), and the absence of any significant violation of Department policies.

On January 5, 2021, the Office of the District Attorney, County of San Diego, issued a written analysis and conclusion determining that Detective Knudson's actions during the May 30, 2020 protest did not warrant any state criminal liability.

Presently, there is an ongoing lawsuit filed (on December 8, 2020) in Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, on behalf of Ms. Furcron, against Detective Knudson and the City of La Mesa. This litigation will determine the extent of civil liability, if any, on the part of Detective Knudson and the City related to the May 30, 2020 protest incident and the injuries suffered by Ms. Furcron.

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