

City of Richmond, California
 Community Police Review Commission
PUBLIC CASE SUMMARY

Case #	Date Received	Date Completed
None	9/27/2017	5/6/2020

CATEGORY OF CONDUCT: (check one)

Unnecessary Force	Racial Bias
<u>X</u>	

FINDING OF FACT: (brief summary of complaint and investigation)

In September of 2017, Fairfield Police Department (“FPD”) identified Demilo Trayvon Hodge (“Hodge”) as a primary suspect in a 2015 murder. FPD planned to execute warrants on September 27, 2017 to search Hodge, his vehicles, and his home. FPD officers tried but failed to stop Hodge’s vehicle, but he evaded them, fleeing at high speeds through the surface streets of Richmond and eventually onto I-80 during rush hour. RPD officers engaged pursuit through Richmond and onto the freeway. CHP deployed "spike strips" to disable Hodge's car on westbound I-80. RPD officers took up positions along a line of their patrol cars behind Hodge’s vehicle and a stand-off began. Traffic was blocked in both directions with many drivers and passengers exiting their cars just over the freeway median to observe what was happening. FPD Officers joined RPD during the stand-off, and FPD SWAT took over tactical control of the scene. During the stand-off, officers repeatedly asked Hodge to surrender peacefully to avoid injury over a loudspeaker and also over his personal cell phone. Before and during the incident, dispatch and other officers provided information to the RPD officers pursuing Hodge and at the scene, telling them that Hodge had a gun in his vehicle, that he planned to use the gun against police officers, and that he planned to die rather than surrender. Most RPD officer interview statements consistently described receiving and knowing about this information

Eventually, FPD decided to use less lethal rounds to break out the window of Hodge’s car. They fired 3 rounds in sequence, breaking the rear window of the car, with the last round a gas round. Seconds later, Hodge quickly opened the driver's side door and immediately exited his car, spinning toward the police line holding a gun pointed in the direction of police officers and the public, and fired once or twice in their direction. Multiple RPD officers discharged their guns at Hodge, who was struck numerous times and fell quickly to the ground. The time from when Hodge exited his vehicle firing until the officers stopped firing was around 9 seconds, total.

RPD officers who discharged their firearms during the incident: Sergeant Donovan Decious; Sergeant Chris Llamas; Officer Cedric Tagorda; Officer Benjamin Mendler; Officer Orlando Guzman; Detective Anthony Diaz; and Detective Michael Ricchiuto. The commission finds that the investigative evidence shows that RPD officers used deadly force to protect themselves and members of the public from a deadly threat. Thus, the commission finds the deadly force used in this instance was reasonable under RPD Policy and the law.

RECOMMENDED FINDING: (check one)

<u>SUSTAINED</u>	<u>NOT-SUSTAINED</u>	<u>UNFOUNDED</u>	<u>EXONERATED</u>
			<u>X</u>

