

City of Richmond, California
Community Police Review Commission

PUBLIC CASE SUMMARY

Case #	Date Received	Date Completed
2020-5 (Lopez)	4/19/2020	9/1/2021

CATEGORY OF CONDUCT: (check one)

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

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

On April 19, 2020, RPD received a call for service involving a potential domestic violence incident at a residence occupied by Jose Luis Lopez, his partner, and others. Lopez was reportedly high on crack cocaine at the time and forcing his partner to take her clothing off. When officers arrived, Lopez came into the hall, and officers immediately restrained him. An officer threw Lopez forcefully to the floor with no warning, with he and another falling on top of Lopez. Multiple officers began to use steadily escalating force. Lopez was choked, hit with significant strikes by a baton, shocked by a Taser device, and placed on his stomach with several officers placing their weight on his neck while he was being cuffed. Lopez began to resist after significant force was used and continued resisting his detention throughout most of the incident. Lopez ultimately was cuffed and placed in a Wrap with a spit hood over his head. The officers did not attempt to use de-escalation efforts, but immediately and steadily escalated force.

Once Lopez was subdued, cuffed, and put in the Wrap, an EMT administered a sedative to Lopez at the suggestion of an RPD officer. Within a minute, Lopez was unconscious and stopped resisting. He was moved to an ambulance gurney and taken to the ambulance. Once in the ambulance, Lopez was discovered to be in medical distress, with his heart and breathing stopped. After transport to the hospital, Lopez was declared dead and taken off life support later that morning.

The Commission sustained a finding of unreasonable force used against Lopez for three officers involved in the incident. In addition, the Commission sustained a finding against three officers for failing to intercede in clearly unreasonable force they personally observed.

RECOMMENDED FINDINGS: (check one)

Unnecessary Force

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