OFFICE OF THE WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 13, 2026

REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 4, 2022 OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING OF MARCUS LEE LEWIS

CHRISTOPHER J. HICKS
WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS 3
INTRODUCTION 4
I. STATEMENT OF FACTS 7
A. Witness Accounts 7
1. Civilian Witness Tristan Smerage 7
2. Civilian Witness Heather Myers 8
3. Civilian Witness Andrew Bage 8
4. Civilian Witness Geoffrey Sperle 9
5. Civilian Witness Martin Mason 10
6. RPD Officer Brianna Perez 11
7. UNRPD Officer Heriberto “Eddie” Pinon 13
8. RPD Officer Samet Uyanik 14
9. RPD Officer Michael Lawton 16
10. RPD Officer Bryan Sanchez 17
11. RPD Sergeant Travis Warren 19
12. RPD Officer Fernando Reza 20
II. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE 23
A. Shooting Scene 23
B. Scene Location 23
C. Body-Worn Camera (BWC) 24
1. RPD Officer Sanchez BWC 25
2. Officer Lawton BWC 28
3. Officer Reza BWC 30
D. Evidence Collected 31
E. Countdown and Forensic Testing 32
1. Officer Reza’s Firearm and Countdown 32
III. INJURIES 32
A. Marcus Lee Lewis 32
B. Officers and Witnesses 33
V. CRIMINAL PROSECUTION 33
A. Washoe County Criminal Charges 33
B. Page County Criminal Charges 33
VI. LEGAL PRINCIPLES 33
A. The Use of Deadly Force in Self-Defense or Defense of Another 34
B. Justifiable Homicide by Public Officer 35
C. Use of Deadly Force to Effect Arrest 35
VII. ANALYSIS 35
VIII. CONCLUSION 37

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Term
LEWIS	Marcus Lee Lewis, Civilian
DETECTIVE ALMAREZ	WCSO Detective Michael Almaraz
DETECTIVE BRADY	WCSO Detective Stefanie Brady
DETECTIVE COATES	SPD Detective Nathan Coates
DETECTIVE DUTRA	SPD Detective Christopher Dutra
DETECTIVE FITZMEYER	WCSO Detective Trisha Fitzmeyer
DETECTIVE LOESCHNER	SPD Detective Peter Loeschner
DETECTIVE SWANSON	WCSO Detective Joshua Swanson
DETECTIVE ZENDEJAS	SPD Detective Jose Zendejas
FIS BRALY	WCSO FIS Shaun Braly
FIS SMITH	WCSO FIS Krista Smith
FIS STIENMETZ	WCSO FIS Darby Stienmetz
OFFICER LAWTON	RPD Officer Michael Lawton
OFFICER PEREZ	RPD Officer Brianna Perez
OFFICER PINON	UNRPD Officer Heriberton “Eddie” Pinon
OFFICER REZA	RPD Officer Fernando Reza
OFFICER UYANIK	RPD Officer Samet Uyanik
ANDREW	Civilian Witness Andrew Bage
GEOFFREY	Civilian Witness Geoffrey Sperle
HEATHER	Civilian Witness Heather Myers
MARTIN	Civilian Witness Martin Mason
TRISTAN	Civilian Witness Tristan Smerage
SGT. WARREN	RPD Sergeant Travis Warren
FCC	Fired Cartridge Casing
FIS	Forensic Investigation Services
OIS	Officer Involved Shooting
BWC	Body-Worn Camera
RPPA	Reno Police Protective Association
RPD	Reno Police Department
SPD	Sparks Police Department
UNR	University of Nevada Reno
UNRPD	University of Nevada Reno Police Department
WCDA	Washoe County District Attorney's Office
WCSO	Washoe County Sheriff's Office

INTRODUCTION[1]

In the early morning hours of December 4, 2022, officers from Reno Police Department (RPD) responded to a welfare check for Marcus Lee Lewis (Lewis) in downtown Reno. The encounter ultimately resulted in an Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), during which Lewis was shot and injured by RPD Officer Fernando Reza (Officer Reza). As outlined below, the OIS was preceded by a separate event with Lewis earlier that same morning.

Initial Incident

At approximately 0218 hours on December 4, 2022, the Nevada Department of Public Safety received a call reporting that an unknown adult male wearing a dark poncho was walking eastbound on the westbound side of Interstate 80 (I-80) between the left lane and the left shoulder. The call was forwarded to RPD, who were also advised that the unknown male was currently between the Wells Avenue and Keystone Avenue exits.

RPD Officers Brian Sanchez (Officer Sanchez) and Brianna Perez (Officer Perez) were dispatched to the area and located the male subject on I-80 westbound, between the Virginia Street and Keystone Avenue exits. Officer Sanchez had his patrol window down and his takedown lights on the male subject as he instructed him to get off the roadway. The male subject did not comply and instead jumped over the concrete median into the eastbound lanes of I-80 and began to walk east towards the Virginia Street exit. Officers Sanchez and Perez drove westbound to the Keystone Avenue exit and re-entered I-80 traveling eastbound, however, after searching the area they were unable to locate him.

Second Incident

At approximately 0559 hours on December 4, 2022, RPD Communications received a report of a barefoot man standing in the roadway near North Virginia Street and East Fifth Street who had raised concerns with casino security. The report stemmed from his observed behavior in the area which included an encounter between the man and two security officers. During the encounter, one security officer observed the man running toward the other officer while holding a knife. Fearing for his colleague's safety, the security officer called out to her, and the two officers moved together. The man then ran toward both officers before stopping in the middle of the roadway. The 911 caller described the man as wearing a brown or gray hooded jacket, dark pants, no shoes, and possibly armed with a knife. RPD Officer Sanchez responded to the call and was the first officer to arrive at the scene at approximately 0607 hours.

After locating the man, later identified as Lewis, on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Virginia Street, Officer Sanchez identified himself as a police officer and issued verbal commands for Lewis to stop. Lewis ignored these commands and walked away, at which point Officer Sanchez observed what appeared to be a knife in a sheath in Lewis' hand.

---

[1] The Introduction is synopsized from 911 calls, police reports, witness interviews, Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and forensic reports.

As Lewis continued to refuse to comply with Officer Sanchez's commands, multiple officers responded to assist, including RPD Officer Fernando Reza (Officer Reza), who arrived at approximately 0610 hours. Officers followed Lewis in their patrol vehicles and gave verbal commands for him to *“stop”* and *“drop the weapon,”* including utilizing the patrol vehicle PA system to de-escalate the situation. Lewis did not respond and ignored all commands as he moved northbound on Virginia Street to Sixth Street, westbound on Sixth Street to Sierra Street, and southbound to Fifth Street.

Concerned about the safety of nearby pedestrians and oncoming traffic, Officer Reza attempted to divert Lewis away from the downtown area. He drove his patrol vehicle ahead of Lewis and parked at the intersection of Fifth Street and Sierra Street. A pedestrian was exiting a nearby parking garage, and Officer Reza yelled for her to leave, causing her to quickly return to the garage. Lewis then walked past Officer Reza’s vehicle and continued westbound on Fifth Street. As a white van emerged from the Silver Legacy Resort parking garage, Lewis ran toward it, prompting Officer Reza to yell at the driver to leave the area. The van left without incident, and Officer Reza again attempted to engage with Lewis, who then began sprinting toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area.

Officer Reza drove toward the area, exited his patrol vehicle, and drew his duty weapon. He observed RPD Officer Michael Lawton (Officer Lawton) slip and fall to the ground approximately 15 to 20 feet from Lewis. Officer Reza then saw Lewis move toward Officer Lawton and based on Lewis’ actions, believed he was preparing to attack Officer Lawton. Officer Reza was preparing to fire his weapon but heard a Taser being deployed. Describing Lewis’ clothing as bulky, Officer Reza stated the Taser was not effective and only appeared to stun Lewis briefly. Officer Reza continued to observe Lewis as he moved erratically near the casino entrance, repeatedly moving, stopping, and turning toward the officers. Lewis remained armed with the knife and did not comply with commands to stop.

Geoffrey Spearle, a valet attendant, heard officers ordering Lewis to drop what he was holding and observed the Taser wires extending toward him. Although he did not see the Taser deployments, he observed Lewis fall to the ground, stand back up, and begin swinging what appeared to be a knife in a wide, sweeping motion toward the officers. Spearle described Lewis as swinging the knife wildly before turning and running toward the valet booth, where Spearle was standing.

As Lewis neared a glass door leading into the Silver Legacy Resort, Officer Reza observed an individual standing on the other side of the door, inside the casino. Based on Lewis's continued refusal to comply, his aggressive demeanor, his possession and display of the knife, and his apparent intent to enter the occupied casino, Officer Reza believed Lewis posed an imminent threat to the safety of those inside. Fearing Lewis would enter the Silver Legacy Resort and seriously injure or kill another person, Officer Reza discharged his service weapon at Lewis at approximately 0617 hours.

Medical aid was immediately provided to Lewis by the officers on scene. He was then transported to Renown Medical Center by ambulance with injuries consistent with gunshot wounds. Lewis survived the shooting.

Consistent with the regionally adopted Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) protocol, the Sparks Police Department (SPD) led the investigation into Officer Reza discharging his firearm. Additional investigative support was provided by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), and forensic services were provided by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Investigation Section (FIS). The investigation included witness interviews, the collection and examination of physical evidence, review of Axon Body Worn Camera footage (BWC), video surveillance footage, and forensic examination of evidence and the shooting scene. During the course of the investigation, the BWC worn by Officer Reza was reviewed by investigators and corroborated his rendition of events.

Lewis was subsequently charged with the crime of Resist Public Officer, With Use of Dangerous Weapon Other Than Firearm, a violation of NRS 199.280, a category D felony. After being found guilty by jury of Resisting a Public Officer only, Lewis was sentenced on November 1, 2023, to a term of 180 days in the Washoe County Jail. While in custody awaiting trial, Lewis was also charged with Battery by a Prisoner, Probationer or Parolee, a violation of NRS 200.481, a category B Felony. After being found guilty of that crime, Lewis was sentenced on May 2, 2024, to a term of 60 months in the Nevada Department of Corrections with parole eligibility after 24 months served.

Upon completion of the investigation, all reports, forensic findings, photographs, witness statements, dispatch recordings, BWC recordings, interviews, and other collected evidence were submitted to the Washoe County District Attorney's Office (WCDA) on August 18, 2023, for a review of whether the shooting of Lewis was legally justified. No charges against Officer Reza were recommended by SPD. In accordance with standard procedure, the review of the OIS and the release of this public report was held pending the completion of all the criminal proceedings against Lewis, in order to preserve the integrity of the prosecutions.

The WCDA's evaluation included a review of all investigative reports, police and civilian witness interviews, photographs, video and audio recordings, forensic evidence, and examination of the scene of the shooting. This report follows.

Based on the available evidence and the applicable legal authorities, it is the opinion of the District Attorney that the shooting of Marcus Lee Lewis by RPD Officer Fernando Reza was justified and not a criminal act.

I. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Witness Accounts

The following section contains summaries of recorded statements collected from witnesses during follow-up interviews. The summaries reflect each witness's personal recollections of the events that unfolded, as told to interviewing officers.

1. Civilian Witness Tristan Smerage

Tristan Smerage (Tristan) was employed as a security officer at The Row, which includes Eldorado Resort, Silver Legacy Resort, and Circus Circus Reno. He provided a written statement to WCSO Detective Joshua Swanson (Detective Swanson) describing his observations on December 4, 2022, prior to the arrival of officers at the scene.

At approximately 0458 hours, Tristan returned to the Security Dispatch office at Circus Circus following his scheduled shift break. Upon arriving, he saw his coworker, Jeffrey Walters (Jeffrey), monitoring security cameras and observing a male subject walking in the roadway near the intersection of Eighth Street and Sierra Street. Jeffrey told Tristan the male had been trespassed from the casino earlier after being observed carrying a large knife. He also advised that Security Manager Roy Cassady had authorized a courtesy call to RPD to report the male's behavior.

Tristan continued monitoring the male by security camera and observed that, although the male did not appear to be intentionally interfering with passing vehicles, he also made no apparent effort to avoid them. At approximately 0517 hours, the male ran eastbound on Sixth Street toward Virginia Street. Tristan attempted to follow him on the cameras but was unable to locate him. Believing the male had gained sufficient distance from the casino and that further monitoring was unnecessary, Tristan resumed his regular duties.

At approximately 0555 hours, Jeffrey informed Tristan that the male had returned to the area and was pacing near Fifth Street and Virginia Street. Shortly thereafter, The Row security dispatcher Nicholas Rodriguez contacted Tristan and advised that Security Manager James Sauceda had requested he contact RPD because the male had charged at a security officer while holding a knife. Tristan then contacted RPD dispatch and reported the male's behavior, concluding his involvement in the incident.

2. **Civilian Witness Heather Myers**

Heather Myers (Heather), a security officer employed by The Row, was interviewed by WCSO Detective Michael Almaraz (Detective Almaraz) and SPD Detective Jose Zendejas (Detective Zendejas) on December 4, 2022. Heather also provided a written statement.

Between approximately 0230 and 0245 hours, Heather encountered a white male inside Circus Circus who was carrying a knife. She notified casino security dispatch of a *"32 Sharp,"* the code used for an individual armed with a knife. Heather described the male as being in his mid-60s, approximately 5'9" to 5'10" tall, with a medium build and scruffy facial hair. He was wearing blue jeans and carrying a black backpack. Heather informed him that the casino prohibited weapons and escorted him from the property while advising dispatch that he was being trespassed.

Later that morning and prior to the OIS incident, Heather was securing a street-level door on the north side of the South Park garage near the intersection of Sixth Street and Sierra Street when her coworker, Andrew Bage (Andrew), called out to her. As Heather looked up, she saw a barefoot white male crossing the street toward her while holding a knife. Heather immediately moved to the southeast corner of Sixth and Sierra Streets, where she met Andrew and notified dispatch of the armed individual. As Heather and Andrew proceeded toward the Circus Circus entrance, the dispatcher monitored the male's movements using casino surveillance cameras.

Heather could not confirm whether the male was the same individual she had previously trespassed from Circus Circus but believed the casino surveillance footage could assist in determining whether they were the same person. Heather also said she believed Andrew *"saved my life"* by alerting her to the male's presence because she had been facing away from him and was unaware that he was approaching her.

3. **Civilian Witness Andrew Bage**

On December 4, 2022, Andrew was interviewed by WCSO Detective Almaraz and SPD Detective Zendejas.

Andrew was employed as a security officer at The Row, with his shift scheduled to begin at approximately 0500 hours. After parking in the north parking garage, Andrew walked toward work and observed a white male who appeared to be acting *"weird."* At the same time, Andrew saw his coworker, Heather across the street and noticed the male was now running toward her. Andrew called out to warn Heather, who quickly crossed the street to meet him.

Andrew and Heather then walked southbound on Sierra Street toward the Circus Circus valet area. As they approached, the male ran toward them before stopping in the middle of the roadway. Andrew observed that he was holding a knife by the handle in his left hand, with the blade pointed upward, and a sheath in his right hand. The male was yelling at them, although Andrew could not understand what he was saying. When a vehicle in the roadway honked at him, the male returned to the sidewalk and hid behind a vehicle, where Andrew saw him put the knife away. Andrew and Heather then entered Circus Circus, and he estimated the encounter occurred at approximately 0450 hours.

At approximately 0600 hours, Circus Circus security dispatch notified Silver Legacy Resort dispatch that the same male was in the area of North Virginia Street and Fourth Street. Andrew was instructed to close the resort doors to prevent the male from entering. While doing so, he observed the male in the roadway at the intersection of Fourth Street and North Virginia Street before the male moved to the sidewalk on the east side of Fourth Street.

Andrew then witnessed part of an interaction between the male and an RPD officer. He saw an RPD patrol vehicle traveling northbound on North Virginia Street and, as it reached Fourth Street, the male entered the roadway. When the officer exited the vehicle, the male began walking away at a high rate of speed. Andrew recalled that approximately five or six additional RPD patrol vehicles, with their red and blue emergency lights activated, arrived and began following the male.

Since police had now responded, Andrew was instructed to continue his regular duties. A short time later, Silver Legacy Resort dispatch advised him that the male was walking toward the parking garage. Andrew began walking in that direction when dispatch reported *“shots fired”* by RPD. Andrew then returned to his regular duties, concluding his involvement in the incident.

4. Civilian Witness Geoffrey Sperle

On December 4, 2022, Geoffrey Sperle (Geoffrey) was interviewed by SPD Detective Christopher Dutra (Detective Dutra) and WCSO Detective Swanson.

Geoffrey stated he was employed as a valet attendant at the Silver Legacy Resort and began his shift at 2300 hours on December 3, 2022. Approximately 45 minutes before the end of his shift, he and his coworker, Martin Mason (Martin), were inside the valet booth when Geoffrey heard what sounded like an argument outside. Believing someone might be injured, he opened the valet booth door and observed a male, later identified as Lewis, wearing a large brown jacket and standing with his back toward him. Geoffrey also observed several police officers in the valet area, including one positioned in the middle lane of the valet driveway. Although he could not identify whether they were RPD or SPD, he recognized them as police officers based on their readily identifiable uniforms.

Geoffrey heard officers tell Lewis to *“drop what is in your hand,”* followed by the *“ticking”* sound of a Taser being deployed. Although he did not see Lewis being Tased, he observed the wires leading toward him. Lewis dropped to one knee before falling *“flat”* to the ground. After the Taser stopped, Lewis stood up and began swinging what appeared to be a knife in a wide, sweeping motion toward the officers. Geoffrey estimated Lewis was approximately one car length from the officers and described him as swinging the knife *“wildly.”*

Lewis then turned and ran toward Geoffrey, who was standing in the valet booth doorway. Geoffrey immediately closed and secured the door, after which he heard approximately five to seven gunshots. He briefly looked outside and saw Lewis lying on the ground near the pillars in front of the casino entrance doors. An officer instructed Geoffrey and Martin to remain inside the valet booth, where they observed officers providing medical assistance to Lewis until paramedics arrived and transported him from the scene.

Geoffrey described Lewis as appearing to be in his 50s, with a gray beard and mustache, wearing a dirty brown puffy jacket and no shoes. He stated Lewis was shorter than him and that he had a clear view of his face when Lewis turned and ran toward him. Geoffrey described the knife as having a curved blade, like a Buck knife but larger, and believed Lewis was holding it in his right hand.

5. Civilian Witness Martin Mason

On December 4, 2022, Martin was interviewed by SPD Detective Dutra and WCSO Detective Swanson.

Martin had been employed as a valet attendant at the Silver Legacy Resort for approximately two weeks and began his shift at 2300 hours on December 3, 2022. On December 4 at approximately 0615 hours, Martin was inside the valet booth with his coworker, Geoffrey, when they heard yelling outside. From his position, Martin had a limited view but briefly saw a male with messy hair run past the valet area, followed by several police officers. He heard officers giving commands, including *“Get down,” “Stop,”* and *“Put that down,”* leading him to believe someone was in trouble.

Shortly afterward, Martin heard what he believed was a Taser being deployed, which Geoffrey confirmed. Geoffrey then opened the valet booth door to see what was happening, but an officer instructed him to close it. Martin estimated he heard approximately seven *“loud”* gunshots. He did not look outside the booth after hearing the gunfire and had only briefly seen the male and officers running past beforehand. Martin said Geoffrey later told him the male had been Tased and then turned toward the valet booth while holding a knife, prompting the officer to instruct Geoffrey to close the door.

After the incident, Martin learned that the shooting had occurred directly in front of the casino entrance, approximately 10 feet from the valet booth. He recognized the potential danger of the situation, noting that the male was armed with a knife and had not complied with the officers' commands.

6. **RPD Officer Brianna Perez**

Officer Perez was interviewed at RPD on December 4, 2022, by WCSO Detective Almaraz and SPD Detective Zendejas. Also present were Reno Police Protective Association (RPPA) representative RPD Officer Blake Overby and attorney Alex Velto.

At the time of the incident, Officer Perez had approximately three years of service with RPD and was working on the graveyard patrol shift. Earlier that morning, she and Officer Sanchez were dispatched to a welfare check involving a male subject walking on Interstate 80 (I-80).

Officer Perez recalled that Officer Sanchez was the first to locate the subject on I-80 between Virginia Street and Keystone Avenue. After Officer Sanchez issued a verbal command, the subject jumped over the concrete median and began walking toward the Virginia Street exit in the eastbound lanes. Officer Perez activated the left alley light and takedown lights on her patrol vehicle, allowing her to briefly observe the subject before he continued away. She and Officer Sanchez then drove to the Keystone Avenue exit and entered eastbound I-80 in an unsuccessful attempt to locate him, ultimately terminating their search.

Several hours later, Officer Perez was dispatched to the area of Fifth Street and Virginia Street for a welfare check involving a barefoot male reportedly armed with a knife, later identified as Lewis. She believed she was the third unit to arrive, following Officer Sanchez and a UNR police officer who had responded. Upon arrival, she observed Lewis on the sidewalk holding a sheath and what appeared to be a black object in his right hand, which he repeatedly pulled in and out of his pocket. Lewis looked toward Officer Perez before running into the middle of the street, at which point she recognized him as the same male she had encountered on I-80 earlier that morning.

As additional officers arrived, they followed Lewis in marked patrol vehicles while issuing commands through the vehicle PA systems. Lewis continued to disregard the commands and repeatedly pulled the black object in and out of his pocket. Officer Perez also illuminated Lewis with her vehicle spotlight and observed what she believed to be another knife and sheath.

Officer Perez described downtown Reno as a busy area with a significant number of pedestrians. At the intersection of Sierra and Fifth Streets, Lewis moved toward a group of pedestrians, causing them to back away. He then darted across Sierra Street toward an occupied truck before moving around it and continuing away from the officers, now walking westbound on Fourth Street. As Officer Perez followed Lewis, he suddenly turned and moved quickly toward her patrol vehicle. She drew her service weapon and aimed it at him, stating that his actions caused her to fear for her safety and that she believed she was in danger. Lewis then stopped and changed direction, moving toward Officer Reza's patrol vehicle. After briefly stopping near the vehicle, he turned and ran toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area.

Officers then exited their patrol vehicles and continued pursuing Lewis on foot while issuing commands to *"drop the knife and stop."* As before, Lewis did not comply with any of these commands. Officer Perez observed Officer Lawton, who was in close proximity to her, suddenly slip and fall on the icy pavement. Lewis moved toward Officer Lawton, at which point she heard the sound of a Taser being deployed again, although she could not see who had deployed it. When Officer Perez saw that Lewis was still moving, she realized that the Taser had no effect and drew her service weapon. However, upon hearing Officer Sanchez ask if anyone had a less lethal option, she holstered her firearm and removed her Taser.

The officers ultimately confronted Lewis near the furthest-left door in the valet area. Officer Perez described the doors as having glass extending from the top to the bottom and leading into the Silver Legacy Resort registration area and casino. Officer Perez had become certain Lewis was armed with a knife before exiting her patrol vehicle and although she could not see anyone on the other side of the doors from her position, she believed Lewis entering the casino while armed could place people inside in danger. At that point, Officer Perez heard shots being fired but did not see which officer discharged their weapon.

Officer Perez confirmed that she was wearing her RPD uniform and driving a marked RPD patrol vehicle with its red and blue emergency lights activated while following Lewis. She also believed it was reasonable to conclude that Lewis knew the individuals following him were police officers, responding, *"Absolutely."*

7. UNRPD Officer Heriberto “Eddie” Pinon

Officer Heriberto “Eddie” Pinon (Officer Pinon) of the University of Nevada, Reno Police Department (UNRPD) was interviewed on December 4, 2022, by WCSO Detective Fitzmier and SPD Detective Coats. Also present were labor association representative NHP Trooper Tommy Van Oeveren and attorney Alex Velto.

At the time of the incident, Officer Pinon had approximately one year of service with UNRPD. He was wearing his UNRPD uniform with University of Nevada patches and operating a marked UNRPD patrol vehicle. Officer Pinon began his shift by conducting an area check around the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) campus library and common areas. During the shift, he responded to three calls to assist RPD, which he described as common when RPD officers were working near the UNR campus. At approximately 0600 hours, Officer Pinon was near Evans Street and Seventh Street and returning to the UNRPD station to complete paperwork when he heard an RPD officer advise of a welfare check in the area of Fifth Street and Virginia Street. He notified RPD dispatch that he would respond.

As Officer Pinon reached Sixth Street and Virginia Street, he observed an RPD patrol vehicle following a male subject, later identified as Lewis, who was walking northbound along the east side of Virginia Street. Lewis turned westbound onto Sixth Street and then southbound onto Sierra Street, continuing along the west side of the roadway. After being advised over the radio that Lewis was crossing the street toward him, Officer Pinon described Lewis as wearing all black and carrying an object that contrasted with his clothing.

Officer Pinon stated he heard RPD officers issuing commands through their vehicle PA systems and directly to Lewis, noting that Lewis did not comply with any of the commands given to him. Observing civilians on the east side of the roadway, Officer Pinon positioned his patrol vehicle between them and Lewis and maintained pace with Lewis to keep the vehicle between them, explaining that he was *“not going to take a chance”* with the civilians’ safety.

Lewis eventually turned around and began walking northbound on Sierra Street. Officer Pinon made a U-turn and became the last patrol vehicle following him. He observed Lewis turn westbound onto Sixth Street and run into the entrance of the parking garage at West Street and Sixth Street, causing him to lose sight of Lewis. Officer Pinon parked near the intersection and exited his vehicle. He heard a Taser *“pop-off”* and observed an officer near the wall at the garage entrance slip and fall on the sidewalk. Officer Pinon then entered the parking garage and saw several officers pointing their firearms at Lewis. Based on his observations, Officer Pinon drew his Taser in preparation to assist if needed.

Officer Pinon stated Lewis was standing in front of a doorway that led into the casino, facing the officers when he saw Lewis *"made a motion"* toward the doors. Hearing several *"pops,"* which Officer Pinon identified as gunfire, he observed Lewis fall to the ground. He, along with the other officers, approached Lewis and saw a sheath on the ground in front of him. As officers rolled Lewis onto his stomach and applied handcuffs, Officer Pinon secured his legs in a *"figure four"* until he was restrained. Once the handcuffs were secured, Officer Pinon released Lewis' legs as he was rolled onto his back so that officers could begin rendering medical aid.

Officer Pinon then returned to the intersection of West and Sixth Streets to assist with traffic control, stating that he believed this was the best way he could assist at that time. Shortly after, he was directed by a supervisor to return to the station at UNRPD, where he remained until being transported to RPD for his interview.

8. RPD Officer Samet Uyanik

Officer Samet Uyanik (Officer Uyanik) was interviewed on December 4, 2022, by WCSO Detective Almaraz and SPD Detective Zendejas. Also present were RPPA representative Officer Patrick McCauley and attorney Alex Velto.

Officer Uyanik had approximately eighteen months of service with RPD and was operating a black-and-white Dodge Charger that was equipped with standard emergency lights and sirens and was marked *"Reno Police"* on both sides. He was wearing his RPD uniform, which displayed "*Reno Police"* patches on both shoulders, with his RPD badge attached to his outer vest.

Officer Uyanik was taking a scheduled break with Officer Reza at the central substation on Plaza Street when he heard the welfare call involving Lewis. After hearing Officer Sanchez report that Lewis was walking away from him while armed with a knife, Officers Uyanik and Reza left the substation to assist. Officer Uyanik activated his emergency lights and siren while responding and arrived shortly afterwards at the intersection of Fifth and North Virginia Streets. He observed Lewis walking in the middle of the roadway northbound on North Virginia Street while several other marked patrol vehicles followed at a slow speed. Lewis turned westbound onto Sixth Street and at one point stopped, turned toward the patrol vehicles, and then continued walking away. When an officer asked over the radio what Lewis was holding, Officer Uyanik responded, stating he had seen a knife inside a sheath in Lewi's left hand, which he was holding by the handle of the knife.

Officer Uyanik observed several civilian vehicles and pedestrians in the area and took steps to direct them away from Lewis. He also observed two to three pedestrians walking behind Lewis as Lewis suddenly stopped and turned toward them before turning again and continuing southbound on Sierra Street. Officer Uyanik stated that throughout the encounter, Lewis ignored all verbal commands issued directly by officers and through the patrol vehicle PA systems.

As Lewis walked westbound on Fifth Street, Officer Uyanik observed another officer pursuing him on foot and exited his patrol vehicle to assist. Lewis then *“took off”* running toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area, with Officer Uyanik following. As they approached the valet doors, Officer Uyanik observed Officer Lawton to his left and Lewis directly ahead of him. He was aware that additional officers were positioned nearby, but his view was partially obstructed by a large pillar.

He heard the sound of a Taser being deployed and saw the probes and wires attached to Lewis as he attempted to remove them. Because Lewis was wearing a heavy coat and continued moving despite the Taser deployment, Officer Uyanik believed it had been ineffective. He recalled hearing the Taser deployed only once.

Lewis then unsuccessfully attempted to open one of the doors leading into the casino. Through the doors, Officer Uyanik could see the outline of a person inside but could not provide a description because the individual was behind two sets of doors. He estimated he was approximately 12 to 17 feet from Lewis and facing southbound, while Officers Reza and Sanchez were positioned to his right, facing east toward Lewis. As shots were fired, Officer Uyanik saw Lewis make sudden movements with his hands toward Officer Reza while still holding the knife before falling to the ground.

Officer Uyanik observed apparent gunshot wounds on Lewis as they approached to secure him. He removed a bag attached to Lewis’s left wrist and, after he was handcuffed, checked to see where Lewis was injured so medical aid could be provided. He located wounds to Lewis’s finger, penis, and inner thighs. Officer Uyanik applied a tourniquet to one leg while another officer applied one to the other, and chest seals were placed over wounds to Lewis’s torso. While checking Lewis’s clothing for additional weapons or identification, Officer Uyanik located a second knife, approximately four inches long with a black handle. He moved that knife and the knife Lewis had been holding to a nearby bench. He also located a wallet containing an identification card and provided it to another officer for a records check.

Following the incident, a supervisor directed Officer Uyanik to return to RPD, where he remained until his interview. He described Lewis as an older white male, approximately in his late 40s or early 50s, wearing a large brown jacket, dark-colored khaki pants, and no shoes. During the interview, Officer Uyanik marked and signed a map depicting the route Lewis took during and leading up to the incident.

9. RPD Officer Michael Lawton

Officer Lawton was interviewed on December 6, 2022, by WCSO Detective Brady and SPD Detective Pete Loeschner (Detective Loeschner). Also present were RPPA representative Officer Doug Wilson and attorney Alex Velto.

Officer Lawton had approximately four years of service with RPD and was assigned to the Driving Under the Influence Enforcement Team. At the time of the incident, he was operating a 2021 black Dodge Durango with subdued RPD markings on the sides. The vehicle did not have a roof-mounted light bar but was equipped with red and blue emergency lights integrated into the vehicle.

Officer Lawton was completing paperwork at the RPD station when he heard Officer Sanchez over the radio responding to a welfare check downtown. Officer Lawton left the station to assist and when he arrived in the area of Sierra Street and Sixth Street, he observed Lewis, who appeared to be holding a knife with a sheath covering the *"pointed fixed tip."* He described Lewis as wearing a thick jacket and blue pants and having longer hair. As officers followed Lewis in their patrol vehicles, Officer Lawton observed that Lewis appeared *"agitated,"* as he moved in and out of traffic, occasionally stopping to turn and face the officers.

Officer Lawton heard Officer Sanchez repeatedly issue commands to Lewis through the vehicle PA system, including *"put the knife down," "stop so we can talk to you,"* and *"get out of the roadway."* Lewis ignored all commands and continued walking away. Officer Lawton observed vehicles and pedestrians in the area and recalled officers blocking the roadway at times to prevent vehicles from getting near Lewis. Concerned about stopping Lewis before he entered a casino, Officer Lawton requested over the radio for someone to respond with a 40mm less lethal launcher, which he believed could be used to gain compliance and cause Lewis to drop the knife.

As Lewis continued westbound, Officer Lawton exited his vehicle and pursued him on foot. He initially drew his Taser and began approaching Lewis, who stopped after noticing the Taser. When Lewis appeared as though he might charge him, Officer Lawton holstered the Taser and drew his firearm. Lewis then ran southbound toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area, so Officer Lawton holstered his firearm before continuing to pursue him.

Lewis eventually stopped in front of the doors leading into the casino and turned toward Officer Lawton and other officers who had arrived. Officer Lawton observed other officers with their firearms drawn and providing lethal cover, so he chose to draw his Taser as a less lethal option. Lewis paced in front of the doors while disregarding the officers' commands and at one point appeared as though he might *"charge at us."* Officer Lawton estimated he was approximately

15 to 20 feet from Lewis, who was still holding the knife, when he deployed his Taser. He recalled that because Lewis was wearing a heavy coat, he aimed the Taser at Lewis' lower body. Officer Lawton saw one probe appear to make contact, while the second did not, and observed little to no effect on Lewis. He deployed the Taser a second time, which also appeared ineffective as Lewis remained standing and continued facing the officers while still holding the knife.

Officer Lawton said Lewis was looking at him, causing him to become concerned that Lewis was going to *"charge"* at him. Officer Lawton took a step backward to create distance but slipped on the icy pavement and fell to the ground. He quickly stood back up and drew his firearm. Lewis remained standing in front of the doors leading into the valet lobby and continued to ignore the officers' commands. Officer Lawton feared that Lewis would enter the casino, where there were potentially hotel guests. Officer Lawton described his position along the walkway to the valet lobby doors, with a wall directly to his left and Officers Sanchez, Perez, and Reza to his right. A pillar partially obstructed his view of the other officers, and he described having *"tunnel vision,"* remaining focused on Lewis while still being able to hear the other officers issuing verbal commands. He then heard shots fired but could not recall what direction Lewis was facing or who discharged a firearm, only recalling watching Lewis fall to the ground. Officer Lawton described the events as occurring very quickly estimating that approximately 30 seconds elapsed between when the officers made contact with Lewis in the valet area to when the shots were fired.

After Lewis fell, Officer Lawton approached him with other officers to render medical aid. He recalled seeing Officer Sanchez kick a knife in a sheath away from Lewis, which he believed had fallen from Lewis' hands when he was shot. After Lewis was handcuffed, Officer Lawton helped assess his injuries, applying a tourniquet to Lewis' upper left leg. He also placed a seal over a wound on Lewis' left buttock to control bleeding. REMSA personnel arrived shortly afterward and took over medical treatment. Officer Lawton then returned to the station to turn in his equipment and any evidence requested by the forensic investigator.

10. RPD Officer Bryan Sanchez

Officer Sanchez was interviewed on December 4, 2022, by WCSO Detective Fitzmier and SPD Detective Coates. Also present were RPPA representative Officer Bryan Schuster and attorney Alex Velto.

At the time of the incident, Officer Sanchez had approximately eight years of service with RPD and was operating a marked patrol vehicle with red and blue emergency lights activated and *"Reno Police"* markings on both sides. He was wearing his uniform, consisting of black boots, blue pants, a blue shirt with RPD patches on the sleeves, an outer vest carrier with his badge, and a duty belt.

At approximately 0600 hours, Officer Sanchez responded from the RPD station to a welfare check. The call to dispatch described a barefoot male subject, later identified as Lewis, who was reportedly walking in the roadway and possibly armed with a knife. Officer Sanchez responded to the area of Fifth Street and Virginia Street, where he located Lewis standing on the northeast corner. He could see Lewis was holding an object but could not immediately identify it as Lewis was facing away from him.

Officer Sanchez attempted to contact Lewis, but Lewis walked away from him and entered the roadway. As Lewis continued northbound, he stopped and turned toward Officer Sanchez, who was then able to confirm that Lewis was holding a brown sheath. Based on his training and experience, Officer Sanchez believed the sheath contained a knife or other edged weapon.

Concerned that Lewis could be struck by a vehicle or injure someone with the weapon, Officer Sanchez used his patrol vehicle's PA system to tell Lewis to *"please stop, stop."* Lewis did not comply and continued walking away. Officer Sanchez followed Lewis onto Sixth Street with his emergency lights still activated, continuing to give commands, including, *"Please drop whatever's in your hands, please, we just wanna check on you, wanna make sure you're okay."* As additional officers arrived, Officer Sanchez directed them to watch for pedestrians and, if necessary, use their patrol vehicles to block traffic.

Near the intersection of Sixth Street and Sierra Street, Lewis turned southbound onto Sierra Street while continuing to disregard the officers' commands. Officer Sanchez recalled speaking with Officer Lawton, and the two agreed that intervention was necessary to prevent Lewis from entering highly populated areas or casinos while armed with a potentially deadly weapon. Officer Lawton then exited his patrol vehicle and withdrew his Taser. Lewis subsequently ran toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area, with Officers Sanchez and Lawton pursuing him on foot.

When Officer Sanchez entered the valet area, he determined that Officer Lawton had already deployed his Taser and that it had been ineffective. Officer Sanchez believed the Taser was deployed a second time before seeing Officer Lawton slip and fall to the ground. Lewis still held the knife in his hand while pulling at the Taser wires in an attempt to remove them. Positioning himself with Officer Reza to his right, the officers triangulated themselves around Lewis from different directions. Officer Sanchez said as they were shouting verbal commands, it appeared as though Lewis was trying to enter the casino, still armed with the knife. Shortly afterward, Officer Reza discharged his weapon. Officer Sanchez estimated they were approximately 15 to 20 feet away from Lewis when the shots were fired.

Following the shooting, Officer Sanchez stated he cautiously approached Lewis and observed a knife in a sheath on the ground near him. He described kicking the knife away from Lewis while other officers assisted in handcuffing him. Officer Sanchez then returned to his patrol vehicle to retrieve a medical kit, but when he returned, he saw that other officers had already begun providing medical aid and had applied tourniquets.

During his interview, Officer Sanchez also described an earlier call that morning involving a male walking in the travel lanes of I-80. He responded to that incident and, with his patrol vehicle's takedown lights illuminated, spoke to the male through his open vehicle window directing him to leave the roadway. However, the male jumped over a wall and Officer Sanchez lost sight of him. Officer Sanchez confirmed the male from the I-80 incident was the same individual later identified as Lewis.

11. RPD Sergeant Travis Warren

Sergeant Travis Warren (Sgt. Warren) was interviewed at RPD on December 4, 2022, by WCSO Detective Fitzmier and SPD Detective Nathan Coats (Detective Coats). Also present was Reno Police Supervisory and Administrative Employees Association representative RPD Sgt. Sean Gibson.

Sgt. Warren had approximately eighteen years of service with RPD. During the overnight shift on December 4, 2022, he was at the RPD station completing administrative tasks when he heard officers attending a welfare call reporting that the subject (later determined to be Lewis) had walked away from them. Sgt. Warren put his exterior vest back on and responded to the call. After hearing a request over the radio for a less lethal option, he advised that he was responding with one from the station.

While en route, Sgt. Warren heard officers report that Lewis continued walking away despite verbal commands, was walking in the roadway, and was possibly armed with a knife. Due to public safety concerns, Sgt. Warren directed officers on scene to block intersections and roadways. Upon arriving downtown, he followed other marked patrol vehicles near Fifth Street and Sierra Street before stopping east of the intersection and exiting his vehicle.

At that time, Sgt. Warren had a limited description of Lewis as possibly being a white male with longer hair. While retrieving a 40mm less lethal launcher and munitions vest from his patrol vehicle, he heard over the radio that officers were pursuing Lewis. He placed the launcher and vest on the floorboard and followed the officers westbound on Fifth Street toward West Street.

Sgt. Warren observed officers to his left in the Silver Legacy Resort valet area and drove into the area, where he stopped and exited his vehicle. As he moved around the vehicle, he observed the officers approximately 10 feet from Lewis. Because his view was obstructed, he could not determine whether Lewis was holding anything. Sgt. Warren briefly looked down and then heard shots fired. When the gunfire stopped, he observed Lewis on the ground and watched officers' approaching, detaining him, and providing immediate medical assistance. Sgt. Warren notified dispatch of the shooting and requested medical personnel, reporting that Lewis appeared to have injuries to his left thigh and abdomen.

Immediately afterward, Sgt. Warren entered the lobby of the Silver Legacy Resort to check for any witnesses or victims. He began assigning officers to secure the area and contact casino security regarding surveillance footage. After several officers confirmed that Officer Reza had discharged his firearm, Sgt. Warren directed him to return to the RPD station and await further instructions. Sgt. Warren stated he remained on scene until relieved by dayshift supervisors, after which he returned to RPD for his interview.

12. RPD Officer Fernando Reza

Officer Reza was interviewed on December 6, 2022, by SPD Detective Loeschner and WCSO Detective Brady. Also present were RPPA representative Officer Douglas Wilson and attorney Alex Velto.

Officer Reza had served with RPD for approximately two years and, prior to that, had served in the United States Army for nine years. He was operating a marked Dodge Durango police vehicle with his emergency lights activated. Officer Reza was wearing his RPD uniform and had his BWC activated. His service weapon was a Sig P320 with an extended magazine that contained 21+1 cartridges, while his other magazines had a 17-round capacity. Officer Reza confirmed that both magazines were loaded to full capacity.

Officer Reza was taking a scheduled break at the RPD central substation when the welfare check involving a male subject was dispatched shortly after 0600 hours. He heard Officer Sanchez report that the subject was armed with a knife and a request for the channel to be closed. Based on his experience, Officer Reza knew this request was usually reserved for *"intense"* calls. He left the substation and responded to the scene where he observed the subject, later identified as Lewis, walking northbound on Virginia Street near Sixth Street. He described Lewis as an older white male with a scruffy face who was wearing a black or dark-colored coat and no shoes.

Officer Reza stated that approximately four to five patrol vehicles were following Lewis, who was ignoring all verbal commands. He recalled someone requesting a 40mm less lethal weapon over the radio and Sgt. Warren advising that he was responding with one from the RPD station. Officer Reza knew through radio communication that Lewis was armed, however, at that time he could not identify the brown object that Lewis was holding. As they followed Lewis, Officer Reza observed him running toward an occupied orange Subaru, however, the driver quickly left the area before Lewis reached it.

Lewis continued westbound on Sixth Street and did not respond or comply with any of the commands issued by officers. On Sierra Street, Officer Reza exited his patrol vehicle and attempted to engage Lewis, identifying himself as Reno Police and asking Lewis to *"come talk to me."* Lewis did not respond or engage with him, and Officer Reza became concerned that following Lewis in their patrol vehicles would limit their ability to intervene if he approached a pedestrian.

As Lewis continued southbound on Sierra Street, Officer Reza attempted to direct him away from the downtown area by driving ahead and positioning his patrol vehicle near Fifth Street and Sierra Street. A pedestrian was exiting a nearby parking garage, and Officer Reza yelled for her to leave, causing her to quickly return to the garage. Lewis then walked past Officer Reza's vehicle and continued westbound on Fifth Street. As a white van emerged from the Silver Legacy Resort parking garage, Lewis ran toward it, prompting Officer Reza to yell at the driver to leave the area. The van left without incident, and Officer Reza again attempted to engage with Lewis, who then began sprinting toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area.

Officer Reza drove toward the area, exited his patrol vehicle, and drew his duty weapon. He observed Officer Lawton slip and fall to the ground approximately 15 to 20 feet from Lewis. Officer Reza then saw Lewis move toward Officer Lawton and based on Lewis' actions, believed he was preparing to attack Officer Lawton. Officer Reza was preparing to fire his weapon but heard a Taser being deployed. Describing Lewis' clothing as bulky, Officer Reza stated the Taser was not effective and only appeared to stun Lewis briefly. He believed the Taser was deployed an additional two times at Lewis, but each deployment appeared to have little or no effect.

Officer Reza continued to observe Lewis as he moved erratically near the casino entrance, repeatedly moving, stopping, and turning toward the officers. Lewis remained armed with the knife and did not comply with commands to stop.

Officer Reza described Lewis as appearing angry and said he adopted a fighting stance that made it appear *"he wanted to fight."* When Lewis moved toward the northernmost door of the casino entrance, Officer Reza grew concerned that Lewis would try to enter while armed with a knife. In his interview, he stated, *"I knew in my head that this guy if he got inside the hotels he was going to kill somebody or seriously hurt somebody, just the way he was acting, not following commands, he had already tried to hijack a car, and I just knew I could not let him inside the hotel."*

Positioned approximately 10 to 15 feet from Lewis, Officer Reza had a clear view through the glass doors that led into the casino. He observed a person with blonde hair on the other side of the doors and discharged his duty weapon, firing approximately three to four rounds toward Lewis. As Lewis collapsed, he fell toward Officer Reza who stated he saw the handle of the knife covered by a brown sheath and the silver portion of the blade on the ground, where he believed Lewis had dropped it. Officer Reza then briefly entered the casino to make sure nobody was hurt before returning outside and holstering his firearm.

Based on his training, Officer Reza explained that approximately 21 feet is considered the *"reactionary gap"* or *"reactionary zone"* when dealing with an edged-weapon threat and an ability to effectively react to it, if attacked. He estimated that he was approximately 10-12 feet from Lewis as was the person in the casino on the other side of the doors. Officer Reza believed Lewis was attempting to enter the casino because he moved directly toward the doors and appeared to pull on one of them. Reza feared that if Lewis entered the casino while armed, he could seriously injure or kill someone or take a person hostage.

Officer Reza stated that they wanted to give Lewis the opportunity to comply and resolve the situation without the use of lethal force. He explained that none of the officers attempted to go *"hands-on"* with Lewis while he was armed with the knife, as this could have resulted in an officer being stabbed. He did not recall Lewis ever placing the knife into a pocket or otherwise relinquishing control of it. He confirmed that throughout the incident, Lewis did not respond to any verbal commands issued by the officers and made no attempt to communicate with them.

Following the shooting, Officer Reza was accompanied back to the station, where his uniform and duty weapon, including his magazines, were photographed and collected as part of the investigation.

II. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

A. Shooting Scene

On Sunday, December 4, 2022, at approximately 0720 hours, on-call detectives with SPD were notified by SPD Sgt. Curtis English to respond to the Silver Legacy Report for an Officer Involved Shooting investigation.

SPD Detective Loeschner was assigned as lead, assisted by WCSO Detective Brady. Criminalists Shaun Braly (FIS Braly) and Darby Stienmetz (FIS Stienmetz) of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Investigation Section (FIS) arrived at the Silver Legacy Resort valet area at approximately 0830 hours to process the scene.

B. Scene Location

The Silver Legacy Resort, located at 407 North Virginia Street, is one of three properties comprising The Row, which also includes Circus Circus and the Eldorado Resort Casino. The valet area is located on the east side of North Sierra Street, between West Fourth Street to the south and West Fifth Street to the north. The scene encompasses the ground-level entrance portal from North Sierra Street into a covered, open-air drop-off loop located directly beneath the casino complex extension.



The Silver Legacy Resort is located between Virginia and Sierra Streets, with W. Fifth Street to the north and W. Fourth Street to the south.



View of the Silver Legacy Resort parking garage and valet entrance on N. Sierra St.



BWC screenshot inside the Silver Legacy Resort valet area.

C. Body-Worn Camera (BWC)

Multiple officers responded to the initial welfare call, and they all activated their BWCs during the encounter. The BWC recordings of RPD officers were collected and submitted into evidence, and none of the officers involved reviewed their respective BWC recordings prior to their submission into evidence or before being interviewed. Because UNRPD Officer Pinon had placed his BWC in the dock at the UNRPD station, the footage was later shared with OIS investigators through Evidence.com on December 6, 2022.

Review of the BWC recordings revealed numerous efforts by uniformed officers to establish communication with Lewis and peacefully resolve the situation through verbal commands. Prior to the shooting, officers repeatedly identified themselves as police, directed Lewis to stop, get out of the roadway, get on the ground, and drop the object in his possession. In addition, officers also used the PA systems of marked patrol vehicles, which had their emergency lights activated, to communicate with Lewis.

The BWC recordings captured the following commands issued by officers prior to the shooting:

- **Officer Sanchez:** Directed Lewis to get out of the roadway (1x), stop (4x), identified himself as a Reno Police Officer (7x), and instructed Lewis to drop the object in his hands (5x).
- **Officer Perez:** Directed Lewis to get on the ground (2x).
- **Officer Reza:** Directed Lewis to get on the ground (3x), get out of the street (1x), stop (3x), come here (1x), and drop the object in his possession (3x).
- **Officer Lawton:** Directed Lewis to stop (5x), get on the ground (1x), and drop the object in his possession (2x).

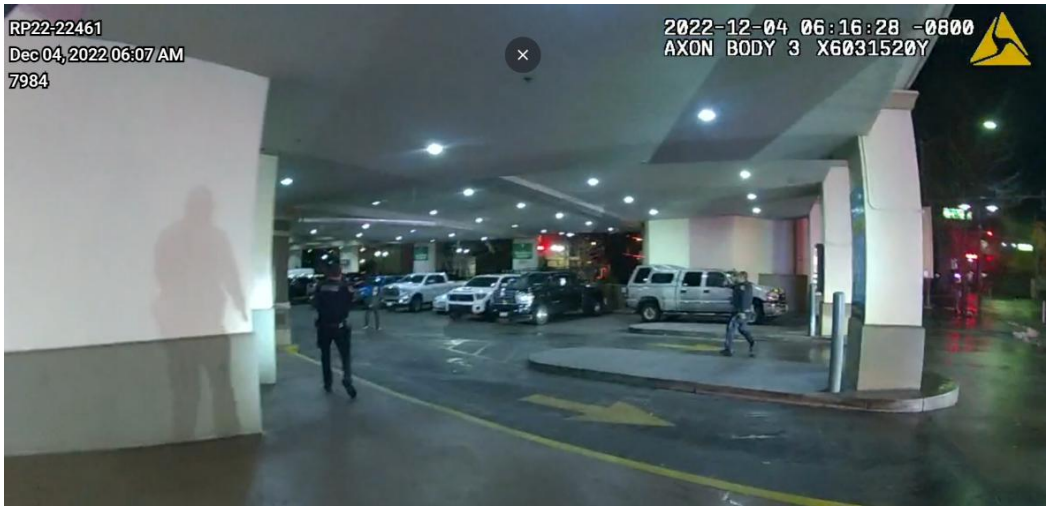
In total, the BWC recordings listed above captured over 30 verbal commands or attempts to establish communication with Lewis prior to the shooting. Despite these repeated efforts, Lewis did not respond to or acknowledge the officers' presence, follow their commands, or otherwise comply with their instructions.

1. **RPD Officer Sanchez BWC**
   On December 4, 2022, Officer Sanchez was equipped with his department-issued BWC, which was functioning properly. The recording is consistent with and supports the statements provided by Officer Sanchez during his interview. The BWC captured Officer Sanchez's initial contact with Lewis at 06:06:57 hours from his marked patrol vehicle and continued for 31 minutes and 1 second, ending at 06:37:57 hours.



BWC screenshot of Officer Sanchez outside of his patrol vehicle talking to Lewis.

After a brief discussion with Officer Lawton regarding the use of a Taser, a foot pursuit begins with Officer Lawton running ahead of Officer Sanchez toward the Silver Legacy Resort valet area.



BWC screenshot of foot pursuit into the Silver Legacy Resort valet area, with Officer Lawton ahead of Officer Sanchez.

As Officer Sanchez came around the corner, he observed Officer Lawton slip and fall to the ground. Based on seeing Lewis pulling at the Taser wires, Officer Sanchez believed Officer Lawton had deployed his Taser prior to falling.



BWC screenshot of Officer Lawton falling down after deploying his Taser.



BWC screenshot of Lewis attempting to remove the Taser probes from his clothing, with Officer Reza standing to the right of Officer Sanchez.



BWC screenshot of Lewis attempting to remove Taser probes from clothing.



BWC screenshot showing Officer Reza with his service weapon aimed at Lewis, who is holding a brown sheath in his left hand.



BWC screenshot at 06:16:50 hours depicting the moment Officer Reza discharged his service weapon at Lewis.



BWC screenshot depicting Lewis on the ground at 06:16:54 hours.

2. **Officer Lawton BWC**

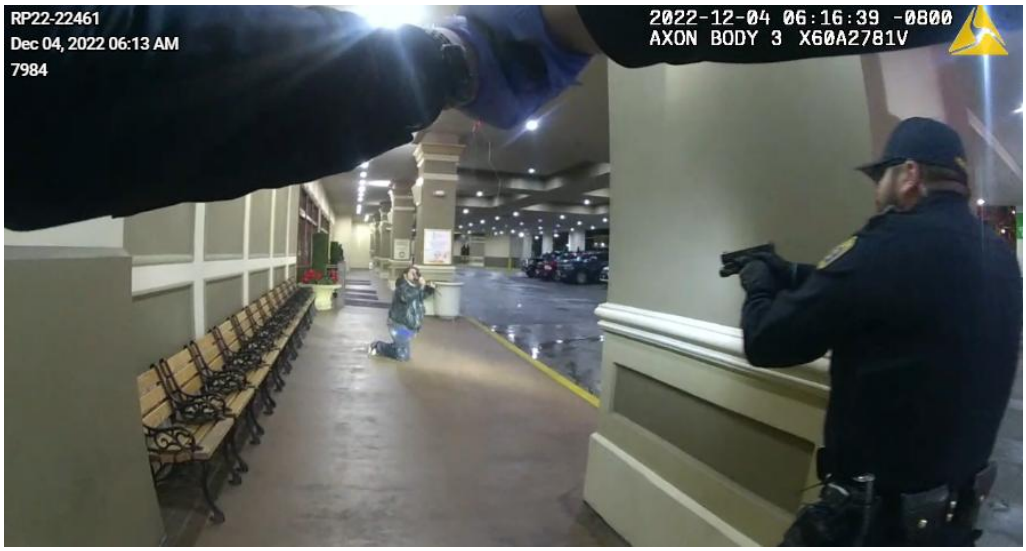
   On December 4, 2022, Officer Lawton was equipped with his department-issued BWC, which was functioning properly. The recording is consistent with and supports the statements provided by Officer Lawton during his interview. His BWC began at 06:12:33 hours from his marked patrol vehicle and continued for 20 minutes and 18 seconds, ending at 06:32:52 hours.



BWC screenshot depicting Lewis running from Officer Lawton.



BWC screenshot depicting Lewis prior to Taser deployment.



BWC screenshot of Lewis attempting to remove the Taser wires and probes.

3. **Officer Reza BWC**

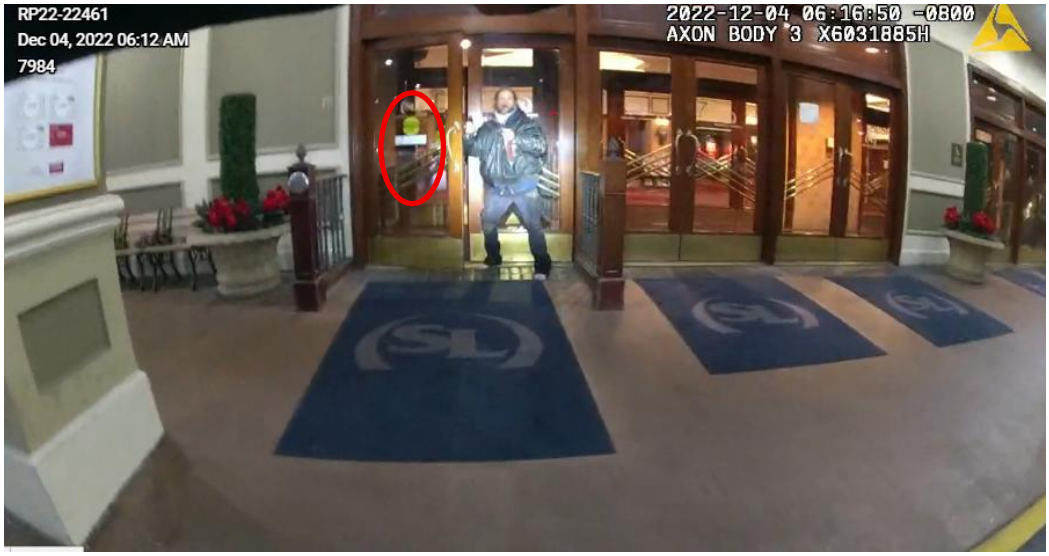
On December 4, 2022, Officer Reza was equipped with his department-issued BWC, which was functioning properly. The recording is consistent with and supports the statements provided by Officer Reza during his interview. His BWC began at 06:12:08 hours from his marked patrol vehicle and continued for 9 minutes and 54 seconds, ending at 06:22:02 hours.



BWC screenshot of Lewis not obeying verbal commands.



BWC Screenshot of Lewis getting off the ground with a sheath in his hand after being Tased.



BWC Screenshot of Lewis attempting to enter the casino doors with a sheath in his hand.



BWC Screenshot of Lewis on the ground after being shot by officers. A sheath is seen on the ground.

D. Evidence Collected

FIS Criminalists Braly and Stienmetz processed the scene by taking photos, placing placards, collecting evidence and digitally mapping the area. The following relevant evidence was collected:

- Apparent taser wire with a probe were collected at each of the following locations: valet roadway/walkway north of the entrance (placard 2), valet walkway north of the entrance (placard 13)
- Apparent taser cartridge doors were collected at each of the following locations: valet roadway north of the entrance (placard 3) – valet walkway north of the entrance (placards 4, 6, 7)

- Apparent taser cartridge doors were collected at each of the following locations: valet roadway north of the entrance (placard 3) and valet walkway north of the entrance (placards 4, 6, 7)
- One (1) apparent taser wire (placard 9) - collected from the valet walkway north of the entrance near the chairs
- One (1) tan leather knife sheath with red staining containing a fixed blade knife with blue handle and red staining (placard 10) - collected atop a wood chair north of the valet entrance
- One (1) black folding knife (closed position) (placard 11) - collected atop a wood chair north of the valet entrance
- Five (5) white metal "Speer 9mm Luger +P" fired cartridge cases (placards 23-27) - all collected from the valet roadway west of the entrance
- Fired bullets were collected from each of the following locations: interior entryway of the valet entrance (placard 28) and exterior entryway of the valet entrance (placard 29)

E. Countdown and Forensic Testing

On December 4, 2022, WCSO FIS Criminalist Krista Smith (FIS Smith), with the assistance of FIS Criminalists Renee Armstrong and Savannah Bloomquist, attended the RPD station to document equipment worn and used during the OIS. SPD Detective Kyle Mickelson and WCSO Detective Williams were also in attendance.

1. **Officer Reza's Firearm and Countdown**
   Officer Reza's service weapon on December 4, 2022, was a black Sig Sauer P320 handgun equipped with a 21-round capacity magazine. After testing this handgun, FIS determined that it was in normal operating condition with no malfunctions. Examination of the firearm and magazine revealed one unfired cartridge in the chamber and sixteen (16) unfired cartridges in the magazine. Five (5) white metal "Speer 9mm Luger +P" fired cartridge cases recovered from the Silver Legacy Resort valet roadway were identified as having been fired from Officer Reza's Sig Sauer P320 duty weapon, establishing that he discharged his firearm five (5) times during the incident.

III. INJURIES

A. Marcus Lee Lewis

On December 4, 2022, Lewis was transported directly from the scene to Renown Medical Center where he was treated and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. Lewis sustained five gunshot wounds to the right lower abdomen, pelvis, lower left leg, left index finger (near amputation) and his upper right buttock. Lewis also had a large skin tear near the tip of his penis, which was determined to be a prior injury. Lewis survived his injuries and remained at Renown Medical Center until he was medically cleared and transferred to the Washoe County Detention Facility.

B. Officers and Witnesses

No additional injuries were reported by any involved officers or civilians on scene.

V. CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

A. Washoe County Criminal Charges

Following the December 4, 2022, incident, Lewis was arrested and formally charged with Resisting a Public Officer. On November 1, 2023, a jury found Lewis guilty of the misdemeanor offense of Resisting a Public Officer. On November 9, 2023, the Honorable Barry Breslow sentenced Lewis to a term of 180 days in the Washoe County Jail, with credit for time served.

While in custody awaiting trial on the foregoing charge, Lewis was arrested and charged on April 24, 2023, with Battery by a Prisoner for attacking another WCSO inmate. Following a separate jury trial, Lewis was found guilty on February 27, 2024. On May 2, 2024, the Honorable Barry Breslow sentenced Lewis to the Nevada Department of Corrections for a minimum of 24 months to a maximum of 60 months, to run concurrently with the sentence imposed in the prior case.

B. Page County Criminal Charges

Prior to the incident on December 4, 2022, Lewis was identified as a suspect in the September 3, 2022, homicide of Joshua Dee Bradford in Page County, Virginia. On November 13, 2025, Lewis was extradited from Nevada to Virginia by the Page County Sheriff's Office in connection with the homicide and is currently being held there without bond, pending trial on charges related to Bradford's death. This information was developed during the subsequent investigation and was not known to RPD officers at the time of the incident. Accordingly, Lewis's status as a homicide suspect was not a factor in the officers' actions or decision-making on December 4, 2022.

VI. LEGAL PRINCIPLES

The WCDA was tasked with assessing the conduct of the officer involved and determining whether any criminality on their part existed at the time of the shooting. Although Lewis survived this officer involved shooting, in order to conduct the appropriate assessment, the District Attorney's review is controlled by the relevant legal authority pertaining to justifiable homicides. This is because the analysis rests upon the decision to use deadly force, not the result.

Nevada law contains several statutes that govern justifiable homicide, including NRS 200.120, 200.140, and 200.160. Additional provisions address excusable homicide (NRS 200.180) and the lawful use of deadly force to effect an arrest (NRS 171.1455). Moreover, Nevada case law provides further interpretation of justifiable self-defense and the defense of others. These legal principles are interconnected and warrant further detailed examination:

A. The Use of Deadly Force in Self-Defense or Defense of Another

NRS 200.120 provides, in pertinent part, that *"Justifiable homicide is the killing of a human being in necessary self-defense, or in defense of a person, against one who manifestly intends or endeavors, by violence or surprise, to commit a felony . . ."* against the other person. NRS 200.160 further provides, in relevant part, that *"[h]omicide is also justifiable when committed . . . in the lawful defense of the slayer . . . or any other person in his or her presence or company, when there is reasonable ground to apprehend a design on the part of the person slain to commit a felony or to do some great personal injury to the slayer or to any such person, and there is imminent danger of such design being accomplished."*

The Nevada Supreme Court has refined the analysis of self-defense and, by implication defense of others, in *Runion v. State*, 116 Nev. 1041 (2000). In *Runion*, the Court set forth guidelines in self-defense cases as follows:

The killing of another person in self-defense is justified and not unlawful when the person who does the killing actually and reasonably believes:

1. That there is imminent danger that the assailant will either kill him or cause him great bodily injury; and
2. That it is absolutely necessary under the circumstances for him to use, in self-defense, force or means that might cause the death of the other person, for the purpose of avoiding death or great bodily injury to himself.

A bare fear of death or great bodily injury is not sufficient to justify a killing. To justify taking the life of another in self-defense, the circumstances must be sufficient to excite the fears of a reasonable person placed in a similar situation. The person killing must act under the influence of those fears alone and not in revenge.

Actual danger is not necessary to justify a killing in self-defense. A person has a right to defend himself from apparent danger to the same extent as he would from actual danger. The person killing is justified if:

1. He is confronted by the appearance of imminent danger which arouses in his mind an honest belief and fear that he is about to be killed or suffer great bodily injury; and
2. He acts solely upon these appearances and his fear and actual beliefs; and
3. A reasonable person in a similar situation would believe himself to be in like danger.

If evidence of self-defense is present, the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense. If you find that the State has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense, you must find the defendant not guilty. *Id.* 1051-52.

B. Justifiable Homicide by Public Officer

NRS 200.140 provides in relevant part that *"Homicide is justifiable when committed by a public officer . . . when necessary to overcome actual resistance to the execution of the legal process, mandate or order of a court or officer, or in the discharge of a legal duty"* and *"When necessary . . . in attempting, by lawful ways or means, to apprehend or arrest a person" and/or "in protecting against an imminent threat to the life of a person."*

C. Use of Deadly Force to Effect Arrest

NRS 171.1455(1) provides that a peace officer shall use de-escalation techniques and alternatives to the use of force whenever possible or appropriate. These techniques and alternatives should be consistent with the officer's training and include advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and other tactics. If it is necessary for a peace officer to use force, the officer must identify himself or herself if it is possible to do so safely and use only the level of force that is objectively reasonable under the circumstances to bring an incident or person under control and safely accomplish a lawful purpose. To the extent feasible, the level of force used by the officer must be balanced against the force or resistance exhibited by the person and carefully controlled.

NRS 171.1455(2) provides that a peace officer may use deadly force to effect the arrest of a person following a warning, if feasible, but only if there is probable cause to believe that the person has committed a felony which involves the infliction or threat of serious bodily harm or the use of deadly force; or, the person poses an imminent threat of serious bodily harm or death to the peace officer or others.

VII. ANALYSIS

On December 4, 2022, Lewis presented an imminent and escalating threat to the safety of the public and responding officers. Throughout the encounter that morning, he exhibited erratic, unpredictable, and aggressive behavior while armed with a knife. He was observed running toward security officers, occupied vehicles, and responding officers. Earlier that morning, he was encountered walking along Interstate 80, where he disregarded officers' commands and fled from them. He was later found walking barefoot through downtown Reno, carrying a knife, and repeatedly refusing to comply with officers' commands to stop, get out of the roadway, and drop his weapon. Despite numerous attempts to gain his compliance, including more than 30 verbal commands captured during the encounter, Lewis continued his behavior and remained armed. His actions created an escalating and increasingly dangerous situation for everyone in the immediate area.

The encounter began as a welfare check after two security officers reported Lewis' erratic and threatening behavior while he was walking barefoot in the roadway carrying a knife. Officer Sanchez located Lewis near Fifth Street and Virginia Street and attempted to make contact with him. Despite repeated efforts to communicate with him, Lewis continued walking away from officers. As additional officers arrived, they

repeatedly identified themselves as police and directed Lewis to stop, get out of the roadway, and drop the object in his possession. Lewis refused to comply. Officers followed him through downtown Reno in marked patrol vehicles with their emergency lights activated and used their vehicle public address systems in an effort to establish communication and gain his compliance. Nevertheless, Lewis continued to disregard their commands while retaining possession of the knife.

As Lewis continued through the downtown area, officers were confronted with the presence of pedestrians and occupied vehicles. Officer Reza observed Lewis run toward an occupied vehicle, which left the area before Lewis could reach it. Earlier, two security officers had reported that Lewis ran toward one of them while holding a knife, prompting both to move together out of concern for their safety. Recognizing the potential danger Lewis posed to members of the public, officers positioned their patrol vehicles to protect pedestrians and motorists and attempted to redirect him away from more populated areas. When Lewis ran into the valet area of the Silver Legacy Resort, officers attempted to use less-lethal force to gain his compliance. Officer Lawton deployed his Taser twice, but both deployments appeared to have little or no effect. Lewis remained standing, continued to face the officers, and attempted to remove the Taser probes while retaining possession of the knife.

The situation further escalated as Lewis neared the entrance to the Silver Legacy Resort. Officer Reza, who was positioned approximately 10 to 15 feet from Lewis, observed Lewis move toward Officer Lawton after the officer had fallen to the ground. Lewis continued to display the knife and, according to Officer Reza, adopted a fighting stance. Valet attendant Geoffrey Spearle also observed Lewis stand back up following the Taser deployments and swing what appeared to be a knife in a wide, sweeping motion toward the officers. Spearle described Lewis as swinging the knife wildly before turning and running toward the valet booth where he was standing.

Lewis then moved toward the casino's glass entrance doors, appearing to pull on one of them. Officer Reza observed an individual standing immediately inside the casino, on the other side of the glass doors. Given Lewis' continued possession of the knife, his aggressive behavior, and his apparent attempt to enter an occupied casino, Officer Reza reasonably feared that Lewis could seriously injure or kill someone or take a person hostage if he gained entry.

At the time Officer Reza discharged his firearm, Lewis remained armed with the knife and had repeatedly refused to comply with the officers' commands. Officers had attempted to communicate with him for several minutes, used marked patrol vehicles and their public address systems to gain his attention, positioned themselves to protect members of the public, and attempted less-lethal force before deadly force was employed.

The BWC recordings captured numerous commands directing Lewis to stop, get on the ground, get out of the roadway, and drop the object in his possession. Lewis did not respond to or acknowledge the officers' commands and made no apparent attempt to communicate with them. These efforts demonstrate that officers repeatedly attempted to resolve the encounter without resorting to deadly force, but Lewis' continued actions prevented those efforts from succeeding.

Under Nevada law, a peace officer may use deadly force when reasonably necessary to protect the officer or another person from an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm. Officer Reza's perception of an imminent threat was based on the totality of the circumstances known to him at the time. Lewis was armed with a knife, had repeatedly refused lawful commands, had run toward members of the public and officers while armed, had continued his aggressive behavior despite multiple Taser deployments, and was moving toward an occupied casino entrance. Officer Reza was in close proximity to Lewis and could see an individual immediately inside the casino who would be exposed to the threat if Lewis gained entry. Under these circumstances, it was reasonable for Officer Reza to believe that Lewis posed an imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm to himself, the responding officers, or members of the public inside the casino, and that the use of deadly force was necessary to prevent that danger.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on a comprehensive review of the investigation and the application of Nevada law to the known facts and circumstances surrounding the December 4, 2022, Officer Involved Shooting of Marcus Lee Lewis, the actions of RPD Officer Fernando Reza are determined to be legally justified under Nevada law. Unless new information arises that contradicts the factual foundation of this decision, the District Attorney’s review of this case is considered officially closed.