



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos Counties

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July 8, 2024

Agent Daniel Martinez, New Mexico State Police

Mizel Garcia, Espanola Police Chief

Re: Officer Involved Shooting involving suspect Brandon Archuleta (NMSPSPR2400393)

Involved Agency: Espanola Police Department

Involved Law Enforcement Officers: Sergeant Jerome Broyles, Officer Donivan Byers, Officer James Quintana, Officer David Jaramillo, Officer Isaiah Gomez ¹

On January 9, 2024, while patrolling in the City of Espanola, Officer Byers with the Espanola Police Department (EPD) conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for multiple traffic violations. During the stop, Officer Byers determined that the driver of the vehicle had an expired driver's license. Officer Byers asked the passenger for his driver's license to ensure that the passenger could lawfully drive the vehicle versus towing the vehicle for impound. Through the course of the investigation, the occupants were identified as Brandon Archuleta (8/24/1994)(driver) and Derick Salazar (6-21-1990)(passenger). After running the occupants through the NCIC database, Officer Byers determined that the passenger (Salazar) had a valid warrant for his arrest. Because of visible bladed weapons in the vehicle and Salazar's outstanding warrant, Officer Byers kept the vehicle and occupants on scene and returned to his vehicle while he waited for backup assistance.

Sergeant Broyles responded to the scene and attempted to arrest the passenger who resisted and was able to escape Sgt. Broyles's arrest efforts that included deploying his duty Taser. With its headlights off, the suspect vehicle fled the scene and a law enforcement pursuit ensued through the city streets. Eventually, the vehicle came to a stop and the occupants ran from the vehicle with multiple EPD officers giving chase. While running, the occupant, later identified as Archuleta turned and fired a single shot directly at the officers at a close range. The proximity was so close that Sgt. Broyles "saw a bright flash," "felt the percussion of the firearm," and fell to the ground in pain (it took time for Sgt. Broyles and other officers to determine that Sgt. Broyles had not been shot). *See* Agent Martinez's Supplemental Report dated April 2, 2024.

¹ Officer Jaramillo and Officer Gomez are the officers that discharged their duty weapons

Gomez returned fire striking Archuleta. Near Archuleta, EPD officers recovered and secured Archuleta's firearm, which was collected and preserved by the NMSP. Archuleta was transported to the hospital via ambulance and survived the injuries he sustained from two bullet wounds.

The NMSP investigation and the body worn camera evidence are consistent with the evidence collected and corroborates the statements and perspectives of the EPD officers involved. Officer Jaramillo and Officer Gomez acted reasonably in response to an immediate threat to the lives of multiple officers. Therefore, Officer Jaramillo and Officer Gomez were justified in their use of force.

New Mexico State Police and the Espanola Police Department may release any evidence to the rightful and lawful owners of seized property provided there are not any pending criminal charges or civil action arising out of this incident. ²



Jennifer Padgett Macias
Chief Deputy District Attorney

² Brandon Archuleta is currently pending trial and is held without bond for crimes related to this incident in D-0117-CR-202400033.