

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



Albuquerque Police Department



Gorden E. Eden, Jr., Chief of Police

January 5, 2017

Edward Harness, Esq., Executive Director
Civilian Police Oversight Agency
600 2nd St. NW #813
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Re: I-37-15

Dear Director Harness:

Thank you for bringing your concerns in reference to I-37-15 to my attention. I appreciate and welcome the additional review of these crucial investigations. This letter seeks to respond to each issue of concern and recommendations listed in your correspondence to me dated August 11, 2016.

Issue of Concern #1: “The investigation team never recovered the bullets fired by Mr. Redwine.”

400 Roma NW

Response: As a matter of protocol, our Criminalistics Team always seeks to recover projectiles or fragments in these situations. In this particular case the team was unable to locate any collectable evidence in the form of the “bullets” fired by Mr. Redwine. “Spent casings” were located in Mr. Redwine’s firearm.

Albuquerque

Issue of Concern #2: “The investigation team did not swab Mr. Redwine’s hands for gunshot residue.”

New Mexico 87102

Response: The Commander of our Scientific Evidence Division has advised me that “swabbing hands for gunshot residue” has not been a nationally recognized “best practice” for several years. The procedure is not used by our Criminalistics Team.

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Issue of Concern #3: “My review of the incident revealed the presence of a minor child in Lt. S’s squad. It does not appear an investigation into why the child was on scene during this incident was ever conducted. Additionally, it is not documented in this investigation.”

Response: This was not raised as an issue of concern during the criminal or administrative investigation because the person referenced was an approved “ride-a-long” in accordance with Department policy. Additionally, even though the policy does allow for minors to “ride-a-long” in certain situations, this individual happens to have been an adult at the time of the incident.”

Recommendation #1: "Review the investigation techniques utilized by the team to ensure completeness."

Response: A review of the investigation indicates the Criminalistics Team followed protocol in recovering evidence in this case.

Recommendation #2: "Initiate an investigation as to the presence of the minor child in Lt. S's squad on the night of March 25, 2014."

Response: The person in question was an approved "ride-a-long" therefore no further investigation is required.

Please contact me if any further clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon E. Eden, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

GORDEN E. EDEN, JR.
Chief of Police

GEE/JT/jm