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**Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office**

**ISLA VISTA MASS MURDER  
MAY 23, 2014**

**INVESTIGATIVE  
SUMMARY**

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**BILL BROWN**  
Sheriff – Coroner

February 18, 2015

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF REPORT	7
PREFACE	7
ISLA VISTA – STARBUCKS COFFEE PURCHASE	8
ISLA VISTA – ALPHA PHI SORORITY HOUSE	8
ISLA VISTA – INCIDENT AND RESPONSE	9
INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE	30
RECOVERED WEAPONS AND CARTRIDGE CASES FIRED BY THE SUSPECT	33
6598 SEVILLE ROAD #7 – SCENE INVESTIGATION	34
ITEMS RECOVERED FROM SUSPECT’S BEDROOM	36
EVIDENCE EXAMINATION	38
INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE ACCESSORIES / CO-CONSPIRATORS	41
MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS	42
EVENTS AND BACKGROUND LEADING UP TO MAY 23, 2014	43
SUSPECT’S PREVIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS	45
SUSPECT’S BACKGROUND	48
AUTOPSY INFORMATION FOR SIX HOMICIDE VICTIMS	55
AUTOPSY INFORMATION FOR SUSPECT	58
VICTIM AND CRIME SCENE SUMMARY	58
MAP OF ISLA VISTA WITH CORRESPONDING CRIMES	61
CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE SUSPECT	62
CONCLUSION	63
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	64

## **INTRODUCTION**

Presented here after months of diligent investigation is a detailed summary of one of the most horrific crimes ever to occur in Santa Barbara County. It documents what transpired on May 23, 2014, when a 22-year old college student embarked on a premeditated, murderous rampage by stabbing three people to death inside his Isla Vista apartment. He then committed a series of drive-by shootings and deliberately struck numerous people with his car, killing three additional victims and wounding fourteen more. During this time he engaged in two separate gun-battles with sheriff's deputies, and was wounded before ultimately taking his own life.

Sadly, terrible crimes such as this occur far too frequently. A recent FBI report indicates that 160 mass or active shootings occurred in public places in the USA between 2000 and 2013, resulting in the murder of 486 people and the wounding of 557 others. Most disturbingly, the study showed that the annual rate of these crimes is trending upwards.

In the aftermath of such senseless tragedies, the question always asked is, "What can be done to save lives by preventing similar crimes in the future?" Unfortunately, there is no single or simple solution to the complex problems that lie beneath that question.

In California, we have some of the strongest gun control laws in the nation, yet in this case the suspect was still able to legally purchase and possess three handguns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Many suspects in mass murder incidents suffer from severe mental illness that is untreated or under-treated, yet in this instance the suspect was receiving treatment and had been since childhood.

Nevertheless, more can and must be done to ensure that those who died were not lost in vain. In the wake of this tragedy, steps are being taken that provide some hope for the future. Legislation was passed encouraging peace officers to make greater use of the state's firearms registry during welfare checks, and giving law enforcement officers and families the ability to obtain gun violence restraining orders allowing firearms to be temporarily impounded in certain cases where public safety is believed to be at risk. Efforts are also underway to remove more guns from "armed and prohibited" persons, and to blend law enforcement and mental health professionals into effective crisis response teams. There remain a number of additional unmet needs we must strive to address in the future. These include greater recognition and early intervention in cases of mental illness, improved community-based treatment, and providing more forensic mental health facilities and programs as alternatives to jail.

What is unusual in this case is the extent of the written and video-taped record of thoughts, feelings and intentions left by a suspect who, in retrospect, clearly suffered from significant mental illness that ultimately resulted in homicidal and suicidal rage. It is our hope that a thorough review of these materials by mental health professionals and the F.B.I.'s Behavioral Research and Instruction Unit (BRIU), in essence the conducting of a psychological autopsy, will result in findings that will assist in the development of new and improved intervention techniques and practices related to the cause, identification and treatment of such pathologies.

All of these actions must be taken with great care not to stigmatize the mentally ill and thereby discourage them from seeking treatment. We must understand that the vast majority of mentally

ill people are not violent, and that mental illness, like physical illness, can usually be effectively treated if properly diagnosed. The results are enhanced quality of life and increased public safety.

In closing, I convey my deepest sympathy to the families of all those who perished in Isla Vista on that awful evening, as well as my gratitude that those who were wounded survived – thanks in some instances to the fine medical care they received. I am proud of the detectives, forensic and coroner’s personnel who investigated and handled the aftermath of this heinous crime with great ability and compassion. Lastly, I commend the dispatchers and first responders – deputy sheriffs, police officers, emergency medical personnel and firefighters alike – whose swift, courageous, skillful and resolute actions that evening prevented many more deaths.



BILL BROWN  
Sheriff – Coroner  
Santa Barbara County

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to describe the chain of events leading up to the six homicides, fourteen attempted murders, and one suicide that occurred in Isla Vista, California, on May 23, 2014. This report documents the actions of the suspect, the tragic consequences of those actions, and the investigative follow-up. The report concludes that no prosecution is necessary as the perpetrator of the crimes is deceased.

It is not the intent of this report to convey every piece of information contained in the voluminous investigation materials developed by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies. Rather, this report is meant to provide a cogent body of information that will provide some answers for the victims, the victims' families and the public.

On May 23, 2014, the suspect went on a murderous rampage in the community of Isla Vista, which is an unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County adjacent to the campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara. A chronological summary of the suspect's actions that evening is as follows:

- 1. The suspect murdered his two roommates and one of their friends in his apartment at 6598 Seville Road #7, Isla Vista by stabbing them to death. The three victims were murdered separately as they entered the apartment at different times during May 23, 2014.*
- 2. Several hours after the initial murders, but minutes prior to the subsequent events, the suspect uploaded a self-made video onto the Internet entitled "Retribution," and emailed a 137-page autobiographical manifesto to family members and acquaintances expressing anxiety, severe unhappiness and anger. The online posting and email that afternoon and evening foreshadowed the events that were soon to occur.*
- 3. Minutes later the suspect drove to a sorority house at 840 Embarcadero Del Norte, where he pounded on the front door trying to gain entry. Unsuccessful in this attempt, he returned to his vehicle, and then shot three female students on the public sidewalk, killing two and severely wounding the third.*
- 4. He then drove to the area of 6560 Pardall Road, where he fired a round into a closed and unoccupied building in an apparent attempt to shoot the occupants. Continuing eastbound to 6549 Pardall Road, he then shot and killed a male victim standing in front of the market at that location.*
- 5. At 924 Embarcadero Del Norte the suspect used his vehicle to intentionally strike a male victim, causing injury.*
- 6. As he continued to drive, he shot two victims, a male and a female, in front of 6533 Trigo Road, wounding them both.*

7. *He shot and wounded the next victim, a female, near the intersection of El Embarcadero and Sabado Tarde.*
8. *He continued south on El Embarcadero to a point just north of the intersection of Del Playa Drive and El Embarcadero, where he shot at, but missed, a female pedestrian.*
9. *On Del Playa Drive, just east of the intersection of El Embarcadero, a sheriff's deputy shot one round at the suspect's vehicle as the suspect shot at the deputy.*
10. *The suspect continued driving west on Del Playa Drive and, at 6653 Del Playa, the suspect used his vehicle to intentionally strike two male victims, injuring them both.*
11. *The suspect continued driving as he shot and wounded a male victim who was walking on Camino Del Sur just south of Sabado Tarde.*
12. *At 6688 Sabado Tarde, the suspect intentionally struck with his vehicle and injured a male victim riding his skateboard.*
13. *At 6636 Sabado Tarde, the suspect intentionally struck with his vehicle and injured a male victim who was riding his bicycle.*
14. *Near 6620 Sabado Tarde the suspect intentionally struck and injured a male pedestrian with his vehicle.*
15. *As the suspect continued driving eastbound on Sabado Tarde, he shot and wounded a male pedestrian walking in front of 6573 Sabado Tarde. Almost simultaneously, the suspect shot and wounded another male victim in the same vicinity.*
16. *Near the intersection of El Embarcadero and Sabado Tarde, the suspect and three sheriff's deputies engaged in a gun battle during which the suspect was wounded in the left hip.*
17. *At 6584 Del Playa the suspect intentionally struck and injured a male cyclist with his vehicle. He then committed suicide by shooting himself while still driving his vehicle. The suspect's vehicle subsequently crashed into another vehicle and came to a stop.*

The suspect used several large hunting-type knives in the stabbings, a Sig Sauer P226 9mm semi-automatic pistol in the shootings, and a 2008 black BMW 328i sedan in the vehicular assaults.

The response to these crimes began with the receipt of the first 9-1-1 call into the Santa Barbara County Emergency Communications Center (dispatch) at 21:27:26<sup>1</sup> hours (9:27 p.m.). The caller reported hearing gunshots in the area and a subsequent call reported a shooting at the intersection of Embarcadero Del Norte and Segovia Road. Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) deputies and University of California, Santa Barbara Police Department (UCSB PD)

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<sup>1</sup> All times listed in this report utilize the military 24-hour system.

officers assigned to the Isla Vista Foot Patrol (a combined Sheriff and University Police effort) were already in the area and self-dispatched upon hearing the gunfire. By 21:28:02 hours, law enforcement officers were on-scene of the first fatal shooting location and began rendering aid. At 21:29:55 hours, other officers were on-scene of the second fatal shooting location at 6549 Pardall Road and attempted to render aid to that victim. In conjunction with one of the first 9-1-1 calls, dispatch initiated responses by Santa Barbara County Fire and American Medical Response for medical assistance and requests to the UCSB PD, California Highway Patrol, State Park Rangers and Sheriff's units from outside the Isla Vista area. Dispatch continued to relay information to law enforcement personnel in and responding to the Isla Vista area as more 9-1-1 calls were received.

Sheriff's deputies advised dispatch that the suspect's vehicle crashed at 21:35:30. Within eight short minutes, three additional young victims had lost their lives, fourteen people were injured, four sheriff's deputies were involved in shooting situations and the suspect had killed himself.

### **Investigative Summary**

Since May 23, 2014, the Sheriff's Office has worked with many other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of this incident. This group includes local, state and federal agencies, all of which assisted in one way or another with this complex effort. Thousands of hours went into this investigation and are reflected in a voluminous amount of investigative materials.

The first sheriff's detectives arrived on scene at 2245 hours. Detective Schmidt from the Sheriff's Office was assigned as the lead investigator and to work with Detective Aherns from the Santa Barbara Police Department (SBPD). Detective Aherns had spoken earlier with the suspect's parents. Chin Rodger, the suspect's mother, told him she had been advised by Gavin Linderman, the suspect's life coach, about both the manifesto and several ominous YouTube videos posted by the suspect.

Sheriff's detectives identified the deceased suspect as Elliot Oliver Robertson Rodger, age 22. They spoke with both of the suspect's parents, Peter and Chin Rodger, by telephone. The parents were in the process of driving to Santa Barbara from Los Angeles. Both were worried about their son based on the manifesto that had been emailed earlier that evening, but they both found it very difficult to believe that their son either owned weapons or would actually hurt anyone.

At 2300 hours Detective Schmidt requested a protective sweep of the suspect's residence for the purpose of checking the welfare of the suspect's roommates. The Sheriff's Special Enforcement Team (SET) was assembled, formulated an entry plan, and at 0020 hours entered the suspect's residence at 6598 Seville Road #7. Inside they found the bodies of three victims who had been brutally murdered. Two of the deceased were later determined to be the suspect's roommates and the third person was one of their friends.

At 0100 hours, sheriff's detectives met with Peter and Chin Rodger at a nearby parking lot. They advised them that their son was dead and described some of the circumstances surrounding his death. The parents were obviously distraught, but very cooperative with the detectives. Over the course of the investigation they would provide a great deal of valuable information concerning the suspect's life prior to this tragedy.

During the next few days all of the crime scenes were processed, including the suspect's apartment at 6598 Seville Road. All of the survivors, victims, witnesses and officers involved in this incident were interviewed. Search warrants were served at the homes of the suspect's parents by members of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).

The subsequent investigation produced nearly 250 investigative documents. Five search warrants were served covering five e-mail accounts belonging to the suspect. Additionally, warrants were served for the suspect's YouTube account, Facebook page and his cell phone. Warrants were also served for cell phone records belonging to the homicide victims found in the suspect's apartment.

The Sheriff's High Tech Crimes Unit analyzed the suspect's cell phone and laptop computer. The Federal Bureau of Investigation provided invaluable assistance in obtaining background information on the suspect, including records pertaining to his finances, academic performance and mental health. The BATFE investigated the suspect's weapons purchases.

Sheriff's detectives were able to construct a timeline of the suspect's actions on the evening of the murders, as well as his actions during the days and weeks prior to May 23<sup>rd</sup>. To do this, they utilized numerous reports, surveillance footage, pictures, cell phone videos, search warrant returns and dispatch audio files.

In a parallel investigation, the Sheriff's Coroner's Unit examined the circumstances surrounding the victims who died and made findings as to the causes and manner of deaths resulting from this incident. Those findings are described in the main body of the report.

As with any significant investigation, the investigators involved in this case received a large number of leads after the date of the incident suggesting that other persons could have been involved as co-conspirators, or had additional information regarding the suspect or the crimes he committed. Each lead was evaluated and follow-up inquiries were conducted, either locally or through the efforts of other law enforcement agencies to substantiate or invalidate each lead. Ultimately, none of this information yielded evidence of involvement by additional suspects.

The suspect had been in possession of numerous weapons. Three semi-automatic 9mm pistols were found in the suspect's vehicle, along with the two knives used in the apartment murders. Several other knives and a small sledge hammer were found in the suspect's bedroom. All of the firearms were legally purchased by the suspect at commercial gun shops. Additionally, a large quantity of 9mm ammunition that had been purchased by the suspect was found inside his vehicle.

Inquiry into the background, prior conduct, and motivation of the suspect was a major focus of the investigation. The investigation revealed that the suspect had several prior interactions with the Sheriff's Office. The most significant of these occurred on April 30, 2014, when a welfare check was conducted by members of the Isla Vista Foot Patrol. The suspect's mother initiated the welfare check through the suspect's life coach, who in turn contacted Santa Barbara County Mental Health. The request was based on disturbing videos that the suspect had posted on YouTube.



During this welfare check the suspect did not show any signs of being, or make any statements indicating that he was, a danger to himself or others. In retrospect, this was one of several examples of the suspect's ability to present a normal affect when interacting with others. He told the deputies that his mother was a "worry wart" and explained that he had made the videos as a way to express himself because he was lonely and did not have any friends.

During this call a sheriff's deputy contacted the suspect's mother by phone. She said that the videos made it seem like the suspect was very lonely and was having a difficult time in Santa Barbara, thus validating the suspect's statements to the deputies. The suspect was calm, shy, and polite during the April 30<sup>th</sup> encounter. The deputies allowed the suspect to speak with his mother in their presence. At the conclusion of the interview, the deputies felt that the suspect did not meet the criteria of California Welfare & Institutions Code §5150(a) that would have allowed them to involuntarily take the suspect into custody for a period of up to 72 hours for a mental health assessment, or that cause existed to take any further investigatory actions.

The murder investigation disclosed that the suspect had been treated for many years for mental health issues. Those issues affected his ability to live a normal life and to interact well with others, even those to whom he should have been close. As an adult he did not effectively deal with those issues or even recognize them, quickly blaming others for his problems. This was especially true in his interactions with women. In retrospect, the contribution this made to the actions of May 23<sup>rd</sup> was extremely significant; however, those mental health professionals who saw and treated him did not see anything that would have predicted his future behavior. The suspect did not grow up around firearms and his parents were shocked to learn that he owned firearms since he had never shown any previous interest in guns.

Through his manifesto and journal the suspect referred to his difficulty in interacting with women, along with references to slicing throats and using his apartment as a torture chamber. The suspect had a strong interest in certain violent video games, movies and books. Additionally, there was extensive discussion of cutting, bludgeoning and slashing within the manifesto and through physical evidence at the apartment.

Upon review of the suspect's internet search history investigators have learned that the suspect was very interested in some of the practices and techniques of the Third Reich. The suspect's in-depth research included information about Joseph Goebbels and Heinrich Himmler, two infamous members of the Nazi hierarchy. Himmler's date of death was May 23<sup>rd</sup>; however, this fact appears to be purely coincidental. In actuality, the suspect made specific mention of planning the rampage on a much earlier date, during the annual Deltopia event, but decided against it due to the increased police presence in Isla Vista.

It is the conclusion of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office that the suspect acted alone on May 23, 2014 and that he was solely responsible for his criminal actions that day. The available evidence indicates that no other person conspired with the suspect to commit these crimes, nor aided or abetted him in any way. In the course of this rampage the suspect committed a number of crimes in violation of the California Penal Code. These crimes included six counts of Murder,

three counts of Murder under Special Circumstances – Lying in Wait, twenty counts of Attempted Murder and multiple lesser offenses.

The obvious question that remains is: “Why did the suspect murder six people and attempt to murder 14 others?” Unfortunately, that question may never be answered conclusively, despite the collection of extensive background information on the suspect through a multitude of interviews and from other sources. His initial rampage was directed at his roommates and one of their friends, and he then attempted to target a sorority. When that attempt failed, he began randomly targeting victims who just happened to be in the area.

It is hoped that a thorough review of these materials by both law enforcement and mental health professionals will lead to the development of some new techniques and practices in identifying and treating such troubled persons.

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF REPORT**

The Office of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner (Sheriff's Office) was responsible for the investigation of the mass murder that occurred in Isla Vista<sup>2</sup> on May 23, 2014. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Office are aligned as one agency. The criminal investigation and death investigation of all decedents was handled by Sheriff's personnel (criminal investigations detectives and coroner's detectives). Throughout this investigation, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies assisted the Sheriff's Office.

This case presented many challenges for all involved in the investigation. In a matter of hours, the suspect murdered six victims and injured an additional fourteen.<sup>3</sup> The suspect used a variety of weapons on his victims as he moved through this densely populated college town. The suspect's crimes were committed at 17 different locations. The suspect intentionally shot at responding deputies which resulted in two deputy-involved shootings.<sup>4</sup>

The suspect attempted to kill and injure numerous victims (civilian and law enforcement), and the total amount of victims who narrowly escaped injury and death will never be known. What we do know is that the suspect intended on killing as many people as possible when he set his plan in motion on May 23, 2014.

The suspect wrote a 137-page autobiographical manifesto documenting his life and reasons for planning a mass murder, which he emailed shortly before he began his final rampage.<sup>5</sup> A significant portion of this investigation involved detectives seeking to corroborate this information through interviews and an exhaustive investigation into the suspect's background and internet profile/activity.

## **PREFACE**

This report will serve as a summary of the Sheriff's Office response to, and investigation of, the mass murder in Isla Vista on May 23, 2014.

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<sup>2</sup> Isla Vista, CA is a densely populated, unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County west of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) main campus. Isla Vista is home to thousands of college students who attend UCSB and Santa Barbara City College (SBCC). It is bordered by UCSB, the City of Goleta and the Pacific Ocean. Isla Vista covers .533 miles. The 2010 Census recorded 23,096 residents.

<sup>3</sup> These crimes were separated into two events on 5-23-14; the stabbing deaths of three victims at the suspect's apartment, and the subsequent shooting and vehicular attacks against numerous victims throughout Isla Vista. There was an approximate three hour gap between the end of the first event and the beginning of the suspect's rampage throughout Isla Vista.

<sup>4</sup> There were two separate deputy involved shootings; the first involving one sheriff's deputy and, minutes later, the second involving three sheriff's deputies who fired at the suspect. These shootings occurred at two locations in Isla Vista.

<sup>5</sup> Thirty-four email addresses are listed as recipients. These recipients include the suspect's parents, friends, acquaintances, professors, medical and mental health providers. The suspect emailed this document on 5-23-14 at 9:18:43 PM Pacific Standard Time.

On Friday, May 23, 2014, Elliot Oliver Robertson Rodger<sup>6</sup> committed a mass murder in Isla Vista, an unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County located west of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus. The initial law enforcement response was by sheriff's deputies and university police officers assigned to the Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP). IVFP is a joint policing unit comprised of sheriff's deputies and police officers from the University of California, Santa Barbara Police Department (UCSB PD).

The suspect was a 22-year-old Santa Barbara City College student living in Isla Vista. The suspect utilized a variety of weapons against his victims, including an 8 ¾ inch fixed-blade Cold Steel "Boar Hunter" knife, a 6-inch fixed-blade Cold Steel "SRK" knife, a Sig Sauer P226 9mm semi-automatic pistol, and his vehicle, a black 2008 BMW 328i sedan. The suspect initially murdered three victims inside his apartment using the two knives. He subsequently murdered three additional victims in Isla Vista using the pistol. Additionally, the suspect injured seven victims with gunfire and seven victims by intentionally striking them with his vehicle while driving recklessly throughout the streets of Isla Vista. These 14 victims survived.

*The following narrative will reference numerous supplemental reports, dispatch audio and video surveillance. Unless otherwise noted, all times are estimations provided by witnesses. All times are notated in military twenty-four hour time.*

## **ISLA VISTA – STARBUCKS COFFEE PURCHASE**

The first known video surveillance of the suspect on May 23, 2014, was recorded at approximately 1938 hours. On this date and time, the suspect purchased a triple vanilla latte from the Isla Vista Starbucks located at 888 Embarcadero Del Norte, which is a short distance from the suspect's residence. The suspect paid for the drink using a Chase debit card. The suspect was wearing the same clothing he wore during the subsequent rampage. He would begin his attacks at the Alpha Phi sorority house less than two hours later.

## **ISLA VISTA – ALPHA PHI SORORITY HOUSE**

On May 23, 2014, at about 2115 hours (witness estimation), Rachel Glikes, a resident of the Alpha Phi sorority house (840 Embarcadero Del Norte) "heard an unknown person pounding on the sorority house's front door for several minutes."<sup>7</sup> No one in the sorority house checked the front door to see who was knocking. Approximately 30 seconds after the door knocking stopped, Glikes heard six to seven gunshots, a female scream, followed by three additional gunshots.

Glikes ran to a room on the second floor, located on the southwest corner of the building. She looked out the window, which faces Embarcadero Del Norte and saw two females lying "lifeless"

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<sup>6</sup> Throughout the remainder of this report, Elliot Rodger will be referred to as "the suspect." There will be only occasional instances where his name is mentioned.

<sup>7</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0007

on the sidewalk. Glikes turned away from the window out of fear from what she observed. Glikes was looking down at the scene where Veronica Weiss, Katherine Cooper and Bianca DeKock had been shot. It is unknown why she only observed two victims.

At about 2115 hours, Vanessa Brist, a resident of the Alpha Phi sorority house, heard 10 to 11 gunshots while she was getting dressed.<sup>8</sup> Brist initially thought these were firecrackers,<sup>9</sup> but then recognized them as gunfire. She heard a scream after the gunshots and began securing the doors and windows. She didn't see any vehicles or persons leaving the scene.

At about 2130 hours, Megan Gibson, a resident of the Alpha Phi sorority house, heard "really aggressive knocking" at the front door.<sup>10</sup> The front door to the sorority house is a large security-type that requires a code to gain access. Gibson said people often knock on the door, but on this occasion, the knocking was more aggressive than usual. Gibson estimated the knocking occurred for approximately three minutes. Approximately 30 seconds after the knocking stopped, Gibson heard five gunshots, followed by a female screaming. After the screaming, Gibson heard "maybe four more" gunshots. Gibson looked out her window and observed someone doing CPR on a female outside (on the west side of the Alpha Phi sorority house).

At about 2130 hours, Linda Gordon, the "house mother" for the Alpha Phi sorority, heard several loud gunshots outside the building.<sup>11</sup> Gordon heard approximately 12 gunshots, with some pauses in between the volleys of gunfire. Gordon recalled hearing "two rounds being fired, then hesitation, then three more rounds." Gordon described "a round" as a group of gunshots. After the gunfire, Gordon heard what she believed were three females screaming. Gordon gathered several of the residents into a room to take cover until the incident ended.

## **ISLA VISTA – INCIDENT AND RESPONSE**

### **Sheriff's Dispatch 9-1-1 Calls**

On May 23, 2014, at 21:27:26 hours,<sup>12</sup> the Santa Barbara County Emergency Communications Center (dispatch) received the first 9-1-1 call from "Spencer" who reported hearing eight to nine gunshots while he was at the corner of Embarcadero Del Norte and Pardall Road, near Freebirds World Burrito. He heard the gunshots coming from the area of the Habit Burger Grill and Starbucks (888 Embarcadero Del Norte), which was east of his location. Within 50 seconds of this call, Spencer told the dispatcher, "Three sheriffs just walked past so they're on it." Thirteen seconds later, Spencer told the dispatcher "There's two more sheriffs." The call ends shortly thereafter.

Dispatch received another call from an unidentified male witness. The witness reported a shooting at the intersection of Embarcadero Del Norte and Segovia Road involving three female victims.

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<sup>8</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0068

<sup>9</sup> It is common to hear fireworks in Isla Vista, especially during Friday and Saturday nights.

<sup>10</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0008

<sup>11</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0008

<sup>12</sup> SBSO dispatch 9-1-1

Dispatch asked the witness what he saw and the witness said, "I only saw the car" (suspect's vehicle), which he described as a blue sedan. The witness last saw the suspect's vehicle turn left (westbound) on Segovia Road from Embarcadero Del Norte. He didn't know how many people were in the vehicle. The witness told dispatch, "There's cops here now."

At 21:28:02 hours,<sup>13</sup> Sheriff's Dispatcher Hedricks broadcast a call for "Gunshots heard, Embarcadero Del Norte and Pardall" to the IVFP units. UCSB PD Officer Oldread answered this call and Sheriff's Deputy Gowing told dispatch that "multiple" IVFP units were on foot and had arrived on scene.

This call for service was in reference to the shooting of Veronica Weiss, Katherine Cooper and Bianca DeKock while they walked northbound on the eastside of Embarcadero Del Norte, south of Segovia Road. They were in close proximity to the west exterior wall of the Alpha Phi sorority house.

DeKock recalled walking with her friends, Weiss and Cooper, when a male subject with dark colored hair, driving a dark colored vehicle "slowed down like he was going to park."<sup>14</sup> The vehicle was traveling in the same direction that they were walking. The vehicle approached them from behind. DeKock looked at the vehicle and saw the suspect in the driver's seat through the passenger-side window. The window was rolled down and DeKock didn't see any other occupants in the vehicle.<sup>15</sup> As the vehicle slowed down, DeKock heard numerous gunshots and felt pain due to being hit by the gunfire. DeKock and her friends, Cooper and Weiss, fell to the ground. Weiss and Cooper died; DeKock survived.

### **Law Enforcement Response / Victim and Witness Statements**

Mahad Abedin and Shahzeb Ather were inside their apartment (825 Embarcadero Del Norte) when they heard several volleys of gunfire outside, followed by females screaming.<sup>16</sup> Abedin looked out the window and saw a two-door black BMW travel westbound on Segovia Road, leaving the area where the gunshots came from. Abedin was sure of the vehicle description because he is very familiar with cars. Abedin said the vehicle's turn from Embarcadero Del Norte onto Segovia Road was very "aggressive," and he heard the engine accelerate as it traveled westbound on Segovia Road.

Approximately one to two minutes after the vehicle left, Abedin walked out of his apartment and saw three females on the sidewalk across the street from his apartment complex (Weiss, Cooper and DeKock). Abedin noticed a deputy (Deputy Genovese) rendering aid to the females who were lying on the ground. As Abedin provided a suspect description to the deputy, he heard approximately six to ten additional gunshots from the area of the Isla Vista Market – 939 Embarcadero Del Mar.

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<sup>13</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of initial broadcast by Dispatcher Hedricks

<sup>14</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0056

<sup>15</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0034

<sup>16</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0132

Deputy Gowing was in the area of Embarcadero Del Norte and Pardall Road with Sheriff's Deputies DiPinto, Walker, Johnson and Detective Flick when he heard approximately ten gunshots in the area of Segovia Road and Embarcadero Del Norte. All deputies immediately began moving toward the area where the shots were heard.<sup>17</sup>

As Deputy Gowing and Deputy DiPinto passed Freebirds (879 Embarcadero Del Norte), Deputy Gowing heard additional gunshots coming from the area of the 6500 block of Pardall Road. Deputy Gowing and Deputy DiPinto headed toward Pardall Road, while the remaining deputies continued toward Segovia Road.

At 21:28:48 hours,<sup>18</sup> Deputy Gowing told dispatch that the gunshots sounded like they were coming from Pardall Road, possibly near Embarcadero Del Mar.

Kyle Sullivan was walking east on Cordoba Road toward Embarcadero Del Norte, when he heard rapid gunfire.<sup>19</sup> Sullivan estimated he was approximately 15 feet west of Embarcadero Del Norte when he heard the gunfire. Sullivan heard females screaming followed by a "second round of gunfire." He directed his attention toward the Alpha Phi sorority house where he saw two females lying on the sidewalk and one female lying on the grass. Sullivan ran to the women and noticed one of the victims on the sidewalk, Bianca DeKock, was conscious and calling her mother on her cell phone.

Sullivan approached the victim on the grass, Katherine Cooper, and noticed six to seven gunshot wounds throughout her body. Sullivan did not observe any signs of life. Sullivan noticed that Cooper wasn't breathing, nor was she bleeding from her injuries. Sullivan looked over at Veronica Weiss who was lying on the sidewalk. Weiss was having difficulty breathing and was making very limited movements. Sullivan thought Weiss was going into shock.

At this instant, Deputy Genovese was on foot with other deputies in the area of Embarcadero Del Norte and Madrid Road when he heard several loud "popping" sounds consistent with gunfire.<sup>20</sup> Deputies began responding to the area where the shots were heard as dispatch received additional reports of more shots occurring in the same area.

Seconds later, five or six persons sprinted toward Deputy Genovese and yelled, "There's blood. There's blood. Three girls are on the ground!" Deputy Genovese ran with these subjects to the corner of Embarcadero Del Norte and Segovia Road, where he found victims Weiss, Cooper and DeKock.

When Deputy Genovese was near Freebirds, Sullivan ran to him and yelled that he needed help with three female victims suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Deputy Genovese began communicating on his radio as they ran towards the victims.

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<sup>17</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, Original report

<sup>18</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Gowing

<sup>19</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0241

<sup>20</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0036

The victims were covered in blood and lying on the grass and sidewalk area. Weiss and Cooper were lying on their backs, motionless. DeKock was screaming, "I'm going to die! I'm going to die!" At 21:29:22 hours,<sup>21</sup> Deputy Genovese requested dispatch to clear the radio frequency for emergency radio traffic.<sup>22</sup>

Deputy Genovese applied direct pressure to DeKock's gunshot wounds. Sullivan noticed an unidentified civilian performing CPR on Cooper. He also noticed another unidentified civilian comforting Weiss and holding her head while attempting to speak with her.

Sullivan told Deputy Genovese that Cooper was dead, so Deputy Genovese directed Sullivan to check on Weiss. Sullivan lay down next to Weiss and was about to check her pulse when he noticed her body "completely stop moving." Sullivan knew Weiss had died because she wasn't breathing and her skin turned "pale white."

Sullivan noticed DeKock was talking to her mother on her cell phone. Sullivan resumed comforting DeKock and lay down next to her. Sullivan recalled that although Deputy Genovese was holding her wounds, he was very busy communicating on his radio and requesting additional help. Sullivan was able to communicate with DeKock's mother, and he reassured her that DeKock was going to survive.

Additional law enforcement personnel arrived to assist Deputy Genovese. Sullivan heard gunshots come from the area of the IV Deli Mart, and, at that point, law enforcement on scene told all the civilians who stopped to help to leave the area and seek refuge indoors. Sullivan left the crime scene and walked southbound toward Freebirds. He noticed several people walking out of the restaurants near the Embarcadero Del Norte and Pardall intersection.

Sullivan noticed that these bystanders "seemed to be wondering about the gunshot noise at IV Deli Mart." Sullivan screamed at everyone to go back inside because there was a gunman "on the loose." Sullivan returned to his fraternity house and told his fellow members what happened. They locked all the doors and Sullivan remained inside.

Between 21:29:30 and 21:29:54 hours,<sup>23</sup> Deputy Genovese told dispatch he was with three victims injured by "multiple gunshot wounds" on the corner of Embarcadero Del Norte and Segovia Road. Deputy Genovese requested three ambulances for the victims.

Deputy Genovese applied direct pressure to DeKock's injuries. Several people were standing around and they asked Deputy Genovese how they could help. Deputy Genovese told them to check for a pulse and start chest compressions, which they did.

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<sup>21</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Genovese

<sup>22</sup> A clear frequency allows law enforcement units involved in a critical incident to have exclusive use of a radio channel. Any law enforcement units not involved in the critical incident would be restricted from using the clear frequency.

<sup>23</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Genovese



UCSB PD Sergeant Wilson, Corporal Pierce, Officer Prows and Sheriff's Deputy Coffman arrived to assist Deputy Genovese with the victims.<sup>24</sup> Corporal Pierce approached Weiss while Sergeant Wilson repositioned a patrol car to block traffic at Cordoba Road. A civilian, later identified as Maxwell Potter, approached the scene and used his sweatshirt to apply pressure to one of Cooper's gunshot wounds.<sup>25</sup>

Corporal Pierce started CPR on Weiss and was assisted by Officer Prows. Officer Prows obtained a pocket mask that was used on Weiss. Officer Prows made several requests for an ambulance to respond while they continued CPR on Weiss. After observing no signs of life, CPR was stopped at 2143 hours.

During this time, Deputy Coffman armed himself with a patrol rifle to protect the victims, as well as the civilians and law enforcement personnel who were on the ground providing medical aid.

*After shooting Weiss, Cooper and DeKock, the suspect turned westbound on Segovia Road, southbound on Embarcadero Del Mar and westbound on Pardall Road. The suspect turned around and drove eastbound on Pardall Road, toward Embarcadero Del Mar.*

Video surveillance at 901 Embarcadero Del Mar recorded the suspect's vehicle travel southbound on Embarcadero Del Mar and turn west onto Pardall Road. The suspect's vehicle made a three-point turn at the driveway, which separates 901 Embarcadero Del Mar and Giovanni's Pizza – 6583 Pardall Road.

At 21:28:35 hours,<sup>26</sup> video surveillance recorded the suspect's vehicle traveling eastbound on Pardall Road. The suspect fired one round into the Coffee Collaborative (6560 Pardall Road) as he drove eastbound on Pardall Road. The business was closed and unoccupied when the shooting occurred.<sup>27</sup> There were no injuries from this shooting.

*The suspect continued driving eastbound on Pardall Road toward the IV Deli Mart (6549 Pardall Road #C).*

Yessica Castaneda was with a group of friends, including victim Christopher Michaels-Martinez. They were standing near a post outside the IV Deli Mart – 6549 Pardall Road #C.<sup>28</sup> She heard a loud noise (*most likely the gunshot into Coffee Collaborative*), but initially thought it was fireworks because she wasn't familiar with what a gunshot sounded like. One of her friends thought the noise sounded like a gunshot and encouraged everyone to go inside the IV Deli Mart for safety.

Everyone filed into the IV Deli Mart and Michaels-Martinez followed behind her. As they entered, Castaneda felt something bounce off her back. She later determined it was Michaels-Martinez's

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<sup>24</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0019

<sup>25</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0106

<sup>26</sup> 901 Embarcadero Del Mar – Video surveillance time stamp

<sup>27</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0087

<sup>28</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0168

hand, which struck her back (confirmed by IV Deli Mart video surveillance). Castaneda estimated approximately six shots were fired into the IV Deli Mart.

IV Deli Mart surveillance cameras recorded the suspect's vehicle approach the front of the store as it traveled eastbound on Pardall Road. Several people began to quickly file into the store through the front doors, as if they were reacting to hearing gunfire. Michaels-Martinez was at the threshold of the front door when he turned to look at the suspect's vehicle, as it was directly in front of him, to his north. As soon as Michaels-Martinez turned and looked toward the street, he was struck by the gunfire.

Michaels-Martinez quickly entered the IV Deli Mart and fell to the ground. The suspect continued firing numerous gunshots into the store. Two additional gunshots broke through the window on the west side of the front door. Michaels-Martinez died inside the IV Deli Mart from a single gunshot wound to the chest.

At 21:29:55 hours,<sup>29</sup> Deputy Gowing broadcast "BMW...gunshot...IV Deli". At 21:30:10 hours,<sup>30</sup> Deputy DiPinto broadcast a request for medics to the IV Deli Mart for a "gunshot wound." This request was made for Christopher Michaels-Martinez.

Deputy Gowing and Deputy DiPinto rolled Michaels-Martinez onto his back, and Deputy DiPinto started chest compressions. While CPR was in progress, Deputy Gowing walked outside and yelled at bystanders on the street to hide due to there being an active shooter. While Deputy DiPinto continued CPR on Michaels-Martinez, Deputy Gowing ran toward Camino Pescadero to assist other deputies who were actively searching for the suspect. Deputy DiPinto continued CPR on Michaels-Martinez, but observed no signs of life.<sup>31</sup> Deputy DiPinto was listening to his radio and heard that other units had engaged the suspect in a gun battle, but the suspect was still outstanding. Deputy DiPinto made an announcement requesting others take over CPR. Three civilians came forward and took over CPR on Michaels-Martinez. Deputy DiPinto left the IV Deli so he could assist other units in apprehending the suspect.

Jeremy Varela, a close friend who was with Michaels-Martinez, and Erin Bullard, continued CPR on Michaels-Martinez.<sup>32</sup> Justin Smaine and his girlfriend, Alyssa Hopper, were also reported to have administered CPR on Michaels-Martinez for five to eight minutes.<sup>33</sup> Smaine and Hopper were inside the IV Deli Mart when Michaels-Martinez was shot.

At 21:30:15 hours,<sup>34</sup> an unknown unit described the suspect's vehicle as a black BMW last seen traveling eastbound on Pardall Road, toward Embarcadero Del Norte. The suspect was described as a white male, approximately 20 years old.

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<sup>29</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Gowing

<sup>30</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy DiPinto

<sup>31</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0024

<sup>32</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplements 0032 and 0123

<sup>33</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0059

<sup>34</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast

Cathy Short was having dinner with her husband at Blaze Pizza (6546 Pardall Road) when she heard multiple gunshots coming from behind the building, to the north. She kept hearing gunfire that had a sharp tone and sounded as if it was approaching the IV Deli Mart. While focusing on the IV Deli Mart, Short saw a black car with tinted windows that was stopped in front of the store. The car was facing east toward the UCSB campus. Short believed she saw a gunshot blast come from the black vehicle. She never saw the driver. After seeing the gunshot blast, people began running into the IV Deli Mart.

*After shooting Christopher Michaels-Martinez, the suspect drove eastbound on Pardall Road and turned southbound onto Embarcadero Del Norte.*

At 21:30:17 hours,<sup>35</sup> Jin Fu was walking across Embarcadero Del Norte (east to west) in front of Nespor's University Auto House, 924 Embarcadero Del Norte. Fu recalled walking northbound on Embarcadero Del Norte, near Pardall Road, when he heard what sounded like three to four fireworks going off.<sup>36</sup> He was walking on the east sidewalk and did not think much of the sounds. As Fu approached Madrid Road, he decided to cross the street.

As he approached the west edge of the roadway, the suspect drove southbound on Embarcadero Del Norte towards him. He was almost on the west sidewalk of Embarcadero Del Norte when he heard a vehicle's engine very close to him. As Fu turned to look at the vehicle, the suspect's BMW struck him. Although he recalled trying to jump out of the way in order to avoid being hit, he was unable to do so. The suspect swerved to the right to intentionally strike Fu with his vehicle. Fu was struck with such force that his body flipped as he was thrown into the air. Fu landed on the sidewalk and sustained a small bruise on his left calf.

Summer Young was walking northbound on the east side of Embarcadero Del Norte when she heard several loud pops. She continued walking and saw a black colored compact two-door vehicle travel southbound at a high rate of speed. She heard a loud sound, turned around and noticed Fu had been struck by the vehicle. Young called 9-1-1, and she and her friend approached Fu to give him aid. She continued to hear additional loud pops and realized the driver of the vehicle was shooting as he was driving. Young and her friend escorted Fu to Woodstock's Pizza, 928 Embarcadero Del Norte.

*The suspect continued to travel southbound on Embarcadero Del Norte toward Trigo Road, the area of Pizza My Heart (6533 Trigo Road #108).*

At 21:31:10 hours, an unknown unit broadcast, "Shots down by the top of the loop."<sup>37</sup>

At about 2130 hours, Aaron Zaglin and Bailey Maples went into Pizza My Heart (6533 Trigo Road #108) to get food.<sup>38</sup> After paying, Zaglin and Maples walked out of the building through the front

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<sup>35</sup> Nespor's University Auto House – Video surveillance time stamp

<sup>36</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0212

<sup>37</sup> "Top of the loop" references the intersection of Embarcadero Del Mar, Embarcadero Del Norte, El Embarcadero Road and Trigo Road. This is the intersection closest to the 7-Eleven – 6545 Trigo Road.

<sup>38</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0065

door. Maples walked next to Zaglin along his left side. When Zaglin and Maples were about ten feet away from the building, they saw a dark-colored sedan quickly drive up to them. The vehicle was approximately 10 to 15 feet away from their location with the driver's door facing them.

Zaglin described the driver as a male subject with dark skin. Zaglin saw a flash, heard a "bang" and felt pain in his left arm. Zaglin and Maples immediately ran from the area. Zaglin ran toward the IVFP station and Maples ran back into Pizza My Heart. As Zaglin ran away, he heard three to five more gunshots, followed by a pause. Zaglin was contacted on the 6500 block of Trigo Road, near the IVFP station, by Sheriff's Sergeant Hammill, Sergeant Welch and Deputy McCormick.

Deputy McCormick remained with Zaglin while Sergeant Welch and Sergeant Hammill left to assist other deputies and officers. Deputy McCormick continued to hear gunfire, so she moved Zaglin between the apartments at 6523 Trigo Road to provide him with cover.<sup>39</sup> Zaglin sustained a through and through gunshot wound to his left arm, and subsequently received 21 stitches.

Bailey Maples recalled exiting Pizza My Heart with Aaron Zaglin when she observed a four-door "black BMW" with tinted windows pull up next to them and quickly come to a stop.<sup>40</sup> The vehicle was occupied by one male in his 20's with tan skin, brown hair, dark eyes, bushy eyebrows and wearing a short sleeve dark colored shirt. The driver rolled down the window and had a "creepy" laugh.<sup>41</sup> The driver said something unintelligible and raised a black semi-automatic pistol with his right hand. The driver started shooting at Maples. Maples was struck in the right arm by the gunfire. Maples ran back into Pizza My Heart and heard two to three more shots being fired by the suspect. She noticed the windows to the business begin to shatter.

Maples described the suspect's handgun as a small, dark-colored, semi-automatic pistol. The suspect was firing very rapidly and she knew it was a real firearm after the first shot grazed her arm. Maples sustained a graze-type gunshot wound to her upper right forearm. The injury was approximately ¾ inches long and it did not break the skin.

*After firing into Pizza My Heart (6533 Trigo Road #108), the suspect continued westbound on Trigo Road and turned southbound onto El Embarcadero Road toward Del Playa Drive.*

Megan Carloto left her residence, located in the 6500 block of Del Playa, and was riding her bicycle. She was en route to her friend's house on El Colegio Road.<sup>42</sup> Carloto was riding her bicycle northbound on El Embarcadero toward the 7-Eleven (6545 Trigo Road) when she heard five to ten gunshots. At the time, Carloto thought these sounds were fireworks. Carloto continued riding her bicycle until she felt a stinging pain in her leg.<sup>43</sup> She looked down at her leg and realized she had been shot.

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<sup>39</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0015

<sup>40</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0071

<sup>41</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0012

<sup>42</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0052

<sup>43</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0240

Carloto got off her bicycle as she rode onto the sidewalk at the northeast corner of Sabado Tarde and El Embarcadero. She began screaming for help and was assisted by others at the 7-Eleven. They hid in the bathroom and waited for assistance.

Carloto never saw the suspect shoot her because she was focused on riding her bicycle. However, Carloto later learned that the suspect shot at her as he drove southbound on El Embarcadero. Carloto sustained two injuries to her upper right thigh, consistent with a through and through gunshot wound.

Sierra Swartz was walking westbound on Del Playa Drive with her friend, Hannah Miller. They turned northbound onto El Embarcadero when she heard several gunshots.<sup>44</sup> Swartz thought they were fireworks because she frequently hears fireworks throughout Isla Vista. Swartz didn't know how many gunshots she heard or where they were coming from. Swartz continued walking home while speaking with Miller, who was behind her.

Swartz turned to look at Miller, who turned and ran southbound on El Embarcadero toward Del Playa. At the same time, a black vehicle traveled southbound on El Embarcadero and approached Swartz from the north. The vehicle swerved slightly in her direction and stopped in the middle of the road, pulling up next to her. Swartz was on the east side of El Embarcadero between El Nido and Del Playa. The suspect said, "Hey, what's up?" and Swartz described him as a "totally normal" guy with brown hair and sunglasses. Swartz said, "What's up?" and continued walking northbound on El Embarcadero.

Swartz looked back at the suspect who was still looking at her. The suspect lifted a "little black gun" from his lap, which he held in his right hand, near his chest. The suspect never extended the gun from the window. About one second later, Swartz heard a gunshot and was surprised she wasn't struck due to being so close. She wondered if the gun was even real.

Swartz said the suspect was smiling and had a "little grin" on his face. As Swartz was looking at the suspect, he fired a second time. Swartz felt this bullet travel past her face, which she described as "wind" on her face. The suspect continued to smile as he fired the pistol. Swartz immediately ran southbound on El Embarcadero and turned eastbound onto Del Playa. She ran into the first house on the north side of Del Playa, 6550 Del Playa.<sup>45</sup> Swartz told the occupants that someone had shot at her. The occupants told her that several people had been killed in Isla Vista.

Erich Brodbeck was visiting his friends at 6550 Del Playa when a white female in her 20's with blonde hair, wearing a two-piece bathing suit, ran inside. Brodbeck recalled that the female was hysterical and said she had been shot at by the suspect. Brodbeck knew the female's first name was Sierra (Swartz). Swartz eventually left 6550 Del Playa and went to her friend's house at 6549 Del Playa.

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<sup>44</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0131

<sup>45</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0020

Dana Tuttle was in the living room of his second floor apartment, located at 6549 Del Playa.<sup>46</sup> He heard several gunshots, so he looked outside and saw a black BMW traveling south on El Embarcadero. He watched the BMW pull up next to Sierra Swartz and stop. Tuttle heard a single gunshot come from the area of the BMW. Swartz ran south on El Embarcadero and turned east on Del Playa. Swartz entered the first yard on the north side of Del Playa. Tuttle watched as the BMW followed Swartz's path and stopped in front of the opening to the yard of the house that Swartz ran into. Tuttle heard approximately three more gunshots. After firing, Tuttle saw the driver of the BMW load a magazine into his firearm. The BMW continued traveling eastbound on Del Playa.

Tuttle remembered approximately 25 to 30 seconds of quiet after the BMW continued east on Del Playa. Tuttle did not hear additional gunfire after losing sight of the BMW. At this time, Tuttle saw a deputy (Sheriff's Deputy Marquez) walk east on Del Playa in the direction of the BMW. The BMW reappeared as it traveled west on Del Playa, toward the deputy. As the BMW approached the deputy's position, Tuttle heard at least three gunshots. Tuttle was unsure if the deputy was firing his weapon, but he was certain that the driver of the BMW was firing at the deputy. The vehicle drove through the stop sign at the Del Playa / El Embarcadero intersection, and continued westbound on Del Playa. Tuttle lost sight of the vehicle as it continued westbound.

At 21:31:47 hours,<sup>47</sup> Deputy Marquez told dispatch that the suspect's vehicle was traveling "westbound from El Embarcadero and DP (Del Playa)." Deputy Marquez heard gunfire as the suspect drove westbound on Del Playa. At 21:33:20 hours,<sup>48</sup> Deputy Marquez told dispatch "I was shot at from a two-door BMW, westbound from El Embarcadero on DP." He described the vehicle as being black in color. At that point, he was standing on the north side of Del Playa, just east of the intersection with El Embarcadero, when he fired one shot at the suspect's vehicle as it traveled westbound on Del Playa, past his location.

Patrick Eggert was riding his bicycle on the 6600 block of Del Playa while Nicholas Pasichuke was walking alongside him.<sup>49</sup> Eggert and Pasichuke were accompanied by Jenna Good and Mallory Weberski, who were walking on the sidewalk about 15 to 20 feet behind them. Eggert heard approximately six gunshots a few blocks away from their location. Eggert didn't know they were gunshots and didn't think much of it.

Nicholas Pasichuke recalled riding his skateboard alongside Eggert. Good and Weberski were with them and they were traveling together from Freebirds World Burrito (879 Embarcadero Del Norte) to a residence on Del Playa.<sup>50</sup> Pasichuke and Eggert were having a conversation about surfing. As they continued westbound in the 6600 block of Del Playa, the suspect struck Eggert and Pasichuke from behind with his vehicle. There was no warning prior to being struck.

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<sup>46</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0133

<sup>47</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Marquez

<sup>48</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Marquez

<sup>49</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0167. Eggert was certain that Pasichuke was walking. This is disputed by Pasichuke who recalled riding a "longboard" skateboard next to Eggert, who was riding a bicycle.

<sup>50</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplements 0053 and 0155

Pasichuke recalled seeing headlights approach them from behind, but he couldn't determine how far away the vehicle was from their location. Pasichuke heard gunshots prior to being struck by the suspect's vehicle. He thought they were fireworks. Pasichuke's next memory was being struck by the suspect's vehicle and "flying in the air."

Pasichuke believes he lost consciousness when his head struck the windshield of the suspect's vehicle. His next recollection was seeing Eggert in "shock" and walking around. Pasichuke heard from other witnesses that the suspect's vehicle initially slowed down, but turned toward Eggert and him and "gunned it." Eggert said Pasichuke landed in the street in front of 6653 Del Playa. They were located about four residences east of that location prior to being struck by the suspect's vehicle.

Eggert sustained a sprained knee and several contusions as a result of the collision. Pasichuke sustained a shattered left leg, broken right leg, facial fractures, along with multiple abrasions and bruises.

Mallory Weberski was walking with Eggert and Pasichuke when they were struck by the suspect's vehicle.<sup>51</sup> Weberski didn't see the suspect's vehicle collide with Pasichuke and Eggert, but she heard the impact. When she turned, she saw that Pasichuke flew approximately 50 feet in the air after being struck. Eggert was on a bicycle and it sustained a bent wheel from the collision. She did not know what happened to Eggert after the collision occurred.

Weberski and Good immediately rendered assistance to Pasichuke. Weberski was told by other witnesses that the driver of the vehicle "went out of his way" to collide with Pasichuke and Eggert.

Christopher Hoang had been at Embarcadero Hall with some friends. He left at about 2115 hours.<sup>52</sup> After getting some food at the 7-Eleven (6545 Trigo Road), he walked westbound on Sabado Tarde. After walking about one block, Hoang heard what sounded like gunshots which he assumed were fireworks. Hoang continued walking westbound on Sabado Tarde and turned southbound onto Camino Del Sur.

Hoang saw a black BMW appear "out of nowhere," coming northbound on Camino Del Sur as if it had just turned off of Del Playa. The BMW was in the northbound lane. Hoang was walking in the southbound lane. Hoang's position allowed him to see the driver's side of the BMW. Hoang continued walking southbound on Camino Del Sur, toward Del Playa, when the BMW stopped. The driver displayed a black pistol and began shooting. Hoang ran towards a house where there were some people outside. Hoang and everyone who was outside immediately ran inside as shots were being fired. Once inside, Hoang realized he had been shot in the right forearm and right buttocks. The residents of the house assisted Hoang with his injuries.

Hoang described the driver as having fair skin and light hair. He believed the suspect was holding the gun outside the window with his left hand while firing. When Hoang was asked how many shots were fired, Hoang said "There were a lot, five or six, maybe more." Hoang didn't know if

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<sup>51</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0157

<sup>52</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0004

anyone else was inside the suspect's vehicle, but thought "he might have been alone." Hoang didn't hear the driver say anything.

Alex Zazzela was inside his house at 6701 Sabado Tarde when he heard about five gunshots outside.<sup>53</sup> The shots were close together in successive order. Zazzela didn't see anything outside, but shortly after hearing the shots, someone with multiple gunshot wounds (Christopher Hoang) was brought inside his residence. The victim received gunshot wounds to one of his arms and buttocks. He and other residents applied pressure to Hoang's injuries until paramedics arrived. Hoang sustained through and through gunshot wounds to his right forearm and right buttocks.

Camille Fritsch was sitting outside his residence at 6701 Sabado Tarde when he heard a car "floor it on the corner."<sup>54</sup> He saw the back part of the vehicle as it traveled northbound on Camino Del Sur from Del Playa. He believed the vehicle had been traveling westbound on Del Playa prior to turning onto Camino Del Sur. Moments later, Fritsch heard what sounded like fireworks, but the "rhythm" of these sounds seemed off and not in the common pattern consistent with fireworks.

Seconds after hearing the sounds, a male named "Chris" (Hoang) walked onto their driveway and said he thought he'd been shot. Fritsch and the other subjects he was with initially told Hoang "it was just fireworks." However, once they saw Hoang's bloody arm, they realized he had been shot. Fritsch and his friends escorted Hoang into their apartment. They turned off the lights, locked the doors and tended to Hoang's injuries. Hoang was questioned as to why he was shot. Hoang said he was wearing a blue hat and thought this was possibly the reason. Hoang was eventually transported to the hospital by paramedics.

Victor Garcia and his housemate, Donovan Geronilla, were in their residence when they heard numerous gunshots, which they thought were fireworks.<sup>55</sup> They grabbed their skateboards and decided to leave so they could get something to eat. Garcia and Geronilla were skateboarding on the south side of the roadway, near 6688 Sabado Tarde, when they saw several people running westbound from the corner of Camino Del Sur and Sabado Tarde. Garcia observed a black BMW make a wide turn from Camino Del Sur, eastbound onto Sabado Tarde. He heard the BMW accelerate and noticed it was tracking them as they tried to maneuver their skateboards off of the street.

The BMW struck Garcia and knocked him into a parked car. He estimated the vehicle was traveling 25 to 35 miles per hour when he was struck. Garcia sustained injuries to his right hand, which impacted the suspect's windshield, and an injury to his right leg. Garcia had glass fragments imbedded in his hand. Paramedics examined Garcia's injuries and he declined hospital treatment.<sup>56</sup>

Garcia recalled there being a basketball-sized hole in the windshield when he was struck by the vehicle. The force of the impact knocked Garcia into a parked car on the south side of the street.

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<sup>53</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0206

<sup>54</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0206

<sup>55</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0154

<sup>56</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0037



Garcia thought the driver was drunk and he didn't know the vehicle was associated with shootings that were occurring in Isla Vista. Garcia got back onto his skateboard and began chasing the vehicle. He followed the vehicle for about one block until he noticed the driver was intentionally striking people with his vehicle and shooting at pedestrians.

Garcia saw a male skateboarding eastbound in the middle of the street when he heard a popping noise. Garcia thought the driver of the BMW shot the skateboarder in the back. He also watched as the BMW ran over the skateboarder's legs. Garcia approached the skateboarder and saw blood coming from his back. He believed the skateboarder was shot near the intersection of Camino Pescadero and Sabado Tarde.<sup>57</sup>

Mitchell Lyubarsky was riding his bicycle from 6530 Seville Road toward Sabado Tarde.<sup>58</sup> As he approached the 7-Eleven, he noticed about 20 people gathered on an apartment balcony above. He thought there might have been a fight that just occurred. Lyubarsky continued riding his bicycle southbound on El Embarcadero when he noticed a woman, later identified as Megan Carloto, crying hysterically while saying "I've been shot in the leg, I have blood dripping!" As he continued toward Sabado Tarde, Lyubarsky saw several subjects escorting the female to the 7-Eleven.

Lyubarsky turned westbound onto Sabado Tarde and heard approximately five gunshots. He continued riding his bicycle on the north side of Sabado Tarde near a row of parked vehicles. As he approached 6636 Sabado Tarde, Lyubarsky noticed a black BMW traveling approximately 15 miles per hour eastbound in the middle of the roadway. Lyubarsky thought the driver of the BMW quickly accelerated his vehicle toward him upon being seen. The BMW struck Lyubarsky's bicycle, causing him to fly off of it.

Lyubarsky got back onto his feet and when he turned around, he saw the BMW collide with another bicyclist who was also traveling westbound in the middle of the street. Lyubarsky thought the driver of the BMW quickly accelerated his vehicle toward the bicyclist upon seeing him.

After the second bicyclist was hit, Lyubarsky heard five gunshots in the 6500 block of Sabado Tarde. After hearing the gunshots, Lyubarsky and Arun Sengupta ran into 6636 Sabado Tarde. Lyubarsky sustained bruising to his left leg, left arm, and soreness to his neck and lower back.

Arun Sengupta was standing in front of the 7-Eleven (6545 Trigo Road) when he heard gunshots and began running westbound on Sabado Tarde.<sup>59</sup> He stopped running and proceeded to walk to his friend's house because he wasn't sure if he heard gunshots or fireworks. While Sengupta was near 6636 Sabado Tarde, he saw a black BMW driving eastbound toward him and a group of other people that were in the street. He noticed the driver of the BMW was intentionally trying to hit people with his vehicle.

The BMW came within one foot of colliding with Sengupta. Sengupta jumped out of the way and was able to avoid being hit by jumping between two vehicles that were parallel parked. He watched

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<sup>57</sup>This skateboarder was likely Antoine Cherchian.

<sup>58</sup>SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0126

<sup>59</sup>SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0126

as the BMW struck Mitchell Lyubarsky, who was riding a bicycle westbound on Sabado Tarde, approximately six feet away from him. Sengupta also witnessed the BMW strike another male who was riding a bicycle in the middle of the street.

Sengupta noticed the BMW's windshield had a large hole in it the size of three basketballs. Sengupta estimated the suspect was driving the BMW approximately 35 miles per hour, eastbound on Sabado Tarde. The vehicle would accelerate each time it side-swiped a parked car. The driver would lean low and to the right, ducking down each time before he struck something with his vehicle. Sengupta and Lyubarsky went to 6636 Sabado Tarde to seek refuge. While hiding inside this residence, Sengupta heard numerous gunshots.

Elliot Gee was riding his skateboard westbound in the area of 6620 Sabado Tarde with his friend, Morgan Palumbo.<sup>60</sup> Palumbo was walking alongside Gee when they saw a black BMW collide with a bicyclist in the area of 6640 Sabado Tarde (Mitchell Lyubarsky). The BMW was traveling eastbound with its headlights off. Gee thought the driver was drunk, so he took out his cell phone and tried to record the BMW's license plate.

The driver of the BMW saw Gee and accelerated directly toward him. Gee attempted to jump out of the way, but the vehicle clipped his leg, which caused him to fall onto the pavement. His skateboard was run over by the BMW and completely destroyed. Gee believed he was in front of 6620 Sabado Tarde when the vehicle struck him. Gee got up and chased after the vehicle because he still thought the driver was drunk.

The BMW continued eastbound, passing through Camino Pescadero, and onto the 6500 block of Sabado Tarde. In the area of 6590 Sabado Tarde, Gee saw the BMW approach a male from behind who was walking. The driver shot the male several times in the back. Gee heard this victim's name was Antoine (Cherchian). Gee's friends pulled him (Gee) into a residence, possibly 6625 Sabado Tarde, where Gee realized he was injured. Gee was driven by a friend to Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital where he was treated for facial injuries requiring four stitches, a chipped tooth and possible damaged ligaments in his leg.

Matthew Smith was walking eastbound on the sidewalk on the 6500 block of Sabado Tarde.<sup>61</sup> He was on his way to visit a friend who lives on the east end of Madrid Road. Smith was walking on the south sidewalk, near 6573 Sabado Tarde, and was near two male subjects who he didn't know. He would later learn that one of these males was Antoine Cherchian.

As Smith was walking, a black BMW approached him, traveling eastbound on Sabado Tarde.<sup>62</sup> The vehicle came to a "sudden stop," as if the driver was panicked and needed directions. Smith was standing in a driveway apron, on the south side of the street, and there were no cars that separated him from the suspect's vehicle. The driver held a pistol in his right hand while his left hand remained on the steering wheel. Smith was standing approximately ten feet away from the

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<sup>60</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0214

<sup>61</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0003

<sup>62</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0239

suspect's vehicle. Cherchian, who had also been traveling eastbound on Sabado Tarde, was about five to six feet in front of Smith.

Smith heard approximately five to ten gunshots. He was struck in the groin area and left inner thigh. Cherchian was also shot numerous times. The suspect's pistol remained inside the vehicle as he fired. Smith was able to see the suspect's face because it was illuminated by the muzzle flash every time he fired. Smith estimated the suspect was stopped for approximately five seconds. Smith immediately took cover behind parked cars. He ran past three residences to the west so he could take refuge at his friend's house at 6595 Sabado Tarde. Once inside, two of the residents, Darby and Jordan, assisted him with his injuries and called 9-1-1. While waiting for paramedics, Smith called his friend, David Campbell, and told him what happened and where he was located. Campbell ran to 6595 Sabado Tarde, and while en route, Campbell grabbed a sheriff's deputy (Deputy Rushing) and told him that Smith had been shot and was waiting for help at 6595 Sabado Tarde.

Campbell and the deputy arrived, and the deputy applied a bandage to Smith's injuries until paramedics arrived and transported Smith to the hospital. While at the hospital, Smith identified the suspect when Sheriff's Detective Kouremetis showed him an image from the suspect's "Retribution" YouTube video.

*Deputy Rushing came to Smith's aid with Campbell. This is based on Deputy Rushing's radio traffic at 21:41:18 and 21:42:22.<sup>63</sup> During these transmissions, Deputy Rushing advised he was with a gunshot victim at 6595 Sabado Tarde. During the later transmission, Deputy Rushing told dispatch that the victim was bleeding heavily and he requested a medical kit. Deputy Rushing confirmed his location as 6595 Sabado Tarde during both transmissions.*

Deputy Rushing arrived in Isla Vista and parked near the terminus at 6594 Del Playa. Upon arrival, he was tasked with providing assistance to other victims. Deputy Rushing grabbed his gunshot trauma kit from his patrol car and went to Sabado Tarde.<sup>64</sup> He was approached by an unidentified male who requested assistance with his "brother" who had been shot. Deputy Rushing was led to Matthew Smith who was lying in the front yard of 6595 Sabado Tarde. Deputy Rushing escorted Smith into 6595 Sabado Tarde and provided medical aid until paramedics arrived.

At about 2100 hours, Antoine Cherchian and his friend, Alexander Kurdian, went to a party on the 6700 block of Del Playa.<sup>65</sup> They stayed at the party for about 30 minutes and left on their skateboards. Cherchian and Kurdian rode their skateboards eastbound on Del Playa, northbound on Camino Del Sur and eastbound onto the 6600 block of Sabado Tarde. Cherchian and Kurdian were traveling eastbound on the south side of Sabado Tarde; Kurdian was slightly ahead of Cherchian.

Cherchian looked back and to his left and saw a black BMW with a broken front windshield. The vehicle quickly pulled alongside Cherchian and then slowed. He estimated the BMW slowed to

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<sup>63</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Deputy Rushing

<sup>64</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0013

<sup>65</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0127

about five miles per hour before he was shot at. The passenger-side of the BMW was facing Cherchian. Cherchian saw a "silver-colored" pistol within the vehicle and heard four gunshots. The gun remained inside the vehicle when the shots were fired. Cherchian described the sound as "bam, bam, bam, bam." Cherchian indicated that the gunshots were not very loud. Initially, he believed the noises were from a "cap gun." Cherchian didn't see the suspect's face.

After the gunshots, the driver of the vehicle sped eastbound on Sabado Tarde. Cherchian thought Kurdian jumped off his skateboard and ran behind parked vehicles to get away from the gunfire. Within five seconds, Cherchian noticed his arm was "gushing blood." Cherchian collapsed on the street after noticing his injury. After the vehicle left, Kurdian ran over and removed his belt. Kurdian used his belt as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding from Cherchian's arm. Kurdian dragged Cherchian up a driveway and requested assistance from bystanders. Cherchian believed there were approximately six individuals applying pressure to his gunshot wounds. Shortly thereafter, a sheriff's deputy arrived and radioed in that shots had been fired. Cherchian described this portion of his memory as "hazy" because he was going into "shock."

Initially, Cherchian didn't think he had been shot because he didn't feel any pain. Approximately 15 minutes later, an ambulance arrived and transported Cherchian to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Cherchian was shot four times. He had gunshot wounds to his left forearm, upper left chest, under his left arm, lower abdomen and lower back. One of the bullets ruptured his liver.

Alexander Kurdian was riding his skateboard with Antoine Cherchian when Cherchian was shot.<sup>66</sup> They were skateboarding eastbound on Sabado Tarde toward El Embarcadero when he heard four to five "pops" that sounded like they were behind him. Kurdian was in front of Cherchian when he looked back and saw a vehicle approaching that had major damage to its windshield. The damage to the windshield was consistent with a pedestrian collision. The top of the windshield was "hanging off" and looked as if someone had kicked it in. Kurdian estimated the vehicle was about six feet behind him when he first noticed it.

Kurdian jumped off his skateboard and hid behind a red Prius. He heard two to three additional gunshots as he was hiding behind the car. He came out from hiding and saw a bullet hole in the car he was hiding behind, leading him to believe that the suspect also shot at him. After hearing the shots, the vehicle continued eastbound on Sabado Tarde. Kurdian never saw the driver or any passengers in the vehicle. Kurdian heard additional gunfire after the vehicle left this area. After the vehicle left, Kurdian saw Cherchian on the ground with gunshot wounds. Kurdian rendered aid to Cherchian and remained with him until paramedics arrived.

*Cherchian was likely shot near 6573 Sabado Tarde. This is based on victim Matthew Smith's recollection of being shot at this location with Cherchian.*

At 21:33:28 hours,<sup>67</sup> Sergeant Welch advised dispatch of a gunshot victim in front of 7-Eleven (6545 Trigo Road). This was most likely Megan Carloto.

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<sup>66</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0197

<sup>67</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Sgt. Welch

At 21:33:31 hours,<sup>68</sup> Sergeant Welch told dispatch that shots had been fired.

Ryan Carter was riding in the passenger seat of a truck driven by his friend, David Smithers.<sup>69</sup> They were going to Carter's residence in the 6500 block of Seville Road. As they were traveling southbound on Embarcadero Del Mar, approaching the top of the loop, Carter heard six to seven gunshots. After hearing the gunfire, Carter saw six to eight people begin to run. They attempted to drive northbound on Embarcadero Del Norte, but their path was obstructed by a patrol car blocking both lanes of travel (Sheriff's Senior Deputy Smith's vehicle). Moments later, Carter saw "six to seven deputies" shooting an estimated "50 to 60 rounds." Carter thought the deputies were approximately five feet from his vehicle when they were firing.

Carter said the deputies were being shot at, and the deputies were firing as they moved across El Embarcadero toward the park across the street from the 7-Eleven (Little Acorn Park). Carter was able to hear the deputies' radio traffic which included a description of the suspect's vehicle being a brand new BMW 3 series. Carter never saw the BMW because he was trying to protect himself by hiding under the seat. Carter heard the deputies talking about the suspect's vehicle, and they sounded confident that they were shooting at the suspect.

Officer Oldread and UCSB PD Corporal Lupo responded to the area of Pizza My Heart.<sup>70</sup> They parked their patrol vehicle and continued on foot after observing several shell casings on the roadway. They approached Little Acorn Park and learned that someone at 7-Eleven had been shot. Officer Oldread and Corporal Lupo began yelling at numerous bystanders to get inside the 7-Eleven and lock the door. At this time, Officer Oldread heard an unknown deputy yell that the suspect's vehicle was returning.

Officer Oldread saw the suspect's vehicle, a newer model, black-colored BMW. The BMW was traveling east on Sabado Tarde. The vehicle was rapidly accelerating and decelerating as it approached the intersection. Officer Oldread saw the driver holding a pistol outside the driver's window of the BMW. Officer Oldread saw the driver fire at least one round toward the direction of the deputies.

Officer Oldread observed Sergeant Welch fire his pistol at the suspect's vehicle. Sergeant Welch was shooting while moving toward the suspect's vehicle as it fled the scene. Officer Oldread estimated he was approximately 250 feet north of Sergeant Welch's position.

Colby Taylor was standing outside, between 6559 and 6561 Sabado Tarde, when he saw the suspect's vehicle traveling eastbound on Sabado Tarde.<sup>71</sup> He was with an additional witness, Tommy Tsutsumi. Taylor heard a volley of gunfire prior to seeing the suspect's vehicle. Taylor noticed a group of sheriff's deputies who were walking through a park with their guns drawn. This park is located north of 6559 Sabado Tarde (Little Acorn Park).

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<sup>68</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Sgt. Welch

<sup>69</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0205

<sup>70</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0211

<sup>71</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0107

Taylor recalled seeing an arm come out of the front passenger window of the suspect's vehicle, while it was traveling eastbound. Taylor saw an occupant of the vehicle reach over the passenger-side frame and shoot a firearm toward the park.<sup>72</sup> Taylor said the suspect was firing in the direction of the deputies. Taylor stated, "There's no question in my mind that they knew they were opening fire at (a) law enforcement agency [sic]."

Taylor did not see any occupants inside the vehicle. He only witnessed an arm extend from the passenger window, shooting a firearm. The deputies moved onto the street and began firing at the suspect's vehicle.

Tommy Tsutsumi was visiting his friend, "Alex," at 6561 Sabado Tarde.<sup>73</sup> While inside Alex's apartment, he heard two volleys of gunfire that were separated by approximately one minute. Tsutsumi ran outside and onto the sidewalk. He heard a vehicle traveling eastbound on Sabado Tarde at a high rate of speed. As soon as this vehicle was in front of him, Tsutsumi noticed the driver had one of his arms extended outside the driver's window. The driver was holding a gun. He believed the driver was extending his left arm.

The driver fired approximately five rounds while holding his arm outside the window. While the driver was shooting, Tsutsumi saw what he described as three to four "police officers" running diagonally across Little Acorn Park. He knew they were police because they had their guns drawn and they were using flashlights. Tsutsumi believed the driver was trying to shoot the police officers. The police officers began shooting at the suspect's vehicle after it passed Tsutsumi's position.

Sergeant Welch, Detective Flick, Deputy Walker and Deputy Johnson were in the area of Little Acorn Park (southeast corner of Sabado Tarde/El Embarcadero) when they learned that the suspect's vehicle was a black BMW with damage, occupied by a single male. Around this time, the suspect briefly parked his BMW in the rear (south) parking lot of the International Food Market – 6551 Trigo Road. This parking lot faces Sabado Tarde and is immediately west of Little Acorn Park.

The suspect left the parking lot and drove eastbound on Sabado Tarde toward the deputies. As he drove past the deputies, he displayed a pistol outside the driver's window. Sergeant Welch, Detective Flick and Deputy Walker fired numerous rounds at the suspect as he sped away, eastbound on Sabado Tarde toward El Embarcadero. Deputy Johnson didn't fire because he did not have a clear shot.

A total of 28 .40 caliber shell casings were recovered from the area of Little Acorn Park.<sup>74</sup> Sergeant Welch, Detective Flick and Deputy Walker were armed with Sheriff's Office issue Heckler &

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<sup>72</sup> Colby Taylor was initially interviewed by SBDA Investigator Miller (supplement 0149). During this interview, Taylor said the driver extended his arm outside the driver's window and was holding a gun. Taylor recalled that the driver fired toward Little Acorn Park in rapid succession.

<sup>73</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0151

<sup>74</sup> All three pistols possessed by the suspect were 9mm.

Koch .40 caliber pistols during this shooting.<sup>75</sup> The suspect was struck in the left hip during this gun battle. Multiple rounds fired by the deputies also struck the driver's area of the suspect's vehicle.

*The suspect drove eastbound on Sabado Tarde after shooting at the deputies. He turned southbound onto El Embarcadero toward Del Playa.*

Just prior to the shooting between the suspect and the deputies, Sheriff's Senior Deputy Smith drove a patrol car to the intersection of Trigo Road and Embarcadero Del Norte.<sup>76</sup> He began setting up a crime scene perimeter when he saw several deputies run into Little Acorn Park and head toward the direction of the shots being fired.

*The shots that the deputies were reacting to were most likely the gunshots fired at victims Matthew Smith and Antoine Cherchian (area of 6573 Sabado Tarde).*

Senior Deputy Smith moved southbound on El Embarcadero toward Sabado Tarde. The gunshots sounded as if they were approaching El Embarcadero. Within seconds, he saw a black BMW sedan travel eastbound on Sabado Tarde toward El Embarcadero. This vehicle matched the suspect's vehicle description that had been broadcast earlier. As the suspect's vehicle passed Little Acorn Park, Senior Deputy Smith heard a couple of gunshots, followed by a volley of gunshots fired by the deputies who were in the park. After this gun battle, the suspect's vehicle continued eastbound on Sabado Tarde toward El Embarcadero.

The suspect's vehicle turned southbound onto El Embarcadero toward Del Playa. Senior Deputy Smith was able to identify the suspect's vehicle as a newer black colored BMW 3 series sedan. The suspect's vehicle turned westbound onto Del Playa.

At 21:34:13 hours,<sup>77</sup> Senior Deputy Smith broadcast "The vehicle's firing, westbound Del Playa, 6500 block." At 21:34:31 hours,<sup>78</sup> Senior Deputy Smith described the suspect's vehicle as a "3 series, black."

Senior Deputy Smith ran to the nearest patrol car and drove after the suspect's vehicle. While driving, Senior Deputy Smith heard on the radio that the suspect's vehicle crashed near the intersection of Del Playa and Camino Pescadero.

At 21:35:30 hours,<sup>79</sup> Sheriff's Deputy Marquez broadcast that the suspect's vehicle crashed at Del Playa and Camino Pescadero. Deputy Marquez said the suspect was down. Senior Deputy Smith arrived within seconds and found the suspect's vehicle on the sidewalk in front of 6594 Del Playa. The vehicle was heavily damaged from a collision with a parked car. The driver's door to the suspect's vehicle was open when Senior Deputy Smith arrived.

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<sup>75</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0061

<sup>76</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0026

<sup>77</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Sr. Dep. Smith

<sup>78</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Sr. Dep. Smith

<sup>79</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Dep. Marquez

At 21:36:38 hours,<sup>80</sup> Senior Deputy Smith broadcast that two subjects were down at the suspect's vehicle. He provided the suspect's vehicle license plate as "6ELX898." Senior Deputy Smith provided the location of the terminus as 6594 Del Playa Drive.

The suspect was found seated motionless in the driver's seat of his BMW. There was no one else inside the vehicle. A black Sig Sauer pistol, with its hammer cocked, was found on the driver's seat next to the suspect's right hip.<sup>81</sup> This firearm was loaded with a magazine. Deputy Marquez removed this firearm from the driver's seat and secured it inside the trunk of a UCSB PD patrol car. Once this scene was secure, Sheriff's Sergeant Thielst unloaded the pistol and secured it in his patrol car.

Deputies Gowing, Marquez and Johnson pulled the suspect out of his vehicle and onto the ground. The suspect was covered in blood and had an apparent through and through gunshot wound to his head. The suspect was handcuffed by Deputy Gowing.<sup>82</sup>

When the suspect was pulled from the vehicle, a small bag fell onto the ground with him. The contents of the bag spilled out and Senior Deputy Smith noticed it contained loaded semi-automatic pistol magazines. Senior Deputy Smith saw approximately six to seven magazines protruding from the top of the bag.

At 21:37:35 hours,<sup>83</sup> Detective Flick told dispatch that two suspects were in custody. The statement concerning two suspects included reference to Keith Cheung, who was initially handcuffed by Deputy Johnson. This occurred because the deputies who were first to respond to the end of the pursuit thought Cheung was a suspect. In actuality, Cheung was a victim bicyclist who was intentionally struck by the suspect's vehicle near 6584 Del Playa. Cheung was carried by the suspect's vehicle until it crashed at 6594 Del Playa. Cheung landed near the vehicle terminus, leading the responding deputies to believe he was a second suspect.

Keith Cheung lived in the 6500 block of Del Playa and was riding his bicycle home. He wasn't sure if he just left his job on the UCSB campus, or if he was coming from another location. Cheung was riding westbound on Del Playa when he was struck by the suspect's vehicle. Cheung had very limited memory of the collision due to his severe injuries.

Cheung was in handcuffs for no more than three to five minutes before law enforcement personnel determined that he had in fact been attacked and injured by the suspect. Deputy Johnson removed the handcuffs and emergency medical attention was provided to him by California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Clocherty, who provided Cheung with oxygen and applied pressure to his wounds to stop the bleeding, using supplies obtained from his patrol car first aid kit.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Sr. Dep. Smith

<sup>81</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0243

<sup>82</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, Original report

<sup>83</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Detective Flick

<sup>84</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0134



Lindsey Baiz and McKenzie Shields were on the second story deck of 6583 Del Playa when they saw a black BMW traveling westbound on Del Playa.<sup>85</sup> As the vehicle approached the area of their residence, they heard the vehicle accelerate toward a bicyclist who was traveling eastbound on Del Playa (Keith Cheung). The vehicle struck the bicyclist causing the bicyclist to land on the hood. The bicyclist was dragged several feet by the BMW until it crashed into parked vehicles on the north side of Del Playa.

Baiz and Shields said it was apparent that the suspect deliberately accelerated toward the bicyclist with the intention of running him over. Baiz believed she heard a single gunshot come from the BMW when it struck the bicyclist.<sup>86</sup>

Shortly after the suspect's BMW crashed at 6594 Del Playa, numerous law enforcement personnel and first responders (to include countywide Sheriff's patrol personnel, CHP, UCSB PD, Santa Barbara County Fire Department and American Medical Response paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians) converged on Isla Vista to provide medical aid to victims and assist with securing the multiple crime scenes. As law enforcement resources arrived, additional victims were located and medical aid was summoned for them.

At 21:36:08 hours,<sup>87</sup> Sergeant Hammill requested that dispatch notify the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of this incident.

In the confusion of such a rapidly unfolding event, it was initially believed that there was an outstanding gunman. Following the suspect's terminus, at 6594 Del Playa, a helicopter and the Sheriff's Special Enforcement Team (SET)<sup>88</sup> were requested to assist with locating the suspect. Several minutes after these requests were made, it was confirmed that there were no outstanding suspects. SET continued to Isla Vista to augment on-scene personnel.

Due to the number of crime scenes, multiple victims and large span of the area involved in this rampage, sheriff's deputies (both on and off-duty) responded to Isla Vista. For the ensuing investigation, investigators from the SBPD, UCSB PD, Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (BATFE) assisted sheriff's detectives.

### **Collapse and Resuscitations of Santa Barbara Police Department Detective**

Investigators began arriving at IVFP and were given assignments. Numerous personnel from the SBPD arrived and were assembled in the garage area of the IVFP station. Suddenly, one of the SBPD detectives collapsed and fell to the ground, striking his head on the pavement. The detective was quickly evaluated and determined to be suffering from a life-threatening medical emergency. The detective did not have a pulse and was not breathing.

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<sup>85</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0063

<sup>86</sup> This was possibly the shot fired by the suspect when he committed suicide.

<sup>87</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by Sgt. Hammill

<sup>88</sup> SET is the equivalent of a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

Santa Barbara County Firefighter/SET Paramedic Debbie Lux began CPR with the assistance of Sheriff's Senior Deputy Gotschall, Detective Yeates, and Lieutenant Olmstead. An automated external defibrillator (AED) was deployed on the detective and, after prolonged CPR and at least one shock from the AED, the detective regained his pulse and respirations. The detective was transported to the hospital and survived. It was determined that he suffered a heart attack while at IVFP.

## **INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE**<sup>89</sup>

At approximately 2245 hours, Sheriff's CID Detective Sergeant Sanders held a briefing and began assigning tasks to sheriff's detectives.<sup>90</sup> I, Detective Schmidt, was assigned to contact Santa Barbara Police Detective Aherns, who had been speaking with the suspect's mother, Chin Rodger.

At 2238 hours, SBPD Detective Ahrens spoke with the suspect's mother, Chin Rodger,<sup>91</sup> on the phone. Detective Ahrens learned from Chin that her son, the suspect, was a student at Santa Barbara City College. She was concerned for his welfare after being contacted by Gavin Linderman, the suspect's life skills coach.<sup>92</sup> Linderman received an emailed manifesto ("My Twisted World," sent on 5-23-14 at 21:18:43 hours) from the suspect regarding his desire to carry out a violent attack. Chin also heard about the recent shooting in Isla Vista and was concerned that her son, the suspect, might have some involvement.

At about 2250 hours, I spoke with SBPD Detective Ahrens. Detective Ahrens provided the suspect's address as 6598 Seville Road #7 in Isla Vista. Detective Ahrens learned that the suspect had a YouTube account which contained several videos he created. One of these videos was titled, "Retribution," wherein the suspect talked about his plan to carry out revenge by killing numerous people.<sup>93</sup> Detective Ahrens said the suspect wrote about using his apartment (6598 Seville Road. #7) as a location where he would murder people.

Based on the suspect's emailed manifesto, YouTube videos and information obtained from SBPD Detective Aherns, I requested a check of the roommates' welfare at the suspect's apartment.

At approximately 2300 hours, I contacted Sheriff's SET member Senior Deputy Gotschall. Senior Deputy Gotschall was staged on Trigo Road in front of the Isla Vista Foot Patrol station with several other SET members. I told him that 6598 Seville Road #7 was likely the suspect's residence, and to prepare for an exigent protective sweep to check the welfare of the suspect's roommates.

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<sup>89</sup> The Investigative Narrative is written in the first person by Sheriff's Detective Joe Schmidt.

<sup>90</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0002

<sup>91</sup> Chin and Peter Rodger are the suspect's parents. Throughout the remainder of this document they will be referred to by their first names.

<sup>92</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0092. Linderman described his role as "companion services."

<sup>93</sup> The suspect's iPhone 4 was used to record the "Retribution" video. It was recorded on 5-22-14 at 7:42:32 PM, Pacific Daylight Time.

While Senior Deputy Gotschall waited for additional information and confirmation on 6598 Seville Road #7, I contacted Sheriff's Detective Morris. I requested Detective Morris attempt to identify the suspect, who I believed was Elliot Rodger.

Detective Morris printed a DMV driver's license picture of the suspect and went to 6594 Del Playa with Sheriff's Detective R. Vasquez.<sup>94</sup> The suspect was lying in the roadway and was covered with a yellow blanket. Detective Morris removed the blanket from the suspect's face and attempted to compare the face to the DMV picture of the suspect. Initially, Detective Morris was only able to determine that the suspect was an Asian male. He subsequently located a wallet in the suspect's front right pocket. The wallet contained a California driver's license for Elliot Rodger. Detective Morris notified me of his findings. Based on the totality of circumstances, it was determined that the suspect was Elliot Oliver Robertson Rodger (DOB: 7-24-91).

At 2303 hours, I spoke with Chin Rodger on her cell phone while she was driving to Santa Barbara. Chin identified herself as the suspect's mother. She said the suspect had "social issues" and saw a therapist. The suspect told her that his last day of school was May 23, 2014, and he would be taking a test at SBCC. The suspect told Chin he would call her when he finished his test. The suspect never called her. Chin tried to call the suspect, but he didn't answer. She also texted him, but he still didn't call back.

Chin reported that on that same day, at 2225 hours, she received a call from Gavin Linderman. Linderman was concerned about the suspect forwarding his emailed manifesto, "My Twisted World," to him and numerous other people. Chin and Linderman also discovered a concerning YouTube video the suspect posted. Chin called her ex-husband, Peter Rodger (the suspect's father). I learned they were driving from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara in separate vehicles so they could check on the suspect. Chin also mentioned less concerning YouTube videos that the suspect posted about one month previous.

Chin was not aware of the suspect owning any firearms. She sounded incredulous when I asked her this question. Chin said the suspect lived with two housemates who resided in a separate room. She didn't know their names. Chin confirmed that the suspect drove a black two-door BMW 328i, which was registered to her.

At 2332 hours, I called Peter Rodger's cell phone and his wife, Soumaya Akaaboune, answered. Soumaya identified herself as the suspect's stepmother. She and Peter were driving to Santa Barbara, and had previously spoken with SBPD Detective Ahrens. Peter said Chin called him that evening after she learned of the suspect sending some "worrisome emails." Peter described the suspect as being very lonely, with no friends and no girlfriend. The suspect sent an email with an approximate 100-page attachment that talked about taking retribution. The suspect sent this email to numerous people. Peter looked at this email and said it "freaked him out." He subsequently heard about something going on in Isla Vista and this worried him.

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<sup>94</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0038

Peter didn't know the names of the suspect's roommates, but he mentioned that the suspect had previously made a law enforcement complaint against one of them for stealing. Peter didn't know if the suspect owned any firearms or weapons. He described the suspect as being very non-violent.

I finished my conversation with Peter and conducted a Sheriff's records check on the suspect. I learned that the suspect made a report on 1-15-14 against his housemate, Cheng Yuan Hong, alleging the theft of candles.<sup>95</sup> Hong was subsequently booked into Santa Barbara County Jail for 488 PC (Petty Theft) after being placed under citizen's arrest by the suspect.

At 2349 hours, I called Hong's cell phone and received a voicemail message. I contacted SET, which was preparing to deploy to 6598 Seville Road #7. I told Senior Deputy Gotschall that I called Hong, the suspect's housemate, but he didn't answer his cell phone.

As additional SET members arrived in Isla Vista, a tactical plan was developed in order to safely conduct the protective sweep of the suspect's apartment. There was concern that the suspect's apartment was rigged with booby traps or other unknown hazards that could have endangered neighbors and law enforcement personnel. The potential for hazardous conditions at the suspect's apartment was learned by detectives who were assigned to read the manifesto.<sup>96</sup>

At 00:20:45 hours, the following morning,<sup>97</sup> SET arrived at 6598 Seville Road #7 to conduct the protective sweep. The entry team consisted of Sheriff's Senior Deputy Gotschall, Detective Yeates, Sergeant Perkins, Senior Deputy Jones, Senior Deputy McSkimming, Detective Gonzales and Paramedic Lux.<sup>98</sup> The front door to #7 was locked. An interior light illuminated a room inside the apartment, and a window screen was removed so the window leading to this room could be opened.

Senior Deputy Gotschall was able to open the window and look inside. He discovered it was a bathroom and he immediately observed a deceased male (George Chen) on the floor surrounded by a large amount of blood. Due to these findings, the front door to the apartment was manually breached at 00:24:29 hours by Senior Deputy McSkimming.<sup>99</sup>

SET members conducted a protective sweep of the interior and found a second and third victim inside a bedroom on the northwest corner of the apartment. Both victims, Weihan Wang and Cheng Hong, were lying on the blood-soaked bedroom floor and were covered by blankets and clothing. The victims showed no signs of life and were declared dead by SET members.

At 00:38:18 hours,<sup>100</sup> SET completed the protective sweep of 6598 Seville Road #7. George Chen, Weihan Wang and Cheng Hong were the last of the suspect's victims to be discovered.

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<sup>95</sup> SBSO case 14-693

<sup>96</sup> The suspect wrote that he was going to use his apartment as a "personal torture and killing chamber." He described that he would lure people into his apartment, knock them out with a hammer, slit their throats and behead them once they died – page 132 of "My Twisted World."

<sup>97</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by SET Sgt. Perkins

<sup>98</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0181

<sup>99</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by SET Sgt. Perkins

<sup>100</sup> SBSO Frequency 1 – Time of broadcast by SET Sgt. Perkins

SET personnel exited 6598 Seville Road #7 and maintained security of the crime scene until they were relieved by Sheriff's Deputy Lie. The apartment was secured while a search warrant was completed by Sheriff's Detective Fenske.

For the next several hours, Sheriff's personnel, with the assistance of outside agencies, processed numerous crime scenes, interviewed victims and witnesses, and canvassed residential areas throughout Isla Vista.

At 0102 hours, Sheriff's Detective Scherbarth and I contacted Peter and Chin Rodger in the parking lot of the Goleta Home Depot.<sup>101</sup> They had arrived from Los Angeles and were waiting for the status of the suspect. They believed he had some involvement in the mass murder, but were unaware to what extent. I notified Peter and Chin that the suspect was dead.

Peter and Chin, who were accompanied by friends, were very distraught and unable to provide information on the suspect. However, they both agreed to meet with detectives at a later time in order to provide additional information concerning the suspect.

## **RECOVERED WEAPONS AND CARTRIDGE CASES FIRED BY THE SUSPECT**

A total of fifty-five 9mm expended cartridge cases were recovered from the suspect's vehicle and the various crime scenes throughout Isla Vista. Although the exact number of rounds fired by the suspect is unknown, the number of 55 expended cartridge cases is consistent with the capacity of the empty Sig Sauer magazines recovered from the suspect's vehicle.

All of the suspect's pistol magazines held a maximum of ten rounds. Six empty magazines were recovered from the suspect's vehicle. A Sig Sauer semi-automatic 9mm pistol was found on the driver's seat next to the suspect's right hip. This pistol had one live round in its chamber and a magazine containing seven rounds of ammunition inserted into the magazine well. This pistol was found and seized by Deputy Marquez.

A total of 548 live rounds of 9mm ammunition were found in the suspect's possession. Three hundred twenty-one rounds of this ammunition were loaded into magazines. There were 197 rounds inside ammunition boxes on the front passenger floorboard. Two loose rounds of ammunition were found underneath the driver's floor mat.

A second Sig Sauer semi-automatic 9mm pistol was found on the front passenger floorboard of the suspect's vehicle. This firearm contained a magazine loaded with nine rounds of ammunition. One round was chambered in this firearm.

A Glock semi-automatic 9mm pistol containing a magazine loaded with ten rounds of ammunition was found inside a bag on the front passenger floorboard of the suspect's vehicle.

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<sup>101</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0002

The Cold Steel “Boar Hunter” and “SRK” knives were located inside a backpack found on the passenger floorboard of the suspect’s vehicle. Subsequent forensic investigation confirmed these were the weapons used in the murders at the suspect’s apartment.

## **6598 SEVILLE ROAD #7 – SCENE INVESTIGATION**

On the morning of May 24, 2014, a search warrant was served on the suspect’s apartment; 6598 Seville Road #7. The apartment was processed by Sheriff’s Forensics detectives and crime scene technicians.

Based on forensic evidence discovered at the scene, it was determined that Weihan Wang, Cheng Hong and George Chen were all murdered inside 6598 Seville Road #7. The suspect used two fixed-blade knives to inflict numerous sharp force injuries upon each victim.

6598 Seville Road #7 is a two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment with a small kitchen and living area. This apartment is located on the ground floor of a two-story, multi-unit residential building referred to as the Capri Apartments. The suspect had his own bedroom, which was closest to the front door. Cheng Hong and Weihan Wang shared the other bedroom, located on the opposite end of the apartment, across the hallway from the bathroom. George Chen was visiting the apartment when he was murdered.

The main hallway walls of the apartment had faint, red-colored smears that were consistent with blood being cleaned from these surfaces. It is possible that some of the victims were initially attacked in the hallway upon entering the apartment. A large, white-colored bath towel containing smeared blood, and several blood-soaked paper towels were found inside the bathroom. These blood-stained items were consistent with someone attempting to clean blood from various surfaces.

Weihan Wang’s body was found lying face down on the floor, deep inside his bedroom and furthest from the bedroom door. Wang was wearing a T-shirt and athletic pants. Wang was barefoot and he had very little blood on the soles of his feet. His body was partially covered by a blanket, towel and clothing, as if the suspect had attempted to conceal him from the view of anyone entering the bedroom.

Cheng Hong was found lying face down on the floor inside his bedroom. He was next to Wang, but closest to the door of their shared bedroom. Hong’s right foot was on top of Wang’s lower back, indicating that Wang was already down when Hong’s body came to rest on the bedroom floor. Hong’s right pant leg had been pulled up to his knee, which is consistent with a body being dragged.

Hong was most likely the second victim to be murdered by the suspect. Hong was wearing sneakers and a backpack, as if he had just returned from class. The soles of Hong’s sneakers were covered in blood. Hong’s body was also partially covered by blankets. Hong was likely ambushed by the suspect upon entering the apartment through the front door, or upon entering his bedroom.

Hong's body was possibly dragged to the location where his body was found, in his bedroom, and intentionally positioned next to Wang.

Hong was wearing a blue T-shirt, athletic pants, socks and Nike sneakers. The soles and sides of Hong's sneakers contained a large amount of blood. A backpack was found next to Hong's head. His arms were still through the straps of the backpack. The positioning of Hong's backpack in relation to his body was consistent with him falling to the floor while still wearing the backpack. The positioning of his body was also consistent with him being dragged.

George Chen was found in the bathroom, lying on the floor on his right side. His body was in the fetal position and his back was facing the open bathroom doorway. A damp, white-colored bath towel had been placed on Chen's back. The towel was smeared with blood. Several bloody paper towels were strewn around the bathroom floor near Chen's body. Chen was barefoot and a large amount of dried blood covered the soles of his feet. Sandals were located underneath Chen's body.

George Chen was likely the last victim who was murdered inside 6598 Seville Road #7. Vincent Chang is the last known person to see George Chen alive. Chang lived with Chen and another roommate at the UCSB Manzanita Village dorms. Chang last saw Chen on May 23, 2014 at about 1745 hours.<sup>102</sup> Chen left their dorm at this time and didn't say where he was going or what he was going to do. It was typical of Chen to leave and not talk about his plans.<sup>103</sup>

Chang said it was common for Chen to leave the dorm on a Friday night and return during the early morning hours. Chen was quiet and he kept to himself. He majored in Computer Science and played video games often. Chang didn't know any of Chen's friends.

It is unknown exactly when Chen arrived at 6598 Seville Road #7. Chen's body was found on the bathroom floor. The bathroom is located at the end of the hallway, directly opposite from Wang and Hong's bedroom. It is probable that Chen was attacked upon entering the apartment, or when he approached Wang and Hong's bedroom where their bodies were located.

Based on the evidence at the scene, it is probable that the suspect murdered Wang, Hong and Chen separately, and in this order. Due to Wang's body being found deep inside the bedroom, the suspect likely ambushed Wang while he was alone inside the bedroom. Wang was partially covered with blankets and clothing, which would have concealed his body from view upon someone entering the bedroom.

Few details of these victims' activities on May 23, 2014, prior to their deaths, are known. Search warrants were submitted on their cell phone providers in order to discover their call and text message history prior to their deaths.

Weihan Wang's last cell phone call, where a conversation took place, occurred on May 23, 2014, at 0136 hours. This inbound call from George Chen's cell phone lasted one minute and ten

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<sup>102</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0210

<sup>103</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0242

seconds. That same day, between 1443 hours and 1504 hours, Wang's cell phone had six missed calls from George Chen. Wang's cell phone had no text message history for May 23, 2014.

Cheng Hong's cell phone had two missed calls on May 23, 2014. The first missed call occurred at 2153 hours. The second missed call occurred at 2349 hours.<sup>104</sup> Hong's cell phone had no additional call or text message history for May 23, 2014.

George Chen's last cell phone call occurred on May 23, 2014, at 0136 hours. This outbound call to Weihang Wang's cell phone lasted one minute and ten seconds. On the same day, between 1444 hours and 1504 hours, Chen's cell phone called Wang's cell phone, but these calls were not answered. Chen's cell phone had no text message history for May 23, 2014.

The murders of Wang, Hong and Chen are consistent with the suspect's manifesto. The suspect wrote about his plan to lure victims into his apartment, which he would use as a "torture and killing chamber."<sup>105</sup>

## **ITEMS RECOVERED FROM THE SUSPECT'S BEDROOM**

The suspect's apartment (6598 Seville Road #7) and bedroom were searched and photo-documented pursuant to a search warrant.

The suspect's bedroom was in a state of disarray. The room was cluttered with numerous items strewn on the floor. A laptop computer was on top of the suspect's bed. The screen was flipped open and turned on, displaying a YouTube page acknowledging that a video had just been uploaded. A screen shot from the suspect's "Retribution" video was visible on this YouTube page, which was illuminated on the laptop's screen.

The fitted sheet on the suspect's bed had numerous slash and stab marks on the corner. Several areas of this blue-colored fitted sheet contained dried blood consistent with drops and smears. Several pillows on the bed also had numerous stab marks in the pillow cases. The presence of this damage suggests that the suspect may have been practicing his stabbing/slashing movements in order to rehearse and prepare himself for the attacks against his victims.

A long-sleeve, button-up shirt and denim pants were found on the bed, entangled in the sheets and bedspread. A significant amount of dried blood was present on the sleeves and front, torso-area of this shirt. The majority of this blood was confined to the ends of the shirt sleeves, near the cuffs. The denim pants also had a significant amount of dried blood concentrated on the front of the pant legs. This evidence suggests that the suspect wore these clothes when he murdered Weihang Wang, Cheng Hong and George Chen.

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<sup>104</sup> This call was made by Detective Schmidt prior to SET's deployment at 6598 Seville Road #7.

<sup>105</sup> "My Twisted World," page 132



A television stand was located on the opposite wall from the bed. Two open “Monster” energy drinks were on the stand next to an array of miscellaneous items. One empty 9mm Glock magazine was on the stand next to a single unexpended round of 9mm ammunition.

The following video games were recovered from the suspect's bedroom:

- *World of Warcraft III – Frozen Throng*
- *World of Warcraft III – Reign of Chaos*
- *Gears of War*
- *Call of Duty – World at War*
- *Call of Duty 2 – Modern Warfare*
- *Call of Duty 4 – Modern Warfare*
- *Halo – Reach*
- *Halo – Combat Evolved*
- *Halo 2*
- *Halo 3*

A desk inside the suspect's bedroom contained the following items:

- One folding knife with blade locked open
- One “Zombie Killer” fixed-blade knife with 10” blade
- One machete with 18” blade
- One small “Husky” brand sledge hammer  
*NOTE: No suspected blood was found on the four above weapons*
- Starbucks coffee cup
- One open bottle of Maine Root brand “Ginger Brew”
- One open bottle of Raventos i Blanc Reserva Brut 2009 CAVA (Spanish champagne)
- The suspect's printed manifesto. The title page is visible on top of the stack of papers.
- Handwritten journal open to a page with the last entry dated 5-23-14.<sup>106</sup> The journal was positioned on the left side of the manifesto. Several pages had been torn out from the journal, but returned and aligned with the spine of the book. The following was written under the 5-23-14 entry:

*5/23/14*

*I had to tear some pages out because I feared my intentions would be discovered.*

*I taped them back together as fast as I could*

*This is it. In one hour I will have my revenge on this cruel world. I HATE YOU  
ALLLL! DIE*

Additional items found in the suspect's bedroom:<sup>107</sup>

- Empty "Boar Hunter" Cold Steel knife box
- Two empty boxes of Winchester 9mm Luger PDX1 Defender ammunition

<sup>106</sup> Two handwritten journals were recovered from the suspect's bedroom.

<sup>107</sup> This is not a complete list of all items that were found and seized during the search of the suspect's bedroom.

- Two gun cleaning kits
- Numerous lottery tickets
- *Art of Seduction* book<sup>108</sup>
- Hand drawing of someone being stabbed with knives
- Pharmacy paperwork for the suspect listing the following medications:
  - Lorazepam 0.5mg, dated 11-15-12
  - Escitalopram 10 mg, dated 11-7-12
  - VIT D2 1.25 mg, dated 11-9-12

## **EVIDENCE EXAMINATION**

### **Firearms**

The suspect's three firearms were analyzed by the California Department of Justice – Bureau of Forensic Services (DOJ-BFS).<sup>109</sup> All firearms were test fired and found to be operable without malfunction. Evidence obtained during the processing of the three firearms indicates that the suspect only used one pistol, the Sig Sauer (serial number UU760896) found on the driver seat of the suspect's BMW, during the shootings on May 23, 2014. There was no physical evidence found on the second Sig Sauer or Glock that indicated either weapon had recently been fired.

All firearms used in this case were legally purchased by the suspect. The firearms were purchased at three different gun shops on three separate dates. The suspect completed all necessary paperwork and complied with the mandatory 10-day waiting period before taking possession of the firearms.

On December 4, 2012, the suspect purchased a semi-automatic 9mm Glock 34 pistol (serial number UDH088) from Goleta Valley Gun and Supply in Goleta, CA.

On March 12, 2013, the suspect purchased a semi-automatic 9mm Sig Sauer P226R pistol (serial number UU760896) from Gun World in Burbank, CA.<sup>110</sup>

On February 22, 2014, the suspect purchased a semi-automatic 9mm Sig Sauer P226R pistol (serial number 47A024159) from B&G Guns in Oxnard, CA.

### **Suspect's Cell Phone**

The suspect had an iPhone 4. This phone was processed by the Sheriff's High Tech Crimes Unit.<sup>111</sup>

The suspect had 492 images stored on the internal memory. Approximately 200 of these images were pictures that the suspect took of himself ("selfies"). None of the images on the suspect's iPhone had any nexus to the mass murder on May 23, 2014.

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<sup>108</sup> The suspect repeatedly mentioned this book in his handwritten journal.

<sup>109</sup> DOJ-BFS case SB14-0942

<sup>110</sup> This was the pistol fired by the suspect on May 23, 2014.

<sup>111</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0183

The suspect had 24 digital movies recorded on his phone. Several of these movies were of the suspect eavesdropping on his housemates' and neighbors' conversations. One movie recorded (audio only) a heated argument between two females, presumably the suspect's neighbors.

Other movies found on the suspect's iPhone:

- The suspect received a mailed package containing the book *A Dance with Dragons* by George R.R. Martin. The suspect was very excited. He expressed how he waited for the book to arrive with great anticipation.<sup>112</sup>
- A short clip of blood dripping into a bathroom sink. This appears to be the suspect filming himself with a bloody nose.<sup>113</sup>
- A short clip of trash piled up in the kitchen of his apartment. The suspect complained about his roommate being lazy.<sup>114</sup>
- While sitting in the driver's seat of his vehicle, the suspect spoke about being angry over an incident that just occurred. The suspect explained that after leaving his apartment, he saw two attractive females and said "hi" to them. When they didn't say hello in return, he became enraged. The suspect said he was angry because girls weren't giving him attention. The suspect began to cry and he admitted he shouldn't be crying. The suspect said he needed to run up a hill to "get the anger out," but he can "never get the anger out." He remains angry every day and the disrespect (from females) only "intensifies" his anger. The suspect ended the video by saying he hates his life.<sup>115</sup>
- The suspect filmed himself driving on Del Playa, starting at the end of the 6800 block. The suspect slowly drove eastbound on Del Playa and recorded people walking in the street. At one point, the suspect saw a young couple walking on the north side of Del Playa. He became angry, and as he passed the couple, he yelled an expletive at the male. The male yelled an expletive back at the suspect. The suspect continued driving eastbound on Del Playa. Near the end of this recording, the suspect said "All these people think they're better than me. I'll show them."<sup>116</sup>

### **Suspect's Laptop Computer**

The Sheriff's High Tech Crimes Unit processed the suspect's laptop computer and obtained the suspect's internet search history.<sup>117</sup> The suspect's laptop computer contained the following previously viewed/searched subject matter:<sup>118</sup>

5-23-14

- *Quick silent kill with a knife*
- *How to kill someone with a knife*

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<sup>112</sup> Recorded on 7-22-11

<sup>113</sup> Recorded on 10-16-11

<sup>114</sup> Recorded on 3-15-12

<sup>115</sup> Recorded on 7-22-12

<sup>116</sup> Recorded on 4-18-14

<sup>117</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0169

<sup>118</sup> This is an extremely small segment of internet history contained on the suspect's laptop computer. A large volume of data was present in the suspect's web browsers (Firefox and Microsoft Internet Explorer).

5-14-14

- *Xingjian railway station terrorist knife attack explosion bombing*
- *Guangzhou train station knife attack*

11-30-12

- *Philosophy of a knife*

10-9-12

- *Did Adolf Hitler have a girlfriend*
- *Adolf Hitler's childhood*
- *I've never had a female friend*
- *Nazi anime*

10-6-12

- *Are there any knives so sharp that if you touch it you bleed*
- *Stabbing incident*
- *SRK survival rescue knife*

10-5-12

- *Heinrich Himmler*<sup>119</sup>
- *Roommate takes very long showers*
- *Young people are all mean*
- *Joseph Goebbels has a jewis [sic] name*<sup>120</sup>

10-4-12

- *Modern torture devices*
- *Spanish inquisition torture devices*
- *If Hitler was born today*
- *Blood elves are Nazis*<sup>121</sup>
- *Heinrich Himmler urban dictionary*
- *Reincarnation of Hitler*

10-2-12

- *If you were Adolf Hitler*<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> Heinrich Himmler was the commander of Hitler's Schutzstaffel (S.S.) and Gestapo in Nazi Germany. He committed suicide on 5-23-45, 69 years to the date of the murders. There is nothing to suggest that the relationship between these two dates is anything more than a coincidence.

<sup>120</sup> Paul Joseph Goebbels was Adolf Hitler's propaganda minister.

<sup>121</sup> Blood Elves are characters from World of Warcraft, the suspect's favorite computer game.

<sup>122</sup> On page 137 of "My Twisted World," the suspect wrote that "Women are like a plague. They don't deserve to have any rights." The suspect fantasized about quarantining women in concentration camps. He envisioned "a new and powerful type of government, under the control of one divine ruler, such as myself."

10-1-12

- *Adolf Hitler narcissist [sic]*
- *Adolf Hitler and the law of attraction*

9-30-12

- *Shooting range los Angeles*
- *Hitler's speech*

9-28-12

- *George sodini* <sup>123</sup>

9-27-12

- *Racism against Asian*
- *Holocaust of black people*
- *Nazi curbstomp*

The suspect also had extensive internet search history for luxury vehicles, video games and celebrities. On May 23, 2014, the suspect's laptop computer was used to access pornographic websites. On May 22, 2014, the suspect's laptop accessed [www.anxietyzone.com](http://www.anxietyzone.com). On May 22, 2014, the suspect's laptop accessed [www.puahate.com](http://www.puahate.com) and [www.bodybuilding.com](http://www.bodybuilding.com). The suspect was known to write numerous postings on forums associated with these websites. The suspect's last known post on [www.puahate.com](http://www.puahate.com) was dated May 21, 2014. It included the following comment:

*You're all jealous of my 10/10 pretty-boy face. This site is full of stupid, disgusting, mentally ill degenerates who take pleasure in putting down others. That is all I have to say on here. Goodbye.*

## **INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE ACCESSORIES/CO-CONSPIRATORS**

A significant focus of this investigation was to determine if anyone conspired with and/or aided the suspect in any way to facilitate this tragedy. The suspect was able to cover a significant amount of terrain while he sought to kill and injure as many people as he could. The suspect accomplished this by remaining in his vehicle, driving recklessly throughout the narrow and pedestrian-filled streets of Isla Vista. This inevitably created a chaotic scene as sheriff's deputies and police officers rapidly mobilized (mostly on foot) in order to find the suspect and stop him from causing additional harm. Law enforcement personnel were challenged with obtaining a description of the suspect while simultaneously discovering additional crime scenes and treating the dead and wounded.

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<sup>123</sup> On 8-4-09, George Sodini shot and killed three females inside a women's aerobics class at LA Fitness in Collier Township, Pennsylvania. He injured nine additional victims before committing suicide.

The convoluted nature of this rapidly unfolding massacre, and the nature in which it quickly ended, initially led law enforcement to believe that there were two suspects. This confusion was primarily based on the proximity of Keith Cheung to the suspect's vehicle once it had crashed.

At the end of the pursuit, Keith Cheung was handcuffed because deputies thought he was possibly a second suspect. Cheung matched one of the suspect descriptions that was previously provided (Asian male, white T-shirt). Cheung's proximity to the rear passenger side of the suspect's vehicle led responding deputies to believe that he was involved. It was quickly determined that Cheung was a victim who was riding his bicycle when he was intentionally struck by the suspect's vehicle. He was provided with medical attention and released from handcuffs.

The ensuing investigation by detectives sought to determine if there was anyone who conspired with, or assisted the suspect the planning phase before May 23, 2014. To accomplish this, search warrants were written for the suspect's cell phone, email accounts, YouTube, social media profiles and Internet blogs on which he participated.<sup>124</sup> Detectives also reviewed numerous internet postings made by the suspect where he wrote about his frustration in not being able to meet women.

The suspect was actively involved in communicating with others via the Internet. The suspect mostly ranted about his frustrations with women. He often wrote about his confusion as to why women weren't attracted to him. These rants caused people to respond with mixed emotions; some responded with negative, angry comments, while others offered to help the suspect by providing him with advice on how to meet women. Other subjects voiced similar complaints and frustrations as the suspect.

Upon reviewing the suspect's internet communications, there is no evidence that indicates anyone else conspired with and/or aided the suspect in committing the murders and attempted murders on May 23, 2014.

All evidence suggests the suspect acted alone in the planning and execution of the crimes he committed on May 23, 2014.

## **MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS**

In the days and weeks following May 23, 2014, the Sheriff's Office received numerous calls referencing this case. Some individuals wanted to report information regarding the suspect's activities prior to the murders. Others reported potential "copy cats" that were making statements, via the Internet or social media, that they were going to commit similar crimes.<sup>125</sup> All leads were investigated and oftentimes required assistance from outside law enforcement agencies.

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<sup>124</sup> The suspect wrote extensively on forums associated with the websites [www.puahate.com](http://www.puahate.com), [www.bodybuilding.com](http://www.bodybuilding.com) and [www.imgur.com](http://www.imgur.com). Shortly after the 5-23-14 tragedy in Isla Vista, [www.puahate.com](http://www.puahate.com) (Pick Up Artist Hate) was taken down. This website was used by involuntarily celibate men (self-proclaimed "incels") as a forum to commiserate about their frustrations with women.

<sup>125</sup> Information received by SBSO initiated investigations as far east as Waldoboro, Maine (SBSO case 14-9169)

Noteworthy information was provided by a librarian who works at the Santa Barbara City College library. The librarian reported that she assisted a person, matching the suspect's description, with locating books on serial killers and mass murder. She helped this person on two separate occasions, with the last occasion being approximately two to three months prior to May 23, 2014.<sup>126</sup> The person she assisted only viewed the books in the library and did not check them out.

## **EVENTS AND BACKGROUND LEADING UP TO MAY 23, 2014**

### **Recent Background Information**

Per the manifesto, the suspect moved to Isla Vista on June 4, 2011. He enrolled at Santa Barbara City College and lived in various apartments with a variety of roommates who he didn't know previously. His most current housemates, Weihan Wang and Cheng Hong, shared a bedroom at 6598 Seville Road #7. The suspect had his own bedroom at this apartment. The suspect didn't want to be friends with Wang and Hong, and he described them as "dorks."

The suspect moved to Isla Vista in order to gain independence and improve his social skills with peers. The suspect struggled with social interactions throughout his adolescence. These difficulties continued after high school when he attended Pierce College and Moorpark College, while he still lived with his mother in Los Angeles.

The suspect's parents, Peter and Chin Rodger, were devoted to helping him overcome his social anxiety. They facilitated the suspect's visits with various mental health providers to help him with his anxieties and social deficiencies. Peter and Chin often met with each other and discussed different options for the suspect.

Chin came up with the idea for the suspect to move to Isla Vista. She mentioned this to Peter and they sat down with the suspect and went over the plan. The suspect agreed to move to Isla Vista because it would be a fresh start. Isla Vista was close enough for the suspect to return home without having to travel very far, yet far enough to require him to be independent on a daily basis.<sup>127</sup>

Despite the move to Isla Vista, the suspect continued to have difficulty interacting with his peers. He wasn't able to make friends and was unable to approach females. This perpetuated his main frustration in not being able to meet a girlfriend. The suspect became increasingly angry over his self-perceived rejection by females. His anger and frustration was exacerbated whenever he saw a couple, especially if they were college-aged. One of the suspect's primary difficulties was meeting people and initiating conversation. He was especially upset that he remained a virgin.

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<sup>126</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0123

<sup>127</sup> The suspect's residence in Isla Vista was approximately 85 miles north of his parents' homes in Los Angeles.

### **Noteworthy Journal Entries**

Two handwritten journals were recovered from the suspect's bedroom. The first journal had entries dated April 5, 2010 to March 16, 2011. The second journal had entries dated March 31, 2011 to May 23, 2014. Several journal entries paralleled the suspect's manifesto.

The suspect came to believe that the only way he would obtain a girlfriend and lose his virginity was if he became wealthy. To achieve this goal, the suspect played the lottery in the hopes of winning and becoming a "young multi-millionaire." The suspect wrote the following about what his life would be like if he won the lottery:<sup>128</sup>

*I will be able to fully indulge in everything I'm passionate about: exotic cars, luxurious mansions, expensive clothes, and of course, sex with beautiful girls. I will drive a Maserati and a Lamborghini, and when girls see me in those cars they will all want to date me. They will finally see me as the supreme man that I'm meant to be. When I purchase a huge, beautiful mansion and take girls to it, they will be in love. I just know it!*

*Once all this comes to fruition, I will finally lose my virginity. I will be able to have sex! SEX SEX SEX!!!*

The suspect purchased lottery tickets on several occasions. He never won and this caused him to become more agitated. After the repeated losses, the suspect learned that the Powerball lottery jackpot was in excess of 500 million dollars. This lottery wasn't available in California at the time, so he drove to Arizona and spent "100 dollars on tickets."<sup>129</sup> After finding out that he didn't win the Powerball lottery, the suspect wrote, "all my hopes, all my dreams, SHATTERED."<sup>130</sup>

On April 3, 2013, the suspect wrote that he made four trips to Arizona to play the lottery. He was defeated after losing. The suspect wrote, "revenge is all I have to live for."

On April 11, 2013, the suspect wrote that "girls" deserve the most punishment because they choose other men and deny him. The suspect blamed his virginity on "girls" because they were denying him sex.

On June 3, 2013, the suspect wrote about "exacting revenge on women," and "how sweet and just it would be to kill every single young couple at my college or in Isla Vista." The suspect referred to this as "The Day of Retribution," a name he came up with "a couple of years ago."

On June 5, 2013, the suspect wrote that he began purchasing his weapons. The suspect realized that he would likely "carry out the Day of Retribution," so he purchased a Glock 34 and Sig Sauer P226. At this time the suspect wasn't sure if he would initiate his attack on SBCC campus or Isla Vista. The suspect acknowledged that once he started his attack, he would only have "minutes"

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<sup>128</sup> Entry dated 8-7-12

<sup>129</sup> The suspect's Chase bank records show a \$41.63 purchase at the Pilot truck stop in Ehrenberg, AZ. This purchase was made on 11-28-12.

<sup>130</sup> Entry dated 12-1-12. The suspect purchased his first pistol three days later on 12-4-12.



before the “damnable police” confronted him. Once confronted by law enforcement, the suspect wrote that he would have to kill himself to avoid capture.

### **Suspect's Manifesto**

The suspect wrote a 137-page manifesto, which began as an autobiography.<sup>131</sup> The suspect described his frustration with women and why he felt life was unfair. Toward the end, the suspect outlined his “Day of Retribution,” which was separated into three phases.<sup>132</sup> The first phase would involve him killing his roommates and any other victims he could lure to his apartment. The second phase would reflect the suspect’s “War on Women.” In this phase, the suspect’s goal was to murder as many women as he could inside the Alpha Phi sorority house. In the third phase, the suspect planned to drive around Isla Vista and use his vehicle to intentionally collide with as many people as he could. The suspect wrote that he would shoot anyone he was not able to crash into.

## **SUSPECT'S PREVIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS**

### **Damage to Suspect's Vehicle: February 6, 2013**

The suspect called the IVFP to report that someone dented his car door while it was parked at 6598 Seville Road.<sup>133</sup> The suspect alleged that the owner of a white BMW repeatedly dented the door to his vehicle. The suspect told the UCSB PD officer taking the report that he confronted the other party, who apologized and said he would be more careful. The suspect wasn't able to provide any information on the other party, such as a name or where he lived.

The suspect did not believe the other party intentionally caused damage to his vehicle. However, the suspect said he found more dents on his car. The UCSB PD officer and a sheriff's deputy went to 6598 Seville Road and examined the suspect's vehicle. They found five white paint transfers that matched the color of the white BMW that was parked next to it. These marks were found on the left side of the suspect's rear passenger door. There were no dents on the suspect's vehicle and no damage to the white BMW.

### **Suspect's Fight in Isla Vista: July 20, 2013**

On July 20, 2013, the suspect decided to walk around in Isla Vista and attend a party so he could meet people.<sup>134</sup> In an effort to boost his confidence, the suspect had a few alcoholic drinks before leaving his apartment. The suspect attended a party at 6644 Del Playa Drive.<sup>135</sup> The suspect

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<sup>131</sup> The document titled “My Twisted World,” was created on 4-22-14 at 2:41:44 PM Pacific Daylight Time. This file was last saved on 5-23-14 at 8:44:07 PM Pacific Daylight Time.

<sup>132</sup> The three phases of the suspect's massacre are described on page 132 of “My Twisted World.”

<sup>133</sup> SBSO case 13-1768

<sup>134</sup> SBSO case 13-10081

<sup>135</sup> Del Playa Drive is one of the busiest streets in Isla Vista for parties and unorganized social activity. On Friday and Saturday nights, it is common for numerous houses to host parties which are mostly open to the public. College students (and non-student visitors) often walk/skateboard/ride bicycles throughout Del Playa Drive and attend parties, socialize, etc.

climbed onto a 10-foot ledge and sat down. Several males and females also climbed onto the ledge and began talking amongst each other, but not to the suspect. Frustrated that no one was paying attention to him, the suspect became angry, so he insulted the group. They returned insults to the suspect causing him to become enraged. The suspect started pushing the other subjects. His “main target was the girls [sic].”<sup>136</sup>

The suspect was unable to push anyone over. The suspect was pushed and he fell off the ledge. The suspect fractured his left ankle from the fall.

As the suspect was stumbling away from the party, he realized he lost his Gucci sunglasses during the altercation. The suspect turned around so he could go back to the party and retrieve his sunglasses. Due to his level of alcohol intoxication, the suspect mistakenly went to the wrong house and demanded his sunglasses be returned to him. The occupants of this house called the suspect names and began kicking and punching him. The suspect eventually left this house and fled the area.

The suspect reported this matter to the Sheriff's Office on July 21, 2013, while he was a patient in the Goleta Valley Cottage hospital emergency room. In his manifesto, the suspect wrote “I had to concoct a fairly altered story to explain to the police, who would inevitably have to interview me once I got to the hospital and reported my injury.”<sup>137</sup> The suspect did not tell the reporting deputy that he started the fight. The suspect downplayed his involvement as a primary aggressor. This case was suspended by the Sheriff's Office pending leads.

#### **Arrest of Suspect's Roommate, Cheng Hong: January 15, 2014**

On January 15, 2014, the suspect placed his housemate, Cheng Hong, under citizen's arrest for allegedly stealing three candles.<sup>138</sup> The candles had an estimated value of \$22.00. The suspect alleged that Hong entered his (the suspect's) room without permission and stole the candles. The suspect watched Hong place the candles in a bed under a blanket. The suspect asked Hong to return the candles, but Hong refused.

The suspect called 9-1-1 to report the theft of his candles. Isla Vista Foot Patrol deputies responded to 6598 Seville Road #7. Deputies spoke with Hong, who alleged that the suspect took his (Hong's) rice bowls and moved Hong's property around the apartment about one month previously. The suspect denied these accusations.

Deputies attempted to get Hong and the suspect to come to an agreement on their issues, but Hong refused to cooperate. Deputies found the suspect's candles on Hong's bed. The candles were recovered and identified by the suspect as his stolen property. The suspect signed a citizen's arrest for Hong for 488 PC – Petty Theft. Hong was taken into custody and booked into the Santa Barbara County Jail.

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<sup>136</sup> “My Twisted World” page 122

<sup>137</sup> “My Twisted World” page 123

<sup>138</sup> SBSO case 14-693

This case was subsequently dismissed by Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Frank Ochoa due to insufficient evidence.

### **Check the Welfare: April 30, 2014**

At approximately 2217 hours, dispatch received a call from a staff member managing the crisis line for Santa Barbara County Mental Health.<sup>139</sup> The staff member requested deputies check the welfare of the suspect at 6598 Seville Road #7. The staff member said she had been contacted by the suspect's mother, Chin Rodger, who had viewed YouTube videos the suspect posted. Chin said the suspect appeared to be depressed in the videos. Chin had not heard from the suspect in four days, and she was concerned for his well-being.

While a check the welfare call would typically require only two law enforcement officials to respond, in this case a group of six personnel responded to 6598 Seville Road #7. A group of four sheriff's deputies and a sheriff's dispatcher in training were walking together. A UCSB PD officer also responded to 6598 Seville Road #7 after Sheriff's personnel arrived at the suspect's apartment.

Deputies responded to the apartment where the suspect was believed to be home alone. They interviewed him and, as they are trained to do in routine "check the welfare" calls, they assessed the situation. Deputies found the suspect to be shy, timid and polite.

When deputies asked about the videos he was said to have posted, but which the deputies had not viewed, the suspect explained he was having trouble fitting in socially in Isla Vista. The videos were merely a way of expressing himself. There was nothing during the contact with the suspect that gave deputies reason to believe he was a danger to himself or others. Such risk factors are required in order to place someone on an involuntary mental health hold, or to legally search their residence.<sup>140</sup>

After they were finished speaking with the suspect, one of the deputies called Chin and briefed her on the situation. The deputy asked Chin if the YouTube videos she watched were suicidal or homicidal in nature. Chin said they were not. Chin told the deputy that the videos made it seem like the suspect was very lonely and was having a difficult time in Santa Barbara. At the end of the conversation, the deputy asked Chin if she needed further assistance, or if there was anything else that needed to be done. Chin did not request any follow-up action.

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<sup>139</sup> SBSO case 14-7754

<sup>140</sup> California Welfare & Institutions code §5150(a) When a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or gravely disabled, a peace officer, professional person in charge of a facility designated by the county for evaluation and treatment, member of the attending staff, as defined by regulation, of a facility designated by the county for evaluation and treatment, designated members of a mobile crisis team, or professional person designated by the county may, upon probable cause, take, or cause to be taken, the person into custody for a period of up to 72 hours for assessment, evaluation, and crisis intervention, or placement for evaluation and treatment in a facility designated by the county for evaluation and treatment and approved by the State Department of Health Care Services. At a minimum, assessment, as defined in Section 5150.4, and evaluation, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 5008, shall be conducted and provided on an ongoing basis. Crisis intervention, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 5008, may be provided concurrently with assessment, evaluation, or any other service.

After speaking with Chin, the deputy put the suspect on the phone with her. The deputies provided the suspect with information about local services he could call for assistance. The suspect was also told that he could call the Sheriff's Office if he needed help or someone to talk to. The entire contact with the suspect on April 30<sup>th</sup> lasted approximately 20 minutes.

### **Disturbance with Suspect and a Couple at Goleta Beach: May 6, 2014**

On May 6, 2014,<sup>141</sup> a couple in their 20's had just finished eating dinner and were preparing to leave Goleta Beach.<sup>142</sup> As the female's boyfriend was backing out of his parking space, a black BMW blocked him in. The female, who was about to enter her vehicle because she drove separately, noticed her boyfriend was arguing with the driver of the BMW. The female called her boyfriend's cell phone to find out what was going on. The female learned that the driver of the BMW said, "You're lucky to be an Asian guy dating a white girl. It's too bad she is such a horse-faced slut." The BMW drove away from her boyfriend without further incident.

The female was upset over this comment, so she drove around the beach parking lot and located the BMW. She confronted the male driver and he didn't respond. The female said she didn't feel right about this situation, so she drove away.

After driving away, the female noticed the BMW speeding throughout the Goleta Beach parking lot, almost hitting several vehicles. The female called 9-1-1 and requested that law enforcement search the area for the BMW. The female provided the license plate of the BMW as 6ELX898.<sup>143</sup>

The female reported this incident to Sheriff's dispatch on May 6, 2014 at 2018 hours. The dispatch call notes show that the incident, per the reporting party, occurred at about 1930 hours. The suspect's vehicle was last seen leaving Goleta Beach toward the UCSB campus at that time.

After watching the news on May 23, 2014, the female realized that the driver of the BMW on May 6, 2014 was the Isla Vista mass murder suspect.

## **SUSPECT'S BACKGROUND**

### **General Background Information**

The suspect was a 22-year-old biracial Chinese/English male. He was born in London, England and moved to California when he was five years old. The suspect moved to the United States with his parents, Peter and Chin Rodger, and younger sister, Georgia. Georgia is four years younger than the suspect.

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<sup>141</sup> SBSO case 14-7797

<sup>142</sup> This incident was reported to sheriff's detectives on 5-27-14, four days after the Isla Vista mass murder. Goleta Beach is a Santa Barbara County Park located at 5990 Sandspit Road, immediately east of the UC Santa Barbara campus and Isla Vista.

<sup>143</sup> CA license plate 6ELX898 was assigned to the vehicle used by the suspect on 5-23-14.

Peter and Chin divorced when the suspect was seven years old. Peter later remarried Soumaya Akaaboune, the suspect's stepmother. Chin never remarried.

The suspect first showed signs of being shy when he was seven years old. Between the ages of seven and eight, the suspect received speech therapy for a lisp. The lisp was corrected from the therapy sessions.

The suspect was right-handed. He briefly rode skateboards, but wasn't involved in any other individual, team or group sports while growing up. The suspect did not participate in extracurricular activities.

The suspect was afraid of dogs when he was younger, but this fear subsided after Peter and Soumaya brought a dog ("Lucky") into their household. The suspect loved Lucky and would take her out on walks.

The suspect was never exposed to weapons by either of his parents while growing up. Peter was vehemently against having firearms in the house. The suspect never showed any interest in firearms or other weapons either during adolescence or his adult years. The suspect's parents were incredulous as to how the suspect was able to purchase so many firearms. They were shocked he had firearms in the first place, since he had never previously shown any interest in guns.

The suspect was very possessive of his property. He once wrote a fantasy-type story (similar to *Lord of the Rings*), which he read to Peter. The suspect never gave Peter a copy. The suspect never left any of his property at Peter's house during his visits there. He would always gather his possessions and take them when he left.

The suspect didn't get a driver's license until after high school. He had a preference for luxury vehicles. The suspect felt that owning a luxury car, such as a BMW, would bolster his social status and help him find a girlfriend.

In early 2011, the suspect took karate lessons. The suspect wrote in his journal that he enjoyed the lessons and felt he was "starting to really get the hang of it," despite being a beginner.<sup>144</sup> The suspect wrote that "The ability to fight better is power, and a major confidence boost."

Prior to May 23, 2014, the suspect's family was unaware of him engaging in any known incidents of violence.<sup>145</sup> In the past, when the suspect became angry, he would tense his entire body while clenching his teeth and pursing his lips. The suspect did not physically act out, get into fights, hurt animals, damage property or otherwise react violently due to his anger. The suspect had no criminal history prior to May 23, 2014.

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<sup>144</sup> Entry dated 1-22-11

<sup>145</sup> On page 87 of "My Twisted World," the suspect wrote that shortly after moving to Isla Vista, he was at the Camino Real Marketplace Starbucks when he saw a young couple "kissing passionately." This enraged him to the point that he splashed his coffee on them, and afterwards ran away in fear. This incident was never reported to law enforcement.

### **Suspect's Family**

Peter and Chin Rodger divorced when the suspect was seven years old.<sup>146</sup> Once the divorce was finalized, Peter and Chin had joint (50%) custody of Georgia and the suspect. Georgia and the suspect would switch between households each week (one week on, one week off). Other than the typical difficulties a child would experience from a divorce, the suspect did not show an excessive amount of distress over it.

Peter began dating Soumaya Akaaboune shortly after he and Chin divorced. They married about 10 years ago. Peter and Soumaya had a son together. Peter and Soumaya's son, the suspect's half-brother, is 14 years younger than the suspect. The suspect was very loving toward his younger brother and they often spent time together doing activities. Peter was never concerned about the suspect harming or mistreating his half-brother.<sup>147</sup>

Peter and Chin remained cordial with each other in the years following their divorce. They were in constant communication about the suspect's social problems and worked together to provide the suspect with necessary resources.

### **Others Involved in Suspect's Life**

The suspect had no known friends during his time in Isla Vista. There are no indications that he socialized with classmates during his enrollment at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC). The suspect appeared to be a loner and he isolated himself throughout his life in Isla Vista and while attending SBCC.

The suspect had very few friends while growing up in the greater Los Angeles area. He maintained limited contact with some of his friends after moving to Isla Vista. There were no indications that he spoke with his high school-era friends on a regular basis since moving to Isla Vista.

### **Suspect's Interests**

The suspect enjoyed swimming, hiking, reading, writing, going to the library and playing video games. He enjoyed skateboarding when he was younger. His favorite video game was *World of Warcraft*. The suspect initially played this game as a solo player, but later played online with friends. The suspect also enjoyed playing *Halo*.<sup>148</sup>

The suspect enjoyed fantasy films and television shows. His favorite films included *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*. The suspect's favorite television show was *Game of Thrones*. The suspect watched every *Game of Thrones* episode and read each book. He would often watch this show with Peter.

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<sup>146</sup> The suspect's parents were extremely cooperative throughout this entire investigation.

<sup>147</sup> Although the suspect wrote about his anger toward Soumaya and his half-brother, he never acted out on it.

<sup>148</sup> During his adolescence, the suspect was limited to playing one hour of video games per day. This rule was strictly enforced while the suspect stayed with his father. Without these restrictions, the suspect would play for hours without stopping.

The suspect was very conscious of his appearance. He maintained a healthy diet and exercised to stay in shape. The suspect favored designer-brand clothing and accessories such as high-end sunglasses. He felt this projected image of affluence would result in women being attracted to him.

The suspect preferred females with blond hair. Shortly after moving to Isla Vista, the suspect wrote in his journal that “blonds” were his “favorite.”<sup>149</sup>

Shortly before his death, the suspect told Peter that he went to bed early and woke up before dawn because he liked to watch the sunrise. This was new behavior for the suspect, although he had always tended to be an early riser.

### **Educational Background**<sup>150</sup>

The suspect was reported as being “quiet” in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. When he was between seven and eight years old, the suspect was observed sitting by himself and not interacting with others. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the suspect made some friends who would come over to his house. The suspect would ride skateboards and play video games with his friends.

The suspect was reported as being unresponsive in class, did not want to participate and did not engage others in conversation. He would stare off into space or at objects. The suspect was eligible for special education based on the fact that he displayed behaviors similar to Asperger's Syndrome.

The suspect was reported to have hidden behind a building at recess, regularly withdrew from group conversations, displayed perfectionistic tendencies, and other obsessive-compulsive behaviors. As an example, the suspect was reported to need all items on his desk in the just the right place.

In high school, the suspect needed reassurance from the teacher about five to ten times per day. He was able, albeit reluctantly, to socialize appropriately with others only if they sought him out. While attending Independence Continuation School, the suspect was able to complete most of his class work on time. The suspect also completed his homework in a timely manner.

The suspect's anxiety continued to negatively impact his ability to socialize and participate in certain school activities. Most of the suspect's interaction with school peers was online while playing video games. This appears to have pushed him into a deeper state of depression which he tried to mitigate by playing more video games, namely, *World of Warcraft*.

The suspect attended numerous public schools throughout the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles County. He graduated from Independence Continuation School (a high school), where he received weekly therapy. The suspect did not attend his high school graduation ceremony.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>149</sup> Entry dated 7-9-11

<sup>150</sup> The suspect's education records were obtained via Federal Grand Jury subpoenas served by the FBI.

<sup>151</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0234

The suspect had poor grades while attending Crespi Carmelite High School in 2005 (freshman year). His grades improved significantly while he attended Independence High School during his sophomore, junior and senior years.

During a therapy session in 2013, the suspect reported that he was bullied in high school. The bullying occurred in 9<sup>th</sup> grade when he attended an all-male “private Catholic” high school.<sup>152</sup> The suspect then attended a “public school” for one week, but was also bullied at this school.<sup>153</sup> The suspect wanted to be home schooled because he had been bullied.

After graduating from high school, the suspect attended Pierce College, Moorpark College and Santa Barbara City College.

### **Mental Health Background**<sup>154</sup>

The following mental health background information was compiled from a variety of sources, which were generated during different periods of the suspect's life. Some of the suspect's mental health records were made available to sheriff's detectives. A resounding concern regarding the suspect was his inability to establish and maintain new friendships. He preferred to stay at home and not go to places with his family. At around five or six years old, the suspect reportedly cried at Disneyland due to the crowds and his inability to wait in line for a long duration. He wasn't able to stay at Disneyland because “there were too many people.”

At the age of seven, the suspect was able to make good eye contact while speaking, but offered very little information unless he was asked direct questions. The suspect spoke in a very quiet whisper and preferred to write information down on a paper rather than speak. He sat in the same place on the carpet while in school and tended to gaze off.

The suspect would hold his ears when he heard loud noise. He displayed some repetitive behaviors such as making noises, tapping his feet or leg, and perseverating on his responses (such as repeating the words “great” and “cool”). The suspect was believed to display characteristics of high functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome. The suspect received mental health treatment throughout his adolescence and up until his death.

In 2007, the suspect was diagnosed with Pervasive Development Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS).<sup>155</sup> The suspect was reported to have felt depressed and previously thought about suicide. The suspect had no history of aggression while growing up. He was very shy in public, had difficulty making friends and cared a lot about what others thought about him. The suspect had anxiety and didn't like large crowds. In 2007, the suspect made his first purchase without parental assistance when he went to a sandwich shop with a friend and bought a sandwich.

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<sup>152</sup> Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, CA

<sup>153</sup> William Howard Taft Senior High School in Woodland Hills, CA

<sup>154</sup> The suspect's mental health records were obtained via Federal Grand Jury subpoenas served by the FBI. Materials were also seized pursuant to a search warrant, authorized by Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Jean Dandona, served at Chin Rodger's residence. It should be noted that the material is sometimes conflicting.

<sup>155</sup> On several occasions, the suspect was mentioned as having been diagnosed with Asperger's. However, no formal diagnosis was found amongst the material reviewed by detectives.



In 2007, the suspect became eligible for services based on a diagnosis of autism.<sup>156</sup> Beginning at the age of 15, the suspect took Xanax and Prozac. He took this medication for approximately one year. Other reports show that the suspect took Paxil for anxiety, as needed. For example, if the suspect had an event to attend, such as a party, he would take the medication. The suspect would not take Paxil on a regular basis.

In 2011, the suspect wrote the following in his journal:<sup>157</sup>

*The pills my doctor prescribed me recently to treat social anxiety have been a disaster. The side effects make me too drowsy and tired and they give me headaches. Looks like I would have to rely entirely on my mind and positive thinking to overcome my shyness.*

The suspect was picky about what he ate. He didn't like sauces or anything that had a "gooey" texture, such as melted cheese. When he was younger, the suspect had difficulty attending birthday parties. The suspect would not participate in the activities and he wouldn't eat the food.

In 2013, the suspect mentioned his frustrations (jealousy, anger) toward his peers based on his view that they were living a better life than him. The suspect believed his anger was making him suffer. When asked how he managed his anger, the suspect said he "just holds it all in."

Peter and Chin Rodger were aware of the suspect's difficulty in socializing with his peers, especially with females. While living in Isla Vista, the suspect received services from three social counselors through a Santa Barbara-based agency.<sup>158</sup> The counselors helped the suspect with social and communication skills while integrating with the public. The suspect's goal was to integrate with the Isla Vista/college culture, which he defined as having a girlfriend and being accepted by the community where he lived.

The suspect also received services from Gavin Linderman, a "life skills coach." Linderman met with the suspect in Los Angeles for psychosocial rehabilitation and life skills instruction.

Despite this assistance, the suspect still had difficulty meeting people, once described as an inability to "break the ice." Because of the suspect's continued anger toward couples and inability to socially integrate with his peers, it was recommended he enter a residential treatment facility with daily therapy, group therapy and social skills development.

The suspect was taking Xanax in 2014. It was prescribed to him a few months prior to his death to help him cope with anxiety. The suspect said he could cope with anxiety after taking Xanax.

In 2014, the suspect's anxiety and frustration toward couples increased dramatically. He reportedly had several videos on his cell phone of couples in the community who bothered him.<sup>159</sup> He would

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<sup>156</sup> In 2007, the suspect was evaluated for autism. His scores were "below the autism and the autism-spectrum cutoffs."

<sup>157</sup> Entry dated 2-18-11

<sup>158</sup> Records document that the suspect had a combined twenty-nine sessions with the social counselors between 5-17-13 and 5-18-14.

<sup>159</sup> Two recordings of couples were found on the suspect's cell phone. The suspect narrated the recordings with an angry commentary while he filmed the couples hanging out in a park. Both parks were in Santa Barbara County.

intentionally look at these videos and become infuriated. The suspect would also avoid certain restaurants because they were known to have too many couples there.

The suspect was never hospitalized due to mental illness, or placed on a mental health hold (voluntary or involuntary).<sup>160</sup>

### **Employment Background**

During his teenage years, the suspect worked for a friend of his father's doing construction. The suspect appeared to really enjoy the work. Peter believed the suspect primarily enjoyed the work because he enjoyed the company of Peter's friend who had hired him. This was the suspect's only known employment that his family could remember.

The suspect believed menial or entry-level jobs were beneath him. Peter tried to explain the significance of an entry-level job and how it was important to start at a basic level so one could work their way up into a better position. The suspect still refused to seek out an entry-level job.<sup>161</sup>

### **Suspect's Finances**

The suspect used a Chase debit card to make most of his purchases.<sup>162</sup> The debit card was linked to a Chase checking account that was only in the suspect's name. The suspect received a monthly allowance of \$500 per month from Peter. The suspect also received additional monetary deposits into his checking account from other family members.

The suspect's Chase checking account included the following transactions of interest:

- 12-4-12           \$755.57 – Goleta Valley Gun & Supply, a firearms dealer in Goleta, CA<sup>163</sup>
- 3-12-13           \$1,179.48 – Gun World, a firearms dealer in Burbank, CA<sup>164</sup>
- 3-13-13           \$460.00 – Botach Tactical, a tactical equipment dealer in Los Angeles, CA<sup>165</sup>
- 3-29-13           \$92.60 – The Target Range, a shooting range in Van Nuys, CA
- 1-17-14           \$32.51 – Goleta Valley Gun & Supply
- 2-14-14           \$109.09 – The Target Range
- 2-22-14           \$1,132.00 – B&G Guns, a firearms dealer in Oxnard, CA<sup>166</sup>
- 2-22-14           \$121.48 – Shooter's Paradise, a shooting range in Oxnard, CA<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0238

<sup>161</sup> SBSO case 14-7595, supplement 0234

<sup>162</sup> Financial records from 8-26-09 to 5-23-14 were examined.

<sup>163</sup> Purchase of 9mm Glock 34 semi-automatic pistol

<sup>164</sup> Purchase of 9mm Sig Sauer P226R semi-automatic pistol

<sup>165</sup> Purchase of ten Sig Sauer P226 9mm magazines (10 round capacity)

<sup>166</sup> Purchase of 9mm Sig Sauer P226R semi-automatic pistol

<sup>167</sup> Purchase of pistol cleaning kit and Cold Steel Boar Hunter knife

- 2-25-14 \$39.51 – Shooter's Paradise
- 3-15-14 \$99.30 – Shooter's Paradise<sup>168</sup>
- 3-20-14 \$551.65 – Ammo To Go, an online ammunition supplier in Houston, TX<sup>169</sup>
- 3-20-14 \$489.35 – Top Gun Supply, an online firearms supplies dealer in Chesterfield, OH<sup>170</sup>
- 4-18-14 \$110.51 – Shooter's Paradise
- 4-23-14 \$226.27 – The Target Range

The suspect's financial history shows that his planning for this tragedy, with respect to purchasing weapons, started in December of 2012. The purchase of the Glock 34 pistol on December 4, 2012 can be considered his first overt act in furtherance in the planning of the mass murder. The suspect's financial records also show his increased spending in firearms-related materials and shooting practice in the months leading up to May 23, 2014.<sup>171</sup> This activity indicates the suspect was "ramping up" in the planning and rehearsing stages prior to committing the crimes on May 23, 2014.

The suspect's last Chase debit card transaction was on May 23, 2014 at 1938 hours. He purchased a triple vanilla latte for \$4.90 from the Isla Vista Starbucks.<sup>172</sup> Surveillance footage from the Isla Vista Starbucks recorded the suspect inside the business during this date and time. The suspect was alone.

## **AUTOPSY INFORMATION FOR SIX HOMICIDE VICTIMS**

Santa Barbara County is one of 46 counties in California that utilizes the Sheriff-Coroner model for death investigations. This duty is required by California Government Code §27491.

### **Weihan Wang**

Weihan Wang was a 20-year-old UCSB student and Isla Vista resident. On May 24, 2014, Wang was found deceased in his apartment, located at 6598 Seville Road #7.

Pathologist Robert Anthony M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

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<sup>168</sup> Shooting range lane rental, ear/eye protection rental, two targets and four boxes of 9mm ammunition (50 rounds per box).

<sup>169</sup> Purchase of twenty-four boxes (20 rounds per box) of 9mm Winchester PDX1 ammunition

<sup>170</sup> Purchase of twelve Sig Sauer P226 9mm magazines (10 round capacity)

<sup>171</sup> The suspect made ten firearms-related transactions from January 2014 to April 2014. Six of these transactions were at shooting ranges.

<sup>172</sup> This Starbucks purchase was the only Chase debit card transaction on 5-23-14.

The *cause of death* was multiple stab wounds. A total of 15 stab wounds and 23 incision wounds were present, which caused injury to the head, neck, chest, back and both arms and hands. Three stab wounds and three incision wounds were present on the neck area, resulting in penetration of the carotid artery and jugular vein. Eight stab wounds and one incision wound were present on the upper torso (front and back), resulting in penetration of both lungs. Multiple incision wounds were present on the hands and arms, consistent with defensive wounds. The left brachial artery was cut.

There was initial concern that the victims murdered inside of 6598 Seville Road #7 had been incapacitated by drugs. However, results of toxicology tests revealed no evidence of incapacitating substances present within the body.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a HOMICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

### **Chen Hong**

Chen Hong was a 20-year-old UCSB student and Isla Vista resident. On May 24, 2014, Hong was found deceased in his apartment, located at 6598 Seville Road #7.

Pathologist Robert Anthony M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

The *cause of death* was multiple stab wounds. A total of 25 stab wounds and 12 incision wounds were present which caused injury to the head, neck, chest, back and both arms and hands. Six stab wounds and one incision wound were present on the neck area. Twelve stab wounds and one incision wound were present on the upper torso (front and back), resulting in penetration of the right lung and cutting of the bowel. Five of the stab wounds on the back were apparent post-mortem injuries. Multiple incision wounds were present on the hands and arms, consistent with defensive wounds. Results of toxicology tests revealed no evidence of incapacitating substances present within the body.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a HOMICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

### **George Chen**

George Chen was a 19-year-old UCSB student residing in student housing on the UCSB campus. On May 24, 2014, Chen was found deceased in the apartment located at 6598 Seville Road #7.

Pathologist Jon Smith M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

The *cause of death* was multiple stab wounds. A total of 94 stab wounds and 11 incision wounds were present which caused injury to the head, neck, chest, back and both arms and hands. Twenty-three stab wounds and three incision wounds were present on the neck area resulting in penetration of the carotid artery and jugular vein. Fifty-four stab wounds were present on the upper torso (front and back), resulting in penetrations of the heart, left lung, left kidney, pancreas, spleen and liver. Multiple stab wounds and incision wounds were present on the hands and arms, consistent with defensive wounds. Results of toxicology tests revealed no evidence of incapacitating substances present within the body.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a HOMICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

### **Katherine Cooper**

Katherine Cooper was a 22-year-old UCSB student and Isla Vista resident. Cooper's death occurred on May 23, 2014, in front of 840 Embarcadero Del Norte in Isla Vista.

Pathologist Robert Anthony M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

The *cause of death* was multiple gunshot wounds. The first of three significant wounds was caused by a bullet that entered the left eye and exited the top left side of the skull. The second significant wound was caused by a bullet that entered the left rear flank/side and exited right armpit. The projectile was located in the right bicep. The bullet traveled through the left lung and the spine. The third significant wound was caused by a bullet that entered the right armpit, traveled through the right lung and was recovered in the spine. There were five additional gunshot wounds found.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a HOMICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

### **Veronica Weiss**

Veronica Weiss was a 19-year-old UCSB student residing in student housing on the UCSB campus. Weiss' death occurred on May 23, 2014, in front of 840 Embarcadero Del Norte in Isla Vista.

Pathologist Jon Smith M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

The *cause of death* was multiple gunshot wounds. The most significant gunshot wound was caused by a bullet that entered the body through the lateral left mid-chest, punctured both lungs and the

heart and then exited the lateral right upper chest. Six additional gunshot wounds were present and caused injuries to the legs, buttocks and groin area.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a HOMICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

### **Christopher Michaels-Martinez**

Christopher Michaels-Martinez was a 20-year-old UCSB student and Isla Vista resident. Michaels-Martinez's death occurred on May 23, 2014, inside a business located at 6549 Pardall Road in Isla Vista.

Pathologist Jon Smith M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

The *cause of death* was a single gunshot wound. The bullet entered the left side of the chest and exited the right side of the chest, puncturing the liver and right ventricle of the heart.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a HOMICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

## **AUTOPSY INFORMATION FOR SUSPECT**

Suspect Elliot Rodger was a 22-year-old SBCC student and Isla Vista resident. The suspect's death occurred on May 23, 2014, inside a vehicle stopped in the roadway in front of 6594 Del Playa Road in Isla Vista.

Pathologist Robert Anthony M.D. conducted the autopsy and consulted with coroner's detectives to determine the cause and manner of death. The findings were as follows:

The *cause of death* was a single gunshot wound. The bullet entered the right side of the head and exited the left side of the head. A second grazing gunshot wound was found on the left hip/pelvic bone area. Results of toxicology tests revealed evidence of caffeine, benzodiazepines and alprazolam present within the body.

The *manner of death* was determined to be a SUICIDE, based upon evidence collected and evaluated during the Coroner's investigation and autopsy, in conjunction with evidence and witness statements gathered during the criminal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

## VICTIM AND CRIME SCENE SUMMARY

The following list encompasses all known victims from the suspect's rampage on May 23, 2014. The locations of the victims and the modality of violence used against them are included for reference.<sup>173</sup> The list is in chronological order, starting with Weihan Wang (first victim) and ending with Keith Cheung (last victim).<sup>174</sup> All locations are in Isla Vista, CA 93117. The numerical order of crime scenes is depicted on the map of Isla Vista (page 61).

- 1) 6598 Seville Road #7 (suspect's apartment)
  - **Weihan Wang** – died from multiple stab wounds
  - **Chen Hong** – died from multiple stab wounds
  - **George Chen** – died from multiple stab wounds
- 2) Embarcadero Del Norte @ Segovia Road (Alpha Phi Sorority)
  - **Veronica Weiss** – died from multiple gunshot wounds
  - **Katherine Cooper** – died from multiple gunshot wounds
  - **Bianca DeKock** – survived multiple gunshot wounds
- 3) 6560 Pardall Road (Coffee Collaborative)
  - Gunshot into the closed and unoccupied building. No injuries and no known victims.
- 4) 6549 Pardall Road #C (IV Deli Mart)
  - **Christopher Michaels-Martinez** – died from a single gunshot wound to the chest
- 5) 924 Embarcadero Del Norte (Nespor's University Auto House)
  - **Jin Fu** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle
- 6) 6533 Trigo Road #108 (Pizza My Heart)
  - **Aaron Zaglin** – survived single gunshot wound to left arm
  - **Bailey Maples** – survived single gunshot wound to right forearm
- 7) El Embarcadero Road @ Sabado Tarde Road
  - **Megan Carloto** – survived single gunshot wound to right thigh
- 8) El Embarcadero Road, between Del Playa Drive and El Nido Lane
  - **Sierra Swartz** – shot at several times by the suspect; no injuries
- 9) Del Playa Drive @ El Embarcadero Road
  - **Sheriff's Deputy Marquez** – shot at several times by the suspect; no injuries

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<sup>173</sup> Sierra Swartz, Deputy Marquez, Deputy Johnson, Deputy Walker, Detective Flick and Sgt. Welch are included in this list as victims even though they weren't injured. The suspect shot at each victim but missed.

<sup>174</sup> The order in which the victims were attacked was determined upon review of dispatch radio traffic, witness statements and location of crime scenes. The order of victims murdered at 6598 Seville Road #7 was determined by examination of evidence at that scene.

10) 6653 Del Playa Drive

- **Patrick Eggert** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle
- **Nicholas Pasichuke** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle

11) Camino Del Sur @ Sabado Tarde Road

- **Christopher Hoang** – survived gunshots to right forearm and right buttocks

12) 6688 Sabado Tarde Road

- **Victor Garcia** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle

13) 6636 Sabado Tarde Road

- **Mitchell Lyubarsky** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle

14) 6620 Sabado Tarde Road

- **Elliot Gee** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle

15) 6573 Sabado Tarde Road

- **Matthew Smith** – survived multiple gunshot wounds
- **Antoine Cherchian** – survived multiple gunshot wounds

16) Sabado Tarde Road @ El Embarcadero Road (Little Acorn Park)

- **Sheriff's Sergeant Welch, Detective Flick, Deputy Johnson, Deputy Walker** – shot at several times by the suspect; no injuries

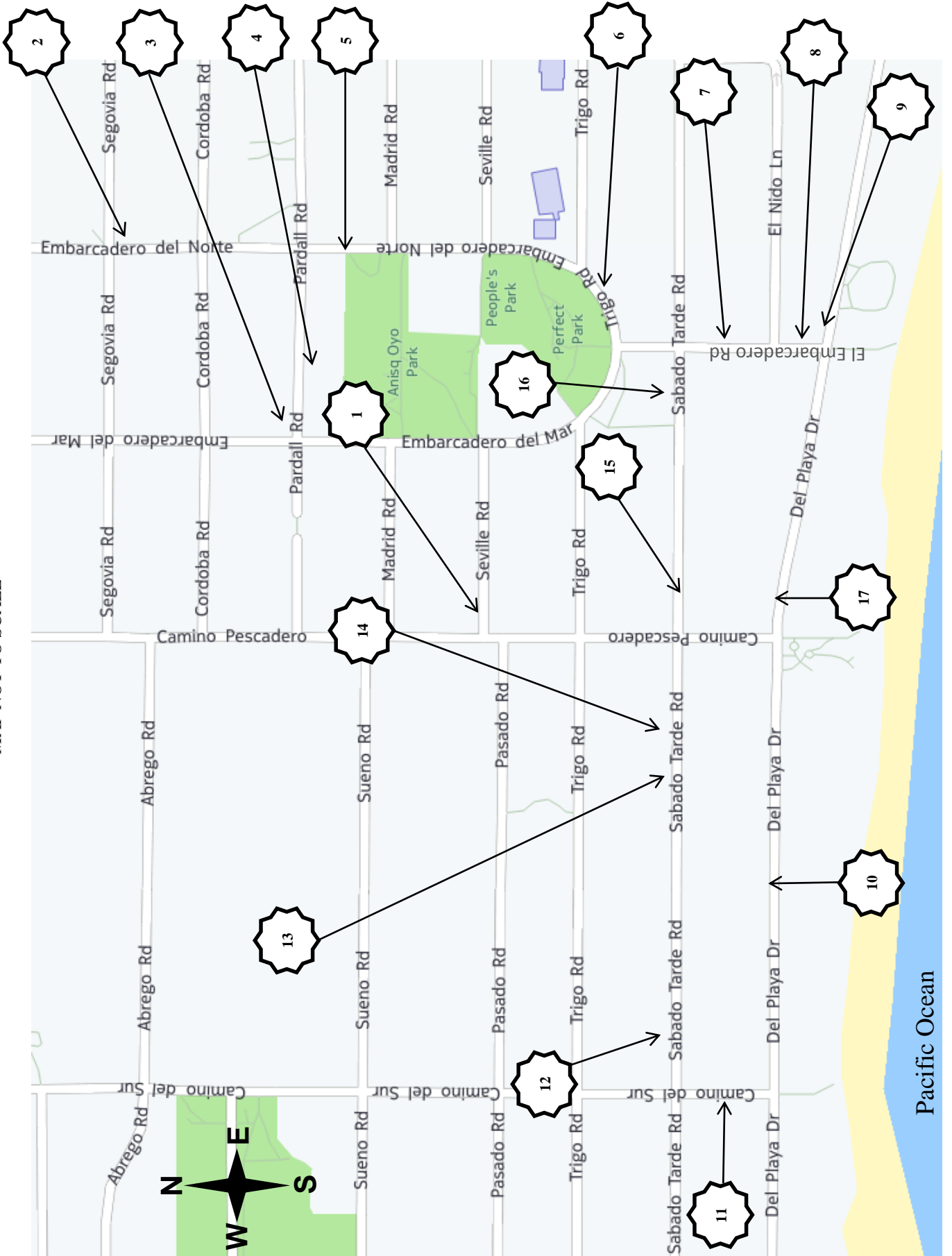
17) 6584 – 6594 Del Playa Drive

- **Keith Cheung** – survived collision from suspect's vehicle



# MAP OF ISLA VISTA WITH CRIME SCENES

MAP NOT TO SCALE



## **CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE SUSPECT**

The suspect violated the following California Penal Code statutes on May 23, 2014:

- Six counts of Penal Code §187 – Murder<sup>175</sup>
- Three counts of murder under special circumstance, Penal Code §190.2(a)(15) – Lying in Wait<sup>176</sup>
- 20 counts of Penal Code §664/187 – Attempt Murder<sup>177</sup>
- 16 counts of Penal Code §26100(a)(c) – Shooting Firearm from Motor Vehicle<sup>178</sup>
- Three counts of Penal Code §25850(a) – Carrying a Loaded Firearm in Public<sup>179</sup>

The suspect's intent to kill with malice aforethought is apparent in the circumstantial evidence discovered during this investigation. This evidence includes, but is not limited to, his typed manifesto, handwritten journal, "Retribution" YouTube video describing his intentions to kill, weapon choice (knives, pistols and his vehicle), amount of possessed ammunition, witness and victim statements and the ultra-violent and egregious nature of the attacks upon his victims.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> California Penal Code §187(a) – Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, or a fetus, with malice aforethought.

<sup>176</sup> California Penal Code §190.2(a) – The penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is death or imprisonment in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole if one or more of the following special circumstances has been found under Section 190.4 to be true: (15) *The defendant intentionally killed the victim by means of lying in wait.*

<sup>177</sup> California Penal Code §664 – Every person who attempts to commit any crime, but fails, or is prevented or intercepted in its perpetration, shall be punished where no provision is made by law for the punishment of those attempts.

<sup>178</sup> California Penal Code §26100(a)(c) - Any person who willfully and maliciously discharges a firearm from a motor vehicle at another person other than an occupant of a motor vehicle is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in state prison for three, five, or seven years.

<sup>179</sup> California Penal Code §25850(a) – A person is guilty of carrying a loaded firearm when the person carries a loaded firearm on the person or in a vehicle while in any public place or on any public street in an incorporated city or in any public place or on any public street in a prohibited area of unincorporated territory.

<sup>180</sup> This is evident by the excessive amount of stab wounds on the victims at 6598 Seville Road #7, the amount of rounds fired at each victim in Isla Vista and the intentional ramming of victims with his vehicle.

## **CONCLUSION**

This report completes the investigation of the criminal acts committed by the suspect on May 23, 2014. The evidence indicates that the suspect acted alone in the planning and execution of these heinous crimes. Any subsequent information or leads made available to Santa Barbara County Sheriff's detectives will be reviewed for additional investigative value.

There is no reason to refer this matter to the District Attorney of Santa Barbara County for criminal prosecution as a result of these crimes, as the perpetrator is deceased. With the issuance of this report, this investigation is closed.

A shooting Review Board and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff have determined that the actions of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's deputies who returned fire at the suspect were appropriate and within agency policy. The District Attorney will review the case and submit a finding as to the legality of the shooting.



JOE SCHMIDT  
Detective #3741  
Criminal Investigations Division  
Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The horrific crimes committed by the suspect on May 23, 2014, led to a complex investigation requiring a tremendous amount of resources. Because of this, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office received assistance from numerous allied local, state and federal agencies. The following agencies are to be commended for their rapid response to Isla Vista immediately following the rampage, and/or their assistance in investigating the aftermath:

- University of California, Santa Barbara Police Department
- Santa Barbara Police Department
- Santa Barbara County Fire Department
- American Medical Response
- Lompoc Police Department
- Santa Maria Police Department
- Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
- Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management
- California Highway Patrol
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Justice – Bureau of Forensic Services
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
- Federal Bureau of Investigation