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For Immediate Release

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DA Releases OIS Review of Suspect Who Advanced on Deputies with a Butcher Knife

The District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the shooting of Daniel Ayala, 31, during an incident San Diego County Sheriff's Deputies were responding to in East County. On November 12, 2018, Sheriff's communications received calls about a man screaming, talking about killing people and throwing items. The callers reported the male appeared to be under the influence of drugs and alcohol and had a young child with him.

Three Sheriff's deputies responded and a witness directed them to a second floor apartment. The three deputies stood on a small outdoor landing outside of the apartment door and knocked on the locked metal security screen door, repeatedly identifying themselves as Sheriff's deputies and requesting to talk with the occupant. Ayala opened the interior front door of the apartment and suddenly plunged a large kitchen knife through the closed-metal security screen door toward one of the deputies. The deputies backed away from the door as Ayala quickly opened the door. Ayala exited the apartment with the knife in his hand, advancing toward the deputies. All three deputies fired their service weapons and Ayala sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

Ayala's five-year-old son was located alone and unharmed inside of the unit. Deputies rendered medical aid to Ayala until paramedics arrived at the scene. Despite the life-saving efforts of the deputies and paramedics, Ayala succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead.

Toxicology results showed Ayala had evidence of methamphetamine, heroin, cannabis and alcohol in his system.

After a thorough review, the District Attorney's Office determined the deputies acted reasonably under the circumstances when they fired at Ayala in their own defense and therefore bear no state criminal liability for their actions.

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The DA's detailed analysis [can be found here.](#)

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