



June 10, 2026

**PUBLIC REPORT ON DEPUTY- INVOLVED SHOOTING OF  
ABDOURAHMAN NYAN BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON  
OCTOBER 20, 2025**

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the investigation of the homicide of Abdourahman Nyan, age 34, occurring on October 20, 2025, in Goleta, California.

The following analysis is based upon investigative reports, coroner's reports, toxicology reports, audio recordings including 911 calls, photographs, witness cell phone video footage, video surveillance footage, body-worn camera footage, and witness interviews collected during the investigation conducted by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO) and submitted to this office by SBSO Detective Thomas Brownlee.<sup>1</sup>

The District Attorney finds the shooting was a justifiable homicide as defined by Penal Code section 196(b).

**FACTUAL HISTORY**

**Summary**

On October 20, 2025, Abdourahman Nyan (Nyan) used two knives (a large silver kitchen knife and a dark-colored folding knife) to attack a man and his dog outside the Ralph's supermarket on Hollister Avenue in Goleta at approximately 2:40 p.m. After stabbing the man, Nyan entered the store and hid in a public bathroom. SBSO Deputies responded to the store and contacted Nyan. After determining that Nyan was alone in the bathroom, was armed with two knives, and was refusing to cooperate, SBSO Deputies Bruno Bertuzzi, Dylan Darga, and Anthony Muneton set up a perimeter to

<sup>1</sup> All SBSO personnel involved in this incident cooperated with the investigation and provided voluntary statements regarding the incident, greatly aiding the Office of the District Attorney in providing this comprehensive analysis.

contain Nyan to the back of the store and developed a plan to de-escalate the situation. As they waited for other deputies to evacuate customers and staff from the store, and for Sergeant Eric Delgadillo to bring additional less lethal resources such as a ballistic shield and a 40 mm launcher to their location, Nyan exited the bathroom suddenly and charged at the deputies. He was holding one knife in each hand and using a large metal trashcan as a shield. Nyan ignored the deputies' commands to drop the knives. Fearing that Nyan would stab or kill the deputies or civilians still in the store, Deputy Muneton fired five rounds from his service weapon and Deputy Bertuzzi fired his taser. Sergeant Delgadillo, who arrived in the area through a side door just seconds before Nyan charged out of the bathroom, fired a single round from his duty weapon because he feared Nyan would kill or seriously injure the deputies.

After the shooting, the deputies approached Nyan to disarm him and to render medical aid. Medics from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and American Medical Response (AMR) also assisted. Nyan was pronounced dead at the scene.

### **Knife Attack**

At 2:37 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 2025, Matthew Newton-Wood ("Newton-Wood") was sitting in front of the Ralph's supermarket with his dog. Newton-Wood was on the phone when Nyan walked by, twirling a long bamboo stick in his hands.

Newton-Wood recognized Nyan from a few days earlier when he had seen Nyan outside the same store. On that earlier day, Nyan had been waving the stick around and acting erratically, prompting Newton-Wood's dog to bark at him. Nyan made kicking motions toward the dog and threatened to kill Newton-Wood and his dog. Newton-Wood did not respond. Nyan went into Ralph's and Newton-Wood went to the liquor store, avoiding further interaction with Nyan that day.

On October 20, 2025, Newton-Wood's dog barked and lunged at Nyan as he walked by, so Newton-Wood pulled on the dog's leash and continued with his phone call. Nyan squared off with the dog and swung the stick toward him, antagonizing the dog. Nyan threatened to kill the dog and Newton-Wood, flashing a dark-colored knife from his pocket. Nyan and Newton-Wood exchanged profanities and Newton-Wood told Nyan to "just go about your business." Two female customers saw the altercation and stood by. One of

them yelled that she had called the police and told Nyan to leave the dog alone. Nyan backed off a bit, but yelled “why should I stop, the dog attacked me!”

Nyan walked away from Newton-Wood and the dog, toward the store, then doubled-back and walked toward the parking lot talking to himself. When Nyan got to the first row of parking spots, he put the bamboo stick on the ground and retrieved a large silver kitchen knife with a sheathed blade from his backpack. Nyan said, “Fuck it, I’m going to just do it.”

Nyan walked back toward Newton-Wood and his dog, taking the knife out of the sheath. Nyan used the large silver kitchen knife to try to attack Newton-Wood’s dog. The dog jumped away and Nyan lost his balance. Newton-Wood attempted to defend his dog by getting between Nyan and the dog.

Newton-Wood grabbed Nyan’s arm, trying to stop him from slicing the dog and to take the knife from Nyan. During the struggle, Nyan sliced Newton-Wood’s left arm causing a large laceration. Newton-Wood’s dog was barking and biting the two as they struggled over the knife, the dog’s leash getting tangled in their legs. During the struggle, the dark-colored folding knife fell out of Nyan’s pocket onto the ground.

Eventually Newton-Wood knocked the silver kitchen knife from Nyan’s hand and it fell to the ground. Newton-Wood pushed Nyan away and picked up the silver kitchen knife. Nyan took off his backpack and put it on the ground, then turned back to Newton-Wood and lunged at him. Newton-Wood swung the silver knife at Nyan, but did not make contact. The two men began struggling over the silver kitchen knife again and the dog continued to bark and bite, getting his leash tangled around the two men’s legs.

As the two men grappled over the silver kitchen knife, Newton-Wood was able to hold on to it and maneuver behind Nyan. Nyan eventually released the knife and broke free, but the dog’s leash was wrapped around his leg, causing him to fall onto the ground near his backpack.

While Nyan was on the ground, Newton-Wood’s dog jumped toward Nyan, so Newton-Wood stepped forward to untangle the dog’s leash from Nyan’s legs and to pull the dog away from Nyan. Newton-Wood began to walk away from Nyan, holding the dog’s leash in his left hand and the large silver kitchen knife in his right. As Newton-Wood pulled his dog away from Nyan, Nyan got up from the ground holding the dark-colored folding knife in his right

hand. Nyan lunged at Newton-Wood, knocking the silver kitchen knife out of Newton-Wood's hand and onto the ground.

Nyan used the dark-colored folding knife in his right hand to strike Newton-Wood in the right side of his abdomen several times. The knife blade apparently closed or collapsed because Newton-Wood only sustained abrasions and two small puncture wounds to the right side of his abdomen.



Newton-Wood's dog again began jumping and biting at the two men. Newton-Wood broke free from Nyan and grabbed his dog's leash, meanwhile Nyan picked the large silver kitchen knife up off the ground. Nyan started to

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<sup>2</sup> This photo was taken by a witness and provided to SBSO.

walk away toward the parking lot, while Newton-Wood fled with his dog into Ralphs.

Nyan picked up his backpack, the large bamboo stick, and both of the knives, then followed Newton-Wood into the store.

### **Actions Inside the Store**

Once inside the store, Newton-Wood went to the frozen food section and sat down to catch his breath. When he heard one of the store employees say Nyan had entered the store too, Newton-Wood became afraid Nyan was looking to attack him and his dog again.

Newton-Wood went to the front of the store where there were two offices. Newton-Wood walked past a store clerk, Jim. Jim saw that Newton-Wood was bleeding profusely and told another employee, Dave, to call 911. Jim initially tried to stop Newton-Wood from going into the offices, but Newton-Wood said someone was trying to kill him and asked him to close the door. Jim asked Newton-Wood who was trying to kill him. Newton-Wood described Nyan and said he was in the store.

Newton-Wood laid down on the floor in one office and again told Jim to close the door. Jim told Newton-Wood to stay in the office and not to close the door. Jim heard sirens, so he ran outside to flag down deputies and medics. When Jim left the office, Newton-Wood closed the office door and barricaded it until SBSO Deputy Melvin Stovall arrived a minute or two later.

Once inside the store, Nyan went to the produce aisle on the far-right corner of the store, then back to the public bathrooms in the back right corner of the store.

### **Law Enforcement Notification**

Multiple people witnessed the confrontation outside the store. Several called 911, a couple filmed it with cell phone cameras and others stood by.

One 911 caller, Molly, described a man trying to attack another man with a knife outside Ralphs. She said one man was bleeding “a lot.” She described Nyan’s appearance and clothing. She described a second stabbing. She told dispatch that the man with the knife had gone into Ralph’s. She also told

dispatch that he had a “huge stick.” She told dispatch that she believed Nyan was “very mentally ill.” On the recording, Molly can be heard repeating the description of the suspect to the arriving deputies and telling them that he had two knives and a big bamboo stick.

David, a store employee called 911 and told dispatch that “the guy” was in the store right now. He described Nyan as “African-American with a knife” and said Nyan was in the produce section. While he was on the call, SBSO deputies arrived on-scene and headed to the back of the store.

Another witness, James, heard the commotion between Nyan and Newton-Wood outside the store. James walked over and saw the two fighting. James knew that the shopping center was frequented by elderly people and was worried about them getting hurt. James followed Nyan into the store and saw that he went into the bathroom at the back of the store. James flagged down deputies as they arrived.

### **Law Enforcement Response**

Deputies Bertuzzi and Darga were the first to arrive at Ralph’s. Witnesses directed them to the back right corner of the store, saying the suspect had gone into the bathroom. A customer told Deputy Bertuzzi the code to the men’s bathroom. James warned Deputy Bertuzzi that Nyan had a knife with an 8-inch blade.

Deputies Stovall and Deputy Muneton arrived at the store next. Deputy Stovall went to the office to contact the stabbing victim, while Deputy Muneton began evacuating the store.

A women’s public bathroom and a men’s public bathroom were located off a short hallway in the back corner of the store. Also off that hallway was a door to an employee office to the left and a set of swinging doors on the right. The swinging doors lead to the warehouse area of the store.

Deputy Bertuzzi entered the men’s bathroom with Deputy Darga right behind him. The bathroom had two stalls – a smaller one close to the door and a bigger one farther from the door. Deputy Bertuzzi could hear someone in the farther stall crumpling paper and flushing the toilet. He checked the closer stall and confirmed it was empty. He then cracked open the door to the farther stall to determine whether the suspect was there. Nyan instantly

turned and stepped toward Deputy Bertuzzi, causing Bertuzzi to back away and draw his gun. Nyan had an “intense” “very stimulated” look on his face, he had red blotches on his shirt that appeared to be blood, and he had items in his hands. Nyan said, “hey, I’m doing something.”

Deputy Bertuzzi backed out to the door to the bathroom. He switched from his firearm to his taser and told Deputy Darga to have his firearm out. Deputy Bertuzzi advised over the radio that the male suspect was barricaded in the bathroom. Deputy Bertuzzi knew there were still customers and employees in the store. He could see an employee in the office at the end of the hall.

Deputy Darga told James that there were more deputies coming and asked James to wait at the front of the store to direct deputies back to them.

Deputy Bertuzzi said, “Sir.” Nyan replied, “Yes.” Deputy Bertuzzi said, “I need you to come out. I’m Deputy Bertuzzi with the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office.” Nyan replied, “One second.” He did not come out of the stall.

Deputy Bertuzzi asked, “What’s your name? What’s your name?” Nyan again responded verbally but was hard to understand. Deputy Bertuzzi asked, “Are you injured?” After a pause, Nyan replied, “Yea.” Deputy Bertuzzi asked him to step out of the stall with his hands up. After a short pause, Nyan replied, “I will, just give me a second,” but did not exit the stall. Deputy Bertuzzi said, “Sir.” Nyan replied, “I need to get rid of my belongings.”

During this exchange, Deputy Darga asked over the radio for more deputies to respond to the bathroom area and said that the suspect was in the bathroom by himself and the deputies were talking to him.

Deputy Bertuzzi could see a backpack on the ground in the stall with Nyan. He could also see a long bamboo stick and a large kitchen knife with an 8 to 9- inch blade on the ground. As Deputy Bertuzzi watched, he could see the backpack moving but could not tell whether Nyan was taking items out of it or putting them in. Deputy Darga held the bathroom door open while Deputy Bertuzzi removed the long stick and the backpack from the bathroom. Deputy Bertuzzi could not reach the knife. After Deputy Bertuzzi removed the backpack, he saw Nyan pick up the knife.

Deputy Bertuzzi said, “Sir, can you step out?” When Nyan did not respond or step out, he repeated the request.

Deputy Darga knew that Deputy Muneton was inside the store evacuating customers and staff, so he asked over the radio for Deputy Muneton to respond to the bathrooms. He made that request because he feared Nyan was going to charge them with the knives and he wanted more deputies to assist.

Nyan opened the stall door slightly and looked briefly at the deputies. Deputy Bertuzzi said, “Stay against the wall and step out with your hands up, Sir.” Nyan did not step out and instead closed the stall door again. Nyan was breathing heavily and rapidly.

A moment later, Nyan opened the stall door again but wider. Both Deputy Bertuzzi and Deputy Darga could see that Nyan held two knives –a large silver kitchen knife and a smaller dark-colored folding knife with the blade extended – in his right hand. Deputy Bertuzzi ordered Nyan to “stay against the wall and drop the knives, drop the knives.” Deputy Darga also ordered Nyan to drop the knives, but Nyan did not. He closed the stall door again.

Once Deputy Darga finished asking for Deputy Muneton, Deputy Bertuzzi started to communicate over the radio that the suspect was armed with two knives. As Deputy Bertuzzi was talking, Nyan burst out from the closer stall and rushed toward the deputies. Nyan had gone underneath the partition separating the two stalls to get closer to the deputies. He held an object, possibly a book, in front of his chest like a shield.

Deputies Darga and Bertuzzi quickly backed up out of the bathroom. Deputy Bertuzzi closed the door to the bathroom and held it closed. Deputy Bertuzzi announced, “Sir, you’re going to get tased or shot. Drop the knives!”

As Deputy Bertuzzi held the door closed, Deputy Darga asked for more units over the radio and advised that the suspect had two knives.

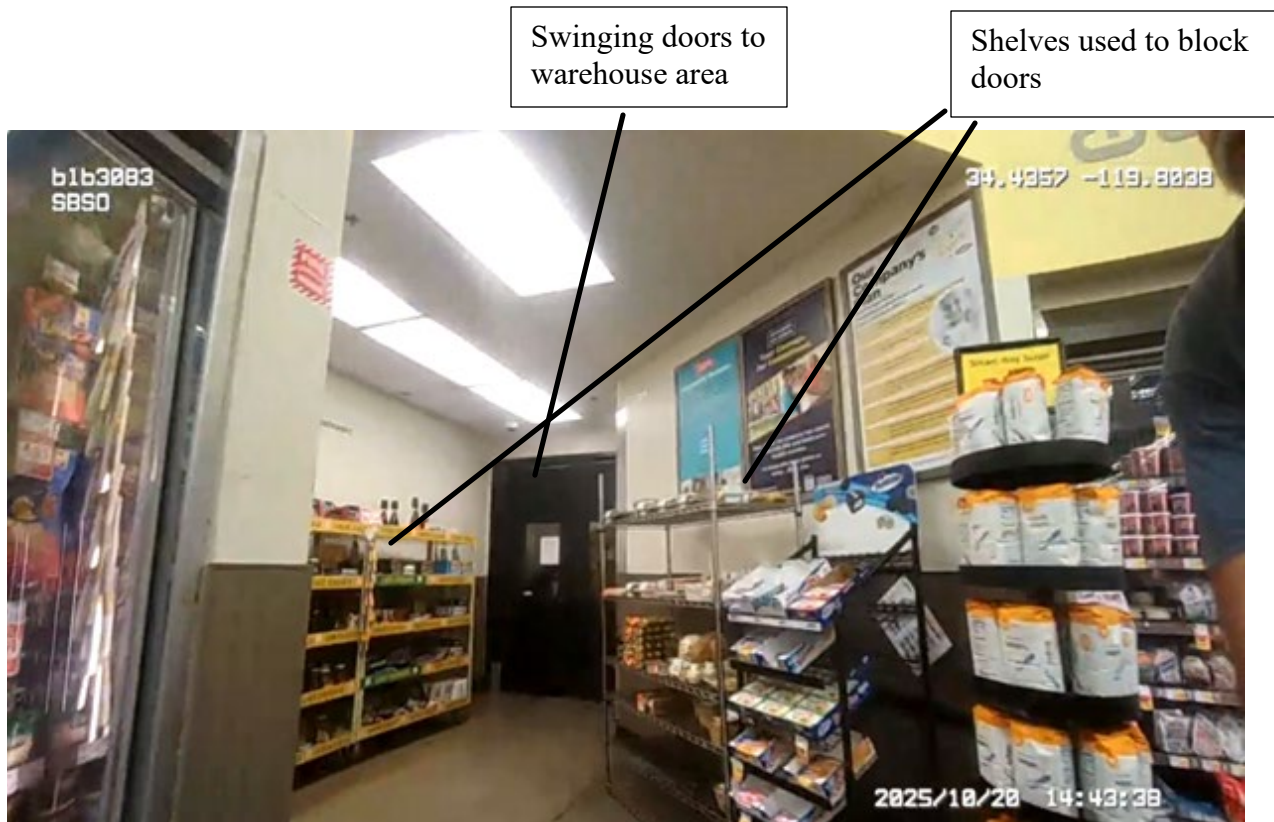
Deputy Muneton arrived at the back of the store. The deputies determined that they needed to evacuate the civilians from the nearby office. The deputies communicated over the radio to clear the store, that the suspect had tried to come out at them, and that they were trying to evacuate the bathroom area.



Shelves used to block doors



<sup>3</sup> These three still photos are images captured from Deputy Bertuzzi's body worn camera.



While Deputies Bertuzzi, Muneton, and Darga were in the back of the store by the bathroom, Sergeant Eric Delgadillo arrived at the front of the store. From listening to radio traffic, he knew the suspect was barricaded in the bathroom and that the deputies had requested less lethal resources. He also knew that other deputies were working to evacuate the store. Sergeant Delgadillo ordered arriving deputies to move civilians into the parking lot and to set up a perimeter. When he exited his patrol car, he brought a ballistic shield and a 40-millimeter launcher and ran into Ralphs. He saw Deputy Stovall with Newton-Wood and told them to go to a location across the parking lot to see medics. Deputy Stovall told him that the deputies were in the back right corner of the store. Not being familiar with the store layout, Sergeant Delgadillo ran straight to the back of the store and into the warehouse area. Once in the warehouse area, he turned right and continued trying to locate the barricaded suspect and deputies.

### **Deputy-Involved Shooting**

While Deputy Bertuzzi held the men's bathroom door closed, Deputy Muneton evacuated a store employee from the office down the hall and

cleared the women's bathroom. He also removed Nyan's bamboo stick from the immediate area.

Once all civilians were evacuated from the immediate area and the doors to the office and women's bathroom were secured, the deputies moved some shelves with merchandise to block access to the swinging doors into the warehouse on the right of the hallway. The deputies did this because they wanted to prevent Nyan from fleeing through the swinging doors and potentially injuring people still in the store. Deputy Darga holstered his gun to move the shelves, while Deputy Bertuzzi continued to hold the bathroom door closed and have his taser at the ready. Deputy Muneton had his firearm at the ready.

The deputies moved additional shelves to block the men's bathroom door. They then dropped back a few feet from the bathroom door, using the corner of the hallway as cover. The deputies moved the shelves in order to de-escalate the situation. They wanted to give Nyan some space, keep him contained to the back of the store, and to gather additional less-lethal resources. Their hope was to talk Nyan into putting down the knives and surrendering.

After the shelves were in front of the bathroom door, Nyan opened the door briefly. Deputy Bertuzzi commanded Nyan through the door to "Sir, drop the knives. Drop the knives." Deputy Muneton also ordered him to, "Drop the knife." Nyan closed the door and remained in the bathroom.

Because of the tight space, Deputy Darga stood behind Deputies Bertuzzi and Muneton while they waited for additional resources. Over the radio Deputy Darga requested less-than-lethal resources, specifically a 40 mm launcher shotgun and shield. He advised that the suspect was trying to open the bathroom door.

Nyan opened the door again, but did not come out. The deputies could see him grab a three-foot-tall metal trashcan from next to the door and move it toward himself. Deputy Muneton announced "Sheriffs' Office, drop the knives. If you come at me with the knife, I will shoot you. Do you understand?" Nyan let the door swing back partially shut. Deputy Muneton was concerned that if Nyan came at the deputies using the trashcan as a shield, the taser darts from Deputy Bertuzzi's taser would just bounce off and be ineffective.

Simultaneously Sergeant Delgadillo was running through the warehouse area toward the deputies. He heard Deputy Muneton giving commands to Nyan to drop the knife. As Sergeant Delgadillo approached the deputies' location from inside the warehouse area, he could see Deputies Muneton and Bertuzzi through windows on the swinging doors, but the racks blocked his entry to the hallway where they were. Sergeant Delgadillo saw that Deputy Muneton had his gun drawn and was facing the bathroom door. Deputy Darga holstered his gun and started to move the shelves away from the swinging doors so that Sergeant Delgadillo could join the other deputies' position.

Just as Deputy Darga was moving the shelves away from the swinging doors, Nyan opened the bathroom door again.

Nyan rushed out of the bathroom toward Deputies Bertuzzi, Muneton, and Darga, knocking the shelving out of his way. Nyan was holding the metal trashcan in front of his head and chest; he had one knife in each hand. The deputies yelled multiple commands to drop the knife and attempted to move back, but Nyan continued to run toward them getting within approximately five feet.

Fearing that Nyan would kill or greatly injure him or the other deputies, Deputy Bertuzzi fired his taser. Deputy Muneton, fearing that Nyan would stab and injure the deputies or civilians in the store, fired his service firearm multiple times. Sergeant Delgadillo drew and fired his firearm because he feared Nyan would stab or kill the deputies. Nyan's actions were so quick that Sergeant Delgadillo did not have time to unzip the carrying case and get the 40 mm launcher out.

Nyan was struck by multiple rounds and the taser darts. He fell to the ground still clutching a large silver kitchen knife in his left hand and a folding knife with the blade extended in his right hand. Deputies removed the silver kitchen knife from his left hand and kicked it away from him. Sergeant Delgadillo was caught on one side of Nyan with the other deputies on the other side. Deputy Muneton placed his foot on Nyan's right hand to prevent him from using the folding knife, while Sergeant Delgadillo quickly moved over Nyan to join the rest of the deputies. They then handcuffed Nyan and began assessing him for medical aid. The deputies requested medics respond from the parking lot to assist them in rendering aid to Nyan. Additional SBSO staff also responded. Nyan was pronounced dead at the scene.

## **Subsequent Investigation**

AMR personnel had arrived at the scene shortly after the initial deputies. They treated Newton-Wood, eventually transporting him to the hospital. Newton-Wood had a large gash to his left forearm that required sutures. He had scratches and abrasions to his left arm and hand. He had a puncture wound from a dog bite to the inside of his left wrist. He had two deep scratches on the left side of his neck, two small puncture wounds on his right rib cage, abrasions and scratches to his lower right back, upper right shoulder and his right forearm.

SBSO investigators responded to the scene after the shooting. The forensic team photographed the scene and collected evidence. They retrieved two knives from near Nyan's body – one was a large kitchen knife that had a silver blade and a light green plastic handle and the other was a folding knife with a black blade and a dark green metal handle. The blade of the large silver kitchen knife had blood on it and it was broken into several pieces that were scattered near Nyan's body. Investigators also retrieved a large bamboo stick from the area right outside the bathroom and a backpack belonging to Nyan.

In front of the store, investigators located droplets of blood, Newton-Wood's cell phone, and a light green plastic knife sheath that matched the handle of the silver kitchen knife found near Nyan's body.

SBSO investigators interviewed numerous people who witnessed the attack on Newton-Wood outside the store, as well as witnesses who saw some of the events inside the store. They collected cell phone videos and photographs of the knife attack as well as video surveillance footage from Ralphs.

SBSO investigators also learned that in August 2024 Nyan had been arrested at a state park in San Diego for an incident in which he brandished a box cutter and threatened to kill an off-leash dog, then fought with park rangers attempting to contact him.

## **Autopsy**

On October 22, 2025, Dr. Manuel Montez, a forensic pathologist employed by SBSO, performed a post-mortem examination of Nyan. Nyan weighed 163 pounds and was approximately 5'7" tall.

Dr. Montez observed a total of five gunshot wounds to Nyan's chest, abdomen, back, and head. Nyan also had four small wounds on his right lower chest and upper abdomen, multiple tiny superficial lacerations over the right wrist, and abrasions to his front left thigh and right buttock.

A toxicological analysis of Nyan's blood was positive for THC at the time of his death. Dr. Montez opined that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds. The SBSO Coroner's Office certified the manner of Nyan's death as homicide.

## LEGAL ANALYSIS

### Applicable Law

Homicide is the killing of one human being by another, either lawfully or unlawfully. Homicide includes murder and manslaughter, which are unlawful, and the acts of excusable and justifiable homicide which are lawful. The shooting of another person in self-defense or in the defense of others is justifiable and, therefore, lawful. Penal Code section 196(b) states that homicide by a peace officer is justified when it results from use of force in compliance with Penal Code section 835a.

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons: (1) to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another; or (2) to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. *Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(A) and (B).*

A threat of death or serious bodily injury is "imminent" when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed. *Penal Code section 835a(e)(2).*

The decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable peace officer under the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight. The totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when an officer may be forced to make quick decisions about using force. *Penal Code section 835a(4)*; see also *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386.

In determining whether the use of deadly force is necessary, officers shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer. *Penal Code section 835a(2)*.

### **Legal Analysis**

On the afternoon of October 20, 2025, SBSO deputies responded to multiple calls for a knife attack at the Ralph's supermarket. As deputies arrived, they learned from witnesses that the suspect, later identified as Nyan, had stabbed another man, fled to the public bathroom, and was armed with at least a large kitchen knife. The store was a very large building with many customers and staff inside at that time.

Upon contacting Nyan in the men's bathroom, Deputies Bertuzzi and Darga identified themselves as deputies and repeatedly asked Nyan to step out. Nyan did not comply. As Deputies Bertuzzi and Darga stood in the doorway to the bathroom, the deputies saw Nyan pick up a knife that he had on the floor in his bathroom stall. Deputies attempted to engage Nyan in conversation in an effort to deescalate the situation. Deputy Bertuzzi asked Nyan to drop the knife and stay against the wall. Nyan did not comply. Instead, Nyan crawled under the wall separating the stalls and sprung out suddenly at the deputies from the stall door closest to them. He appeared "stimulated" and had an "intense" look on his face. Deputies Bertuzzi and Darga backed out of the bathroom, closed the door, and waited for additional units. Deputies requested additional less lethal resources.

Deputy Muneton responded and helped evacuate a store employee from an office right by the bathroom. He and Deputies Bertuzzi and Darga moved shelving units to block Nyan's exit from the bathroom and to block passage to the warehouse area of the store. They did this to deescalate the situation, gain time to evacuate the store, and gather less lethal resources. Nyan opened the bathroom door several times, observing what the deputies were doing. The deputies warned him that if he came at them with the knives, he

would be shot. Deputy Bertuzzi had his less lethal taser ready and Deputy Muneton backed him up with his firearm ready.

Despite the warning, Nyan rushed out of the bathroom toward the deputies holding one knife in each of his hands and a large metal trashcan in front of him like a shield.

Fearing that Nyan was going to stab or kill the deputies, or escape and stab or kill civilians still in the store, Deputy Muneton and Sergeant Delgadillo both fired their department-issued firearms and Deputy Bertuzzi fired his taser. They fired until they saw Nyan go down and felt the threat had stopped.

These events happened very rapidly and in a challenging environment where the deputies were in a confined area close to Nyan, trying to prevent him from hurting additional people in a busy store. The deputies were employing de-escalation tactics to safely contain and negotiate with Nyan, but Nyan burst out of the bathroom and rushed at the deputies armed with two knives and made it within five feet of the deputies before he was struck.

Nyan's actions would cause a reasonable peace officer in the same circumstances to believe that he possessed the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the deputies or members of the public. Under the totality of the circumstances, Deputy Muneton and Sergeant Delgadillo each reasonably believed that the use of deadly force was necessary to instantly confront and address the imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury posed by Nyan.

## **CONCLUSION**

When Nyan ignored commands to drop two knives, held one knife in each hand and used a metal trashcan as a shield while rushing at deputies, his actions created a reasonable fear of death or great bodily injury in the minds of Deputy Muneton and Sergeant Delgadillo. Based on the investigation by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, applying the law as set forth in Penal Code sections 196(b) and 835a, as well as relevant case law, Deputy Muneton and Sergeant Delgadillo acted reasonably in their use of deadly force; therefore, the shooting of Abdourahman Nyan was a justifiable homicide.