



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Stephen S. Carlton
District Attorney

Lawncrest Cemetery Officer-Involved Shooting on July 13, 2016

October 6, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Chief Deputy District Attorney: Stephanie Bridgett
(530)245-6300

Press Release

Today, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office has concluded that Redding Police Department Officers acted in self-defense and defense of others when they fired their weapons striking Patrick Amen.

On July 13, 2016, at approximately 7:20 a.m., the Redding Police Department received a report of a male shooting out vehicle windows with a handgun in the area of Cascade Lane and Oxford Road. Witnesses observed the male walking west toward the cemetery. At about the same time, Redding Police Officers were notified about a family disturbance involving Patrick Amen in the same area. Amen's mother and grandmother live in the area and it was reported that he had just been at the residence and broke out a window.

Officers responded to the northwest side of the Lawncrest Cemetery, which was the direction Amen was last seen walking. They were wearing Redding Police Uniforms and driving marked patrol vehicles. Additionally, a California Highway Patrol helicopter arrived on the scene and assisted in the search. Amen was located lying in a vacant field in tall grass approximately 70 yards to the east of where the officers were located. Officers commanded Amen to show his hands. At the time Amen was lying on his back, resting on his elbow and appeared to be smoking. He

looked toward the officers and did not respond to any of their commands. There were seven uniformed officers to the west of Amen's location.

Amen stood up onto his feet and started walking southbound, along a cyclone style fence. At this time officers could see that he was holding a black colored handgun in his hand. Officers continued to verbally order Amen to get onto the ground and drop the gun. Amen ignored the officers' demands and continued walking while occasionally looking back at the officers. The seven officers continued to approach from the west and one officer approached from the east side of Amen. Amen continued to ignore all commands and was approaching a pine tree that he could use for cover. As Amen approached the pine tree he raised his right arm, which was holding the gun, and held the gun waist level and pointed at the officer that was coming from the east and was approximately 20 yards away.

Realizing the immediate threat, six officers discharged their firearms and Amen was shot. Amen dropped the pistol and fell to the ground. He was secured and given medical assistance. Amen's actions presented an immediate threat to the officers, leaving the officers no option but to meet the threat with deadly force. In order to protect themselves and other officers in the area they fired.

Officers located a black colored semiautomatic style handgun lying next to Amen and a methamphetamine pipe. Later in the investigation it was determined that the firearm was a BB pistol, which was CO2 powered and had an appearance that was similar to a Sig Sauer P226 pistol.

Amen was interviewed on July 16, 2016 by Shasta County Sheriff's Detective Rosina and admitted to breaking windows at this mother and grandmother's house. He indicated that he went to the area behind the cemetery because he camps there. He acknowledged that the pistol looks like a regular firearm and when he was asked why he pulled out the pistol, he responded "So I'd get shot." Although he did not admit that he pointed the pistol at an officer he said he was shot because he was a threat.

Amen's actions towards officers of the Redding Police Department made it necessary for them to use their firearms to protect themselves. The Officers acted in self-defense and defense of others consistent with the laws of the State of California.