AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Title: POST2311370 - JOSE ZAVALA (POST ID: C28-A48)
LAST EMPLOYING AGENCY: LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT (CURRENT)

REPORT PROFILE

MEETING DATE 04/15/2026	**BUREAU SUBMITTING THE REPORT** Professional Conduct Southern Bureau	
RESEARCHED BY David Sieber	**REVIEWED BY** Christine Ford	
REPORT DATE 04/15/2026	**APPROVED BY** Annemarie Del Mugnaio	**DATE APPROVED**
PURPOSE	**FINANCIAL IMPACT** No	

ISSUE, BACKGROUND, ANALYSIS, & RECOMMENDATION

ISSUE: The matter is before the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (POSAAB) for review and recommendation regarding the Respondent's peace officer certification status.

BACKGROUND: Respondent began his employment with the Los Angeles Police Department on May 26, 2009. At the time of the captioned incident, the Respondent was a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department, which is a peace officer position as defined under California Penal Code 830.1(a) and is required to be certified pursuant to California Penal Code 13510.1(a). As of the date of this hearing, Respondent remains employed by the Los Angeles Police Department as a police officer.

On December 18, 2021, the Victim walked out of his residence holding a kitchen knife, reportedly threatened members of the community, and then sat idle on the steps of a neighboring residence while holding the knife to his neck. Officers assigned to LAPD’s Newton Patrol Division (NPD) and Newton Gang Enforcement Detail (GED) responded to the “attempt suicide” call for service within minutes and contained the Victim. The Respondent and his partner responded to the incident, established a perimeter position, and were designated by the on-scene incident commander as lethal cover officers.

After approximately 13 minutes of de-escalation efforts, the Victim stood up and took four slow steps forward and then stopped. This movement triggered LAPD's deployment of a less-lethal projectile, which struck Victim in the hip. Nearly contemporaneously (.382 seconds after the less-lethal deployment), from a distance of approximately 25 feet and behind the cover of a police vehicle, Respondent fired three rounds from his service pistol, striking the Victim. Approximately .322 seconds after Respondent discharged his third round, Respondent's partner fired a single round from his service pistol. The Victim was detained but ultimately succumbed to the injuries sustained from the use of force.

LAPD's Force Investigation Division (FID) investigated the Officer Involved Shooting and found that his actions were not objectively reasonable, proportional, or necessary. Ultimately, Respondent received a 10-day suspension with loss of pay and benefits. In July of 2025, the City of Los Angeles settled the resulting wrongful death suit filed by the Victim's family in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and paid the family $8,000,000.

As of April 2026, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office's Justice System Integrity Division has not reached a charging decision and continues to review the incident with the assistance of an independent police oversight firm. Based on an analysis of the results of the LAPD FID and Complaint Investigations, recommendations of the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) and the Chief of Police, and a detailed review of multiple Body Worn Video (BWV) perspectives of the Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), the Division determined that the Respondent engaged in serious misconduct as defined in California Penal Code § 13510.8(b)(3) and Commission Regulation 1205(a)(3) - physical abuse, including, but not limited to, the excessive or unreasonable use of force.

Video Evidence Links:

- **BR14 POST2311370 Zavala Jose Attachment M Quintanella BWC**
- **BR15 POST2311370 Zavala Jose Attachment N Zavala BWC**
- **BR16 POST2311370 Zavala Jose Attachment O Officer 1 BWC**

ANALYSIS: The Division determined there was clear and convincing evidence that Respondent engaged in serious misconduct as defined in California Penal Code § 13510.8(b)(3) and Commission Regulation 1205(a)(3) - physical abuse, including, but not limited to, the excessive or unreasonable use of force. This misconduct is evidenced by Respondent's discharge of three rounds at the Victim, who posed a danger only to himself and did not present an imminent threat to the Respondent or others. Respondent's actions demonstrated a disregard for public safety and were inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities of a peace officer. Accordingly, the Division finds that Respondent's conduct constitutes serious misconduct, warranting revocation or suspension of his POST peace officer certification.

RECOMMENDATION: The Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (POSAAB) shall review the findings of investigations presented by the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division (POSAD) and make a recommendation regarding what action should be taken, suspension or revocation, on the certification of the subject peace officer.

ATTACHMENT(S):

BR01_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_ISF_Redacted.pdf
BR02_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Executive Review and Division Recommendation.pdf
BR03_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_POSTProfile_Redacted.pdf
BR04_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment C - LAPD Report_Redacted.pdf
BR05_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment D - COP IntradeptMemo_Redacted.pdf
BR06_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment E - 22-003418 LOT_Redacted.pdf
BR07_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment F - 22-003757 LOT_Redacted.pdf
BR08_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment G - LA City Council_Motion to Settle_Redacted.pdf
BR09_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment H - Federal Civil Complaint_Redacted.pdf
BR10_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment I - Respondent Interview Transcript_Redacted.pdf
BR11_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment J - SME Report_Redacted.pdf
BR12_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment K - LAPD Edged Weapons Policy.pdf
BR13_POST2311370_Zavala Jose_Attachment L - LAPD Use of Force Policy 10.2020 to 08.2022.pdf