Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
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EXECUTIVE REVIEW & PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS ACCOUNTABILITY DIVISION RECOMMENDATION

DATE: 11/25/2025

CASE #: POST2311370

PEACE OFFICER: Jose ZAVALA

POST ID#: C28-A48

AGENCY: Los Angeles Police Department

POST CONSULTANT / BC: LEC Dave Sieber / BC Christine Ford

ALLEGATION(S):

California Code of Regulations Title 11 § 1205(a)(3) – Abuse of power/Excessive or Unreasonable Use of Force

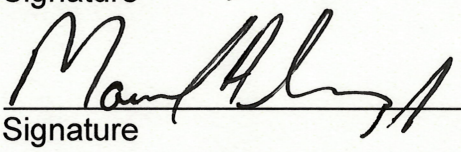
On December 18, 2021, LAPD Officers Jose ZAVALA and Julio QUINTANILLA, responded to an "attempt suicide" call for service. The victim was armed with a 6.5-inch kitchen knife. After approximately 13 minutes of de-escalation efforts, the victim stood up and took four slow steps forward and then stopped. This movement triggered the deployment of a less-lethal projectile, which struck victim. Nearly contemporaneously, from behind the cover of a police vehicle, ZAVALA fired three rounds from his service pistol, striking the victim. Approximately .322 seconds after ZAVALA discharged his third round, QUINTANILLA, from behind the cover of a police vehicle, 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 investigated the Officer Involved Shooting and the results were conveyed to the LAPD Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB). The UOFRB was critical of ZAVALA's and QUINTANILLA's perception of an "immediate threat" and found that their actions were not objectively reasonable, proportional, or necessary. A subsequent Department-initiated Complaint Investigation reached a SUSTAINED finding of "Out of Policy – Administrative Disapproval" regarding both officer's use of force. The incident was not referred to LAPD's Board of Rights. Ultimately, ZAVALA received a 10-day suspension and QUINTANILLA received a 5-day suspension with loss of pay and benefits.

The Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division, Certification Executive Review Panel has reviewed the above referenced case involving alleged serious misconduct and has determined the following:

☒ There are reasonable grounds for suspension or revocation of a peace officer's certification.

POST determined clear and convincing evidence exists to show Respondent committed serious misconduct as defined in Penal Code §13510.8(b)(3) and Title 11, California Code of Regulations 1205(a)(3) - Physical abuse when he used excessive or unreasonable force resulting in the death of the Victim.

☐ There is insufficient evidence to support a recommendation of revocation or suspension of certification.

William Darden Chief Legal Counsel	 Signature	2/11/26 Date
Annemarie Del Mugnaio Assistant Executive Director	 Signature	2-11-2026 Date
Manny Alvarez Executive Director	 Signature	02/17/2026 Date

cc: Bureau Chief Christine Ford

cc: Jason Morlock

cc: Chandler Knapp

cc: _____