AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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

REPORT PROFILE

MEETING DATE 06/04/2026	**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 Commission for review and action regarding the subject peace officer's certification status. The Commission shall return any determination requiring action to be taken against an individual's certification to the division, which shall initiate proceedings for a formal hearing before an administrative law judge in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), which shall be subject to judicial review as set forth in that Act.

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. On April 15, 2026, POSAAB voted to decertify Respondent.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Commission shall review recommendations made by the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (POSAAB) regarding, what action if any, should be taken, suspension or revocation, on the certification of the subject peace officer. The Commission's decision to adopt a recommendation by POSAAB to seek revocation shall require a two-thirds vote of Commissioners present and shall be based on whether the record, in its entirety, supports POSAAB's conclusion that serious misconduct has been established by clear and convincing evidence. In any case in which the Commission reaches a different determination than POSAAB's recommendation, it shall set forth its analysis and reasons for reaching a different determination in writing.

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
BR11_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
POST2311370_Zavala_Jose_April_2026_POSAAB_Agenda_Record.pdf
POST2311370_Zavala_Jose_Board_Recommendation_Signed.pdf
POST2311370_Zavala_Jose_Transcript_Board_04.15.2026.pdf