

Date of Investigation: February 5, 2017

Incident: Officer Involved Shooting

Location: Mowry Avenue near Sutter Drive.

Suspect: Nana Adomako; Newark transient

Officer Involved: K9 Officer James Taylor, a 9 year veteran police officer at the time of the Incident

The purpose of this summary is to provide information related to the findings of the Officer Involved Shooting incident that took place on February 5th, 2017, on Mowry Avenue near the intersection of Sutter Drive. The Fremont Police Department's Crimes Against Persons Unit conducted the criminal investigation. Per standard protocol and policy, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office conducted an independent and parallel officer-involved shooting investigation.

In 2019, Senate Bill 1491 amended the California Public Records Act, and we are providing this detailed summary of the investigation to ensure transparency with members of the community. Some of the information provided in the abstract is graphic and not appropriate for children. Regardless of the circumstances, any loss of life is tragic. These incidents have a lasting effect on family, friends, and loved ones, as well as the officers who are involved and their family members.

Every officer-involved shooting is carefully examined and thoroughly reviewed. We value the sanctity of life and place a high priority on equipment and training to ensure our officers have the tools, skills, and resources they need in the performance of their everyday duties.

The criminal investigation determined that Officer James Taylor acted lawfully in defending himself from immediate harm when Nana Adomako violently attacked him. The Police Department's internal use of force review process concluded this use of force was within department policy.

On December 7th, 2017, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley issued a final report concluding the use of force was lawful, and there was no evidence to justify criminal charges against Officer James Taylor for the shooting death of Nana Adomako.

The basis of this summary is from the information contained in the police report. Video from a local business, police cars and police officers, as well as physical evidence and witness interviews, contributed to the accuracy of the report.

On February 5th, 2017, at approximately 4:02 p.m., Fremont Police Dispatch received a 911 call from an employee at the Verizon store located in the 39000 block of Argonaut Way at the Fremont Hub shopping center. The reporting party told dispatchers a man, who was later identified as Mr. Nano Adomako, came into the business and was asked to leave due to his behavior. The caller said Adomako started to "attack the employees." The employee continued to tell the dispatcher that when he asked Adomako to leave, Adomako grabbed the phone from his hand, and threatened to "kill" them. The reporting party believed Adomako was a homeless man who was known to the neighborhood. The reporting party provided a physical and clothing description of Adomako and said he last saw him walking westbound on Mowry Ave.

Two Patrol Officers were dispatched to investigate the call at 4:05 p.m. Officer Taylor, who was working in the capacity as a canine (K9) unit, was working in the area and also responded to the call for service. Officer Taylor's canine, Cairo, was in the backseat of his patrol car. All of the officers responding to the call were driving marked Fremont Police Department patrol cars and wearing Fremont Police patrol uniforms.

The interaction described in the paragraphs below, between Officer Taylor and Adomako, is based on Officer Taylor's statement, witness statements, and in-car camera footage from Officer Taylor's patrol car. For reference, the incident occurred in front of Officer Taylor's patrol car. It was captured on the in-car camera system in passive mode, meaning the system was not physically activated. The initial contact between Officer Taylor and Adomako occurred near the driver's side door of the patrol car. That portion of the interaction was not captured on video because of the angle of the in-car camera. No audio of the incident was recorded due to the passive recording mode.

At 4:10 p.m., Officer Taylor saw Adomako. He was walking westbound in the middle of the south frontage road of Mowry Avenue towards Sutter Drive. Officer Taylor turned on his overhead forward-facing red light to signify he wanted Adomako to stop because he matched the description of the person who the Verizon store employee had described, and he was walking in the roadway.

Officer Taylor stopped his patrol car and opened his door. He recognized Adomako from at least three separate contacts in the past. Adomako stopped walking, turned towards Officer Taylor, and walked to the driver's side of Officer Taylor's patrol car. Officer Taylor got out of his car and directed Adomako to sit down on the sidewalk curb. Adomako immediately challenged Officer Taylor and questioned why he had been stopped. He also made declarations about being the "King of Fremont" and the "Chief of Police." Officer Taylor asked Adomako to sit on the curb three times. Following each request, Adomako would question why he was being stopped and repeating the statement that he was the "King of Fremont" and the "Chief of Police." Each time he made those statements, he became more agitated. While this was

occurring, Adomako, who was 6'3" tall and at least four inches taller than Officer Taylor, moved extremely close to Officer Taylor and stood over him.

Officer Taylor recently attended a 38-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) course, which teaches de-escalation techniques, and he attempted to ease the situation by utilizing those skills and speaking with Adomako. A witness would later state in their interview that Officer Taylor was talking to Adomako in a "calm and professional manner."

When Officer Taylor stopped to talk to Adomako, he parked his patrol car in a confined area near a curb and small dirt hill next to Mowry Ave. Officer Taylor knew this position was unsafe and decided it would be better to move Adomako to a safer location, which he determined to be directly in front of his patrol car. After asking Adomako to move multiple times and Adomako ignoring his requests, Officer Taylor reached out to grab his hand. Adomako responded by pulling his hand back. Then, Officer Taylor grabbed Adomako's jacket and tried to move him to the front of his patrol vehicle. While doing this, Officer Taylor again tried to control Adomako's arm and wrist because he was not following Officer Taylor's orders. Adomako started to become combative by again pulling away and wildly swinging his arms at Officer Taylor's head and face. One of Adomako's hands struck Officer Taylor in the head. Following the strike with the hand, Adomako struck Officer Taylor with his fists closed and clenched. Adomako's fists hit the side of Officer Taylor's head and forced him backward.

While Adomako continued to attack, Officer Taylor activated the door release button on his duty belt to release his canine. The release of the canine was an attempt by Officer Taylor to utilize a less-than-lethal force option to mitigate and hopefully stop Adomako's attack. While struggling to control Adomako, the canine ran out of the backseat of the patrol car and mistakenly jumped up on Officer Taylor and bit him. The canine released his bite and was ultimately wholly ineffective in preventing or stopping Adomako's physical attack.

After being bit by the dog, Officer Taylor was distracted and turned his attention to his canine. Right at that moment, Adomako landed a severe punch to the side of Officer Taylor's head. Due to the strike, Officer Taylor immediately felt unsteady on his feet and realized he was losing the ability to defend himself. He started to feel light-headed as if he was nearing a loss of consciousness.

Officer Taylor knew if he passed out, Adomako would have unobstructed access to his firearm and had the potential to kill him. During this entire interaction, Adomako never attempted to run away, and Officer Taylor had never been able to call for help on the radio because his arms were up in a defensive position, making every effort to protect his head from Adomako's onslaught of punches.

When Officer Taylor realized he was in the precarious position to be killed by his firearm, and knew he had no other choice but to defend himself by using lethal force, Officer Taylor shot Adomako. Officer Taylor shot Adomako three times from close range and struck him in the

torso. After being shot, Adomako fell to the ground away from Officer Taylor. The canine re-focused on Adomako and started biting his left lower leg.

Officer Grant Goepp was the second responding officer, and as he was pulling up to help, he saw Officer Taylor fighting with Adomako. He recognized the urgency, turned on his lights and siren, and made a hasty U-turn to get on-scene as fast as possible. Officer Goepp immediately communicated over his police radio that Officer Taylor was in a fight. Just as Officer Goepp arrived on the scene, the shooting occurred. He helped Officer Taylor handcuff Adomako and then immediately called for an ambulance. Before the ambulance arrived, Officer Goepp started to coordinate medical care for Adomako.

Additional officers arrived and recognized Officer Taylor was hurt and in need of medical aid, so they called for a second ambulance. Fremont Fire Paramedics arrived on the scene and pronounced Adomako deceased at 4:22 p.m.

Officer Taylor was not transported to the hospital in the ambulance. He was first driven to the Fremont Police Department, and then to Washington Hospital by a fellow officer. Doctors at Washington Hospital treated Officer Taylor for a mild concussion due to the blunt force trauma he suffered when Adomako was hitting his head and face. Officer Taylor also suffered a contusion and a broken left pinky finger.

During the investigation, investigators contacted Adomako's doctor and learned he had been prescribed medication for chronic schizophrenia. The doctor added that Adomako also suffered from delusions, which were consistent with his declarations of being the "King of Fremont" and the "Chief of Police."

The Alameda County Coroner's Office autopsy report revealed Adomako's official cause of death was multiple bullet wounds.

The members of our department deeply value the safety and sanctity of life for all of our community members and dedicate themselves to protecting others at the risk of their safety. This event highlights the immediacy of life and death decisions our officers are forced to make under rapidly evolving, stressful, and dangerous situations.

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Nana Adomako
45 years old
Transient