

Police Department

Date of Investigation: April 5, 2018

Incident: Officer Involved Fatal Shooting

Location: Fremont Blvd & Nicolet Ave

Suspect: Nathaniel Prasad, 18 year old Hayward resident

Suspect's Criminal History:

Prasad had a violent criminal history as a juvenile.

At the time of the incident Prasad had two active warrants for his arrest; a felony warrant for firearms possession and a misdemeanor warrant for evading arrest.

Prasad was also wanted in connection with entering a local high school campus during school hours and causing a disturbance involving a student.

Officers Involved (years of service at time of incident):

CSI Officer Calvin Gaziano, 23 year veteran police officer

Sergeant Kurtis Romley, 13 year veteran police officer

Officer Craig Perry, 13 year veteran police officer

Officer Jamil Roberts, 5 year veteran police officer

Officer Ralph Meredith, 5 year veteran police officer

K9 Officer Jared Madsen, 5 year veteran police officer

Officer Thomas Degenstein, less than 1 year of service as a police officer

This is a summary of the findings from the April 5, 2018, Officer Involved Shooting that occurred in the vicinity of Fremont Blvd. and Nicolet Ave. with suspect Nathaniel Prasad. The investigation was conducted by the Fremont Police Department's Crimes Against Persons Unit. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office conducted a parallel and independent investigation. All critical incidents are closely scrutinized and thoroughly investigated. We value the sanctity of life and place high priority on training to ensure our officers have the skills, tools and resources they need in the performance of their everyday duties.

The criminal investigation completed by the Fremont Police Department determined that the officers acted lawfully in defending themselves from immediate harm when suspect Prasad fired a handgun at officers, refused to consent to arrest and pointed his gun again at officers during a brief foot pursuit, and continued to hold his weapon in a threatening manner even when he was down on the ground. As of May 1, 2019, The Alameda County District Attorney's

Office has not issued a final report. The internal use of force review process concluded this use of force was within department [policy](#).

This summary and the accompanying video are being provided pursuant to Senate Bill 1421 and the amended California Public Records Act. It is our intent to ensure public access and transparency in policing. Some of the information provided in the summary is graphic in nature and not appropriate for children. Regardless of the circumstances, the loss of any 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.

This summary was developed using information contained in the police report, video evidence from in-car cameras, police body-worn cameras and local business surveillance video.

On April 5, 2018, members of the Fremont Police Department's Street Crimes Unit (SCU) were actively searching for suspect Nathaniel Prasad. At the time, Prasad had two active warrants for his arrest: a felony warrant for firearms possession and a misdemeanor warrant for evading arrest. The Police Department's School Resource Officer Unit had also relayed to SCU officers that Prasad had recently caused several disturbances at the campus of a Fremont high school where his girlfriend attended. Prasad was entering the campus during school hours although he was not a student at the time. Due to his active warrants and in an effort to prevent any further problems at the high school, SCU members began to conduct research into Prasad in an attempt to safely locate and arrest him. Research included locating where Prasad was residing and familiarization with photographs of Prasad.

In the early morning hours of April 5, 2018, SCU members drove by a residence in Hayward Prasad was known to frequent. At that time, they viewed a dark-colored Dodge Charger parked at the residence. The team members left the residence with no action taken.

Later that day at approximately 6:47 p.m., SCU members driving in an unmarked police vehicle were in the Sundale neighborhood of Fremont when they noticed what they believed to be the same dark colored Dodge Charger traveling on Fremont Blvd. The driver of the vehicle appeared to be a Hispanic female and SCU members recognized the right front passenger to be Prasad. SCU members relayed the information over the radio and requested marked Fremont Police patrol units to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle and arrest Prasad. While SCU members followed the suspect vehicle, SCU Sergeant Kurtis Romley provided additional information about Prasad to responding units, specifically that he had multiple active warrants for gun possession and evading arrest.

Officer Craig Perry and Officer Anthony Liu were both in the area driving fully marked police vehicles and dressed in full police uniforms. SCU members directed them to the suspect vehicle's location. They caught up to the undercover units and located the Dodge Charger traveling northbound Fremont Blvd. just south of Nicolet Ave. Officer Perry positioned his vehicle directly behind the Dodge Charger and activated his emergency lights. The suspect vehicle slightly veered into the left turn lane at the intersection and came to a stop just prior to

the limit line. Once stopped, the right front passenger door of the vehicle opened and Prasad fled on foot. As Prasad began to run, he appeared to be grabbing at an object which was in his waistband area. This action was captured on Officer Perry's in-car camera video system.

Officer Perry followed Prasad with his patrol vehicle and watched Prasad run to the rear of the ARCO gas station located on the northeast corner of Fremont Blvd and Nicolet Ave. Officer Liu stayed with the suspect vehicle and contacted the driver, later determined to be Prasad's mother. After hearing the suspect had fled on foot, several additional police officers began arriving at the scene to assist with his apprehension.

Officer Perry first drove east on Nicolet Ave. and stopped his car to get out and give chase. When he realized the suspect was still running, he pulled his patrol vehicle to the rear of the ARCO gas station where he stopped and exited. Prasad ran toward the rear of the gas station and was confronted by Officer Perry. Prasad pulled a firearm from his waistband area and pointed it at Officer Perry. This action was captured via the exterior video surveillance camera attached to the rear of the ARCO business. Based on the audio captured from Officer Perry's in-car camera system, it is believed Prasad shot at Officer Perry at least one time. After firing his weapon, Prasad took off running back in the direction of Fremont Blvd. Fearing for his life, Officer Perry drew his service weapon and shot back at Prasad but missed. Officer Perry stated, "Shots fired!" over the police radio and advised the suspect had pointed a gun at him.

CSI Officer Calvin Gaziano and three SCU members, Sergeant Romley, Officer Jamil Roberts and Officer Ralph Meredith, all riding in the same SCU unmarked vehicle, pulled into the ARCO parking lot. Those arriving officers heard the gunshots from the exchange between Prasad and Officer Perry. They then saw Prasad running from the rear of ARCO towards Fremont Blvd. through the gas station. At the same time, K9 Officer Jared Madsen and Training Officer Thomas Degenstein, driving in the same vehicle, arrived and stopped their vehicle in front of the ARCO gas station on Fremont Blvd. As they stopped, Prasad ran directly into the side door of their patrol vehicle. He then continued running southbound on Fremont Blvd in the northbound lanes of vehicle traffic. This action was captured via the exterior video surveillance camera attached to the front of the ARCO business and Officer Liu's in-car camera system. As Officer Degenstein and K9 Officer Madsen exited their patrol vehicle, Officer Madsen released his K9 to assist in the foot chase and apprehension of Prasad. At the same time Sergeant Romley, Officer Roberts, Officer Meredith and CSI Officer Gaziano all began to chase Prasad on foot in a southbound direction toward Nicolet Ave.

During the time all six officers were chasing him; Prasad pulled the gun from his waistband area and pointed it back in the direction of the pursuing officers. This action was captured via Officer Liu's in-car camera and on Officer Meredith's body-worn camera. All six officers fired their service weapons simultaneously at Prasad, striking him multiple times and causing him to fall to the ground. Several of the involved officers' later stated they believed Prasad was actively shooting at them when he turned towards them and pointed his gun at them. When Prasad went to the ground, he still held onto the gun, causing officers to believe Prasad would

continue to try to fire at them. Officers continued to fire their service weapons until Prasad released his weapon and remained still.

Following the shooting, officers could see Prasad's firearm still lying next to his right hip/hand area. The involved officers developed a plan to safely approach Prasad and recover the firearm. Using a ballistic shield as cover, the group of officers approached Prasad and recovered the firearm. This action was captured via Officer Meredith's body-worn camera. Officers handcuffed Prasad and began providing medical aid until paramedics arrived on scene. Prasad was pronounced deceased shortly thereafter at the scene. The Alameda County Coroner's Office report concluded Prasad had been struck by 17-24 rounds.

Prasad's firearm was a .22 caliber six-shot revolver. The gun was found to have three spent/fired casings and three empty cartridges. The firearm was also test-fired and found capable of firing live rounds. A records check run on the firearm revealed it was listed as "stolen."

The Alameda County District Attorney representatives relayed that had Prasad survived, he would have been charged with seven separate counts of attempted murder of a police officer.

The members of our department deeply value the sanctity of life and dedicate themselves to protecting others at the risk of their own safety. This event highlights the life and death decisions officers must make under rapidly evolving and dangerous situations.



Nathaniel Prasad; 18 year old male; resident of Hayward



Firearm recovered from Prasad following shooting