



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER
SANDRA HUTCHENS

December 12, 2016

Christopher Liss, EXTRA
[REDACTED]

RE: Your request for the factual circumstances related the incident involving Tarek El Moussa on May 23, 2016.

Dear Ms. Wallace:

This letter is in response to your above-referenced request, received by the Support Services Division for response on Monday, December 12, 2016.

The Sheriff's Department declines to disclose the report or 911 call responsive to your request because the records are exempt from public disclosure under the California Public Records Act. The records are law enforcement investigatory records that are categorically exempt from disclosure pursuant to California Government Code section 6254(f). *Williams v. Superior Court*, 5 Cal. 4th 337 (1993). The factual circumstances to which you are entitled are the following, as provided by Government Code section 6254(f)(2):

The time, substance and location of the complaint or requests for assistance: On Monday, May 23, 2016, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Sheriff's personnel responded to a call of a possibly suicidal male with a gun.

The time and nature of the response: On Monday, May 23, 2016, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Sheriff's personnel responded to a call of a possibly suicidal male with a gun. Sheriff's Deputies Sandoval, Pallanes, Bogdanovich, Leathers, Callagy, Walsh, Balm, Harder, Bieker, Lee and Ramirez responded to the scene.

The time, date and location of occurrence: On Monday, May 23, 2016, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Sheriff's personnel responded to Chino Hills State Park Main Ridge Trail.

The time and date of the report: May 23, 2016

The name and age of the victim: Not applicable

The factual circumstances surrounding the incident: On Monday, May 23, 2016, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Sheriff's personnel responded to a call of a possibly suicidal male with a gun. Sheriff's Deputies Sandoval, Pallanes, Bogdanovich, Leathers, Callagy, Walsh, Balm, Harder, Bieker, Lee and Ramirez responded to the scene. At the scene, Deputy Sandoval made contact with a witness, Gary Anderson, who relayed that he was working at the house next door when he saw Tarek El Moussa run out of his back door, jump over his back fence and walk northbound into the hiking trails of the Chino Hills State Park. Then the informant, Christina
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El Moussa, came running to the residence and she was crying and shaking. She told him Tarek took a handgun, put it in his back pack and ran outside. She said she already called 911.

Deputies requested the Sheriff's Helicopter, Duke, respond once they learned the Tarek El Moussa had a handgun and was in the Chino Hills State Park. Duke responded within minutes and located Tarek on the mountainside, gave him verbal commands via the PA speaker, to which Tarek complied. Deputies contacted Tarek and escorted him back to his residence. Tarek was compliant and cooperated with deputies.

Deputies then spoke with the informant, Christina El Moussa, who related that she received a call from her friend at about 3:30 pm. The friend was in Christina's bedroom and saw Tarek take a handgun from the gun safe, place it in his backpack and leave the room. She asked him what he was doing but he did not answer. Christina stated that Tarek did not make any threatening statements to her and he did not make any comments about hurting himself or anyone else. She also denied that Tarek had ever been suicidal.

Deputies spoke to witness, Shannon Rhodes, who stated she was in Tarek and Christina's bedroom when she saw Tarek get a gun out of his safe. She said he seemed upset and when she tried to talk to him, he would not respond. He put the gun in his backpack and left the residence. Shannon said she then called Christina and told her to leave the residence because Tarek had a gun. Shannon said that Tarek did not make any threatening statements to her, and did not make any comments about hurting himself.

Deputies then spoke to Tarek El Moussa, who stated he did not have any intentions of hurting himself and he did not make any suicidal comments. He said he wanted to "blow off some steam" so he went hiking into the hills. He stated he took his gun for safety because of mountain lions and rattlesnakes in the area.

Tarek agreed to voluntarily relinquish all of his firearms for safekeeping for 30 days. Deputies removed five guns from the safe and Tarek signed the property release form.

A general description of any injuries, property or weapons involved: Kahr K9 handgun; Pietro Baretta; Springfield EMP 9mm; Stag Arms AR15; Ruger GP 100 .357

Sincerely,



Kirk Wilkerson
Director/Chief Information Officer
Support Services Division

KW: kg

cc: Lt. Stichter, Media Relations

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