



WALNUT CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**PRESS RELEASE**

Chief of Police Thomas Chaplin

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**June 25, 2019**

**For Immediate Release**

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**WCPD CASE NUMBER: 19-17413**

**DATE / TIME OCCURRED: June 2, 2019 at 4:41 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Arlene Lane, Walnut Creek**

**CRIME DESCRIPTION / CODE: Officer Involved Shooting**

**INVOLVED SUBJECT: Miles Hall, a 23-year-old Walnut Creek resident**

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**\*\*\*This investigation is still active. Information could change as the investigation continues.\*\*\***

**~UPDATE~**

The Walnut Creek Police Department has committed to being transparent during this investigation. As part of this commitment, we prepared an Informational Briefing Video that includes audio from 911 calls, radio transmissions between officers and dispatch, video from officers' body-worn cameras and a surveillance camera, as well as additional information. This Informational Briefing Video is designed to share information with the public but does not represent a conclusion to this investigation or a final report evaluating officers' actions. The Hall family's legal representatives reviewed this video in its entirety prior to our public release.

The Walnut Creek Police Department is aware of questions regarding the involved officers' training on managing incidents involving people with mental illness in crisis. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) sets minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement. The POST organization provides a mandatory course titled "People with Disabilities" during the Police Academy, which all of our officers attend. This training provides instruction on disability laws, intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, substance abuse disorder, and mental illness. Once a police officer graduates from the Police Academy, POST does not have a minimum training requirement on

managing incidents involving people with mental illness in crisis. California law requires Field Training Officers to have at least 8 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training. As you will learn in this Informational Briefing Video, of the five officers on scene, four officers received crisis intervention training within the past year. Two of the officers are part of the Central Contra Costa County (CCCC) SWAT Crisis Negotiations Team and one of those officers is a former Mental Health Evaluation Team member.

We previously released the names of the officers involved in this incident. Today we are releasing each officers' role in the incident.

Sergeant Holley Connors was the supervisor on scene and has 12 years of law enforcement experience. Sergeant Connors is on the CCCC Crisis Negotiations Team and was armed with a rifle at the time of the incident. Sergeant Connors did not fire her weapon.

Officer KC Hsiao has four years of law enforcement experience. Officer Hsiao fired his handgun during this incident.

Officer Tammy Keagy has 17 years of law enforcement experience. Officer Keagy had her Taser deployed, but did not utilize it. Officer Keagy was previously assigned to the Mental Health Evaluation Team and is on the CCCC Crisis Negotiations Team.

Officer Melissa Murphy has one year of law enforcement experience. Officer Murphy fired her handgun during this incident.

Officer Matt Smith has six years of law enforcement experience. Officer Smith deployed a less-than-lethal Kinetic Energy Weapon (bean bag shotgun) during this incident.

As can be seen on the videos, the contact with Mr. Hall happened rapidly and did not allow for an opportunity for dialogue with Mr. Hall before he presented a threat to officers, which led to the use of force. Because this is still an active investigation, the Police Department will not be releasing additional information until the completion of the Coroner's Inquest or as required by California state law. When authorized, we will release additional information, which may include criminal reports, administrative reports, search warrants, measurements, copies of digital and documentary evidence including photographs and videos, a comprehensive timeline, automated vehicle locator information and other related material. As information is released, it will be made available to the public on the Walnut Creek Police Department's website at: <http://www.walnut-creek.org/departments/public-safety/police/policies-and-transparency-information>.

## **Prior Statements Released to the Community**

### **Press Release from June 14, 2019**

The Walnut Creek Police Department and the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office are continuing to investigate the incident that led to the unfortunate death of Miles Hall on June 2, 2019. The District Attorney's investigation is not expected to officially close until the completion of the Coroner's inquest, which could be months away. The inquest will be open to the public. A Coroner's inquest is held in cases that involve law enforcement.

The Police Department's administrative investigation is nearing the final stages. The five officers involved have been cleared to return to duty.

The Walnut Creek Police Department is committed to being transparent with our investigation. In the coming weeks, we intend to release additional information, including audio of 911 calls and video from officers' body-worn cameras and surveillance camera footage. We continue to reach out to Miles' family to offer them an opportunity to privately view the videos prior to any public release.

The family has filed a claim against the City today. The City is reviewing the claim and will respond to the claim once the City's review is complete.

There have been some inaccurate statements about the incident reported in the media, and we look forward to being able to provide clarification soon.

The Walnut Creek Police Department sends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Miles Hall. We continue to ask anyone who has information about this tragic event to call the Walnut Creek Police Department at 925-256-3523.

### **Statement from Chief of Police Thomas Chaplin from June 5, 2019**

As Chief of Police, I want to acknowledge the tragic incident that occurred on Sunday, June 2, Arlene Lane, where a confrontation between our officers and a young man resulted in his unfortunate death. My heart goes out to the family of Miles Hall as this was an outcome nobody wanted to have happen.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's office is conducting an investigation, and we have our own internal investigation underway as well. We expect to release more details, including video from the encounter, within the next couple of weeks. We are committed to transparency surrounding this event.

With the active investigation underway, there is little more that I can share right now. On behalf of the Walnut Creek Police Department, and the officers involved in the incident and the investigation, we are all deeply saddened by what happened. We will continue to have a dialogue with the community as more information becomes available.

## **Initial Press Release from June 2, 2019**

**\*\*\*This investigation is in its early stages. Information could change as the investigation continues\*\*\***

Walnut Creek Police are investigating an officer-involved shooting that took place today, June 2, after multiple 911 calls regarding a disturbance at a home on Sandra Court. The first 911 call was received at 4:41 p.m. The caller said her grandson came into her room and threatened her. The dispatcher could hear a male voice yelling in the background. At 4:42 p.m., Walnut Creek Police received a call from a nearby resident, who said he could hear an argument and possibly a gunshot. At 4:47 p.m., WCPD spoke to a second resident from where the disturbance was occurring. The caller reported her son was being violent and threatened her with a metal pole. The woman said her son has mental health problems and will be aggressive with police. The woman said he broke a sliding glass window and had a metal pole with a pointed end.

Officers arrived at 4:52 p.m. At 4:53 P.M., WCPD dispatch received another 911 call from another resident on Sandra Court. The caller said a man was pounding on his front door, had a red bandana over his head and face, and a giant crow bar in his hand.

Officers searched the neighborhood and found a man with a long pry bar (**\*Per the Contra Costa County Crime Lab – the bar was determined to be 4 feet, 11 inches long, weighing 15 pounds**) with a pointed end walking on Arlene Lane towards a residence. Officers gave multiple commands, ordering him to drop the pry bar. He ignored those commands, and ran towards the officers with the pry bar. One officer shot multiple less-than-lethal kinetic energy rounds (also referred to as bean bags) at the man. He continued to run at the officers, resulting in two officers firing their handguns at him. He was struck and fell to the ground, but attempted to get up. Officers were able to subdue him, and provided lifesaving measures, including CPR until paramedics arrived on the scene. He was transported to John Muir Hospital where he later died from his injuries. His family has been notified. The Coroner's office will be releasing his name. The Walnut Creek Police Department is deeply saddened by this event as any loss of life is tragic.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office and the Walnut Creek Police Department are actively working on this ongoing investigation. The five officers who were on scene will be interviewed and placed on paid administrative leave during the investigation. We anticipate releasing the officer's Body Worn Camera footage on a later date.

If anyone has information regarding this crime please call Walnut Creek Police Department immediately at 925-935-6400 or Detective Greg Leonard at 925-256-3523.

**\*This information was added on June 25, 2019.**

**Please direct any media inquiries to WCPD PIO Lt. Tracie Reese @ (925) 943-5894.**