Board of Inquiry OPS# 16-0642

Officer and Weapon Involved:

Officer Jorge Tequida #53668
Officer Douglas Wilfert #52282
Operations Division South/ Zebra unit

Glock 22, .40 caliber
Serial #: [redacted]
Serial #: [redacted]

Suspect Involved:

Jose Noe Barron Gomez
[redacted] (27 yoa)

Cobra CA-380, .380 caliber
Serial #: [redacted]

Synopsis:

Officer George Tequida #53668 and Officer Douglas Wilfert #52282 were attempting to apprehend Mr. Jose N. Barron Gomez on a felony arrest warrant for failure to appear on Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon charge. As they attempted to take the suspect into custody, gunfire was exchanged between the suspect and Officer Tequida. During the incident, the suspect and both officers were struck by gunfire. Additional officers responded to the scene and began providing medical attention to the wounded officers and suspect utilizing their Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). Tucson Fire responded to the scene to continue medical treatment. Both officers were transported to Banner University Medical Center. The suspect was pronounced deceased on scene.

Investigative Summary:

Members of the Homicide Unit and The Office of Professional Standards were called to the scene to participate in the investigation. Interviews of the involved parties occurred along with possible witnesses. The scene was processed and evidence was collected. Photographs of the scene and aerial photographs of the location were taken. The police reports, documents, transcripts, electronic media, and photographs were obtained and included in the package for review.

A declination letter from Pima County Attorney *Rick Unklesbay* was authored on *February 8, 2017*. In his declination letter Mr. Unklesbay wrote, "Officer Tequida's actions in returning fire and killing Mr. Gomez were clearly and plainly justified under the law. A.R.S. 13-404, -405 and -410 allow for the use of deadly force where a person is in danger of being harmed by another's use of deadly force. Here, that force had already been used by Mr. Gomez by firing at and hitting Officer Tequida. Fortunately Officer Tequida's ballistic Vest appears to have saved his life even though two bullets fired by Mr. Gomez did seriously injure the officer. Officer Wilfert's actions were justified in an attempt to save the life of Officer Tequida."