Was Officer Tequida's use of deadly force justified and within department policy?

Officer Tequida was confronted with a volley of gunshots fired by Mr. Barron-Gomez almost immediately after he entered the bedroom. He clearly faced the threat of deadly physical force and returned fire to defend himself and Officer Wilfert. His actions were justified and consistent with department policy.

Findings and Recommendations

Officer Tequida's OPS and CIRB testimony revealed Zebra Units do not typically receive any additional training outside that of a regular patrol officer. CIRB recommends a tactical training curriculum be developed and taught to all Zebra Unit Officers. CIRB recommends this report be used by the Training Academy as a resource to improve tactical training.

CIRB finds Officer Tequida's actions in entering both the apartment and bedroom were not tactically sound. Officer Tequida placed too much reliance on his prior interactions with Mr. Barron-Gomez, resulting in him missing the potential for the situation to devolve into a barricaded subject operation. CIRB recommends the Training Academy develop additional training for all officers regarding identification of, and response to, barricaded subject situations.

It should be noted all officers within the agency have participated in de-escalation training and scenarios since this incident. All officers have received training in the Critical Decision Making Model, which provides officers information to assist in their ability to make clear and safe decisions.

The investigation revealed that Officer Wilfert was struck in the leg when initially standing outside the bedroom door. It was ultimately determined through the forensics investigation the round that struck Officer Wilfert in the leg was fired by Officer Tequida.

CIRB finds Officer Tequida's use of deadly force was **Justified and Within Policy** as per *General Order* 2000 on Use of Force. The Pima County Attorney's declination letter stated that "Officer Tequida's actions in returning fire and killing Mr. Barron-Gomez were clearly and plainly justified under the law."

Sustained General Order Violations

CIRB finds no sustained General Order violations regarding Officer Tequida.