

# VALENCIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



P.O. Box 1585/543 LUNA AVE.  
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031  
(505) 866-2400  
(505) 866-2027 FAX

DENISE VIGIL  
SHERIFF

JEFF NOAH  
UNDERSHERIFF



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Sunday September 29, 2024, at 3:11 P.M., Deputies of the Valencia County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of gunshots at the 100 block of La Ladera. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with neighbors who reported seeing a resident, Thomas Rodriguez of Los Lunas, who was outside his home and firing a rifle into the air. Deputies attempted to make contact with Mr. Rodriguez who was confirmed armed with a rifle. He ignored commands and retreated inside his home. A perimeter was formed and call outs were initiated. Deputies were able to make contact with Mr. Rodriguez's elderly mother, Carol Cyrus. After interviewing Mrs. Cyrus, deputies were able to assist her with a petition for an Extreme Risk Firearms Protection Order (ERFPO), for removal of firearms from the home. VCSO deputies then departed to initiate the court process.

At 7:42 P.M. deputies again responded to the area in response to a disturbance. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with a neighbor, Michael Gabaldon of Los Lunas. Mr. Gabaldon was armed with a handgun and was agitated. He alleged that Mr. Rodriguez had just tried to run him over so he armed himself with the weapon. Several attempts were made to contact Mr. Rodriguez about the incident at which point he refused to exit his home. The parties were separated and deputies filed felony charges against Mr. Rodriguez for the incident.

Shortly after departing, deputies were immediately called back to the scene in response to an alleged exchange of gunfire between Mr. Gabaldon and Mr. Rodriguez. Upon arrival of Valencia County deputies, an officer involved shooting (OIS) occurred. For further information regarding this incident, contact New Mexico State Police who is currently investigating the OIS.

After the alleged exchange of gunfire, Mr. Rodriguez was observed by law enforcement to run inside his home. A perimeter was established and call outs were initiated. Local SWAT Teams were requested for assistance in apprehending Mr. Rodriguez. SWAT units surrounded the home and at 11:00 A.M. he surrendered to authorities. He was transported to the Valencia County Detention Center where he was booked on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

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\*\*\* Update\*\*\*

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The Valencia County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) is cooperating with the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) in the investigation of the recent officer involved shooting (OIS). At this time, VCSO cannot release the details of the OIS pending the formal interview of our deputies that are involved. VCSO supports the integrity of the NMSP investigation and does not want to contaminate their investigation. The deputy involved in the shooting has been placed on standard administrative paid leave. VCSO remains committed to governmental transparency to keep our community well informed. We are currently preparing for a release of information and body worn camera footage upon NMSP completing those interviews. We ask for the public's patience as we allow NMSP agents to complete their work. We expect to have a significant release of information late next week.

Sheriff Denise Vigil

Quote:

“Any loss of life in our community is a tragedy. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the deceased. I want my community to know that the Valencia County Sheriff’s Office is fully cooperating with the State Police agents to ensure a proper and thorough investigation is conducted. I do not want to impede their ability to find the facts and answers of what happened late Sunday night, 9/29/2024. I am confident that the investigation will shed light on the circumstances of what happened that led to this unfortunate situation. I am also committed to transparency with our public. Once NMSP agents have completed their interviews with our personnel, the Sheriff’s Office can provide reports and body camera footage to the public.”

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For press only:

For more information on this release, please contact PIO Joseph Rowland at 505-866-3321 or [joseph.rowland@co.valencia.nm.us](mailto:joseph.rowland@co.valencia.nm.us) .