



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Sheriff-Coroner

5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 454-7611 FAX: (831) 454-7608

Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Officer Involved Shooting Update

DATE / TIME: 5/18/18 0327 hours **CASE #:** 18-4307

LOCATION: End of Ocean Street Extension, Santa Cruz

TYPE OF CRIME:	664/187 PC Attempted Murder	Felony
	245 (c) PC Assault with Weapon Against Peace Officer	Felony
	12022.1 PC X 4 Commit Felony While Out on Bail	Felony
	245 (a) (1) PC Assault with a Deadly Weapon	Felony
	69 PC Resisting Arrest with Violence	Felony
	10851 CVC Vehicle Theft	Felony
	836.6 (a) PC Escape from Custody	Misd.

SUSPECT ARRESTED:

Jessica M Lowe, 27-year-old, Santa Cruz County Resident

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

In an effort to keep our community well informed, the Sheriff's Office is releasing body worn camera video of the recent officer involved shooting incident that left one of our deputies injured.

On 5/18/18 at 3:27 AM, Deputies were patrolling the end of Ocean Street Extension due to recent neighborhood concerns regarding illegal activity. Deputies found two cars parked in a turnout at the end of the road, one of which was reported stolen out of San Jose. Jessica Lowe and another man were standing between the cars when deputies arrived.

Deputies detained the man and Lowe in handcuffs to investigate the stolen Honda. The two suspects were placed in separate patrol cars during the investigation while they were questioned.

Deputy August Waltrip began searching the stolen car while another deputy interviewed the man in the back of a patrol car. During this time, Lowe slipped out of her handcuffs and was able to reach through the rear window and open the door of the other patrol car.

Rather than running away, Lowe entered the drivers seat of the Sheriff's patrol car and intentionally drove towards the second deputy. Without warning, the car driven by Lowe struck the deputy and forced him into the back seat of his patrol car causing significant injuries.

Deputy Waltrip heard the crash and his partner screaming in pain as he approached the patrol car driven by Lowe. Deputy Waltrip did not know if his partner was stuck underneath the car or pinned between the two cars. In fear for his partner's life, Deputy Waltrip fired his service

weapon two times at Lowe as he opened the driver's side door to stop Lowe's assault.

Deputy Waltrip ran around to the backside of the car driven by Lowe. Deputy Waltrip did not know where his partner was but could hear his partner yelling in pain. The vehicle's reverse lights turned on and the vehicle began backing up at Deputy Waltrip. Deputy Waltrip fired his weapon several more times to stop the assault.

Again, rather than leaving the area in the car, Lowe drove back towards Deputy Waltrip and the deputy who was injured. In fear for his partner's life, Deputy Waltrip fired his weapon several times at Lowe.

Deputy Waltrip was able to get himself and his partner behind a tree while Lowe finally stopped the car. Deputy Waltrip gave Lowe verbal commands to exit the car and remain on the ground. Lowe remained on the ground until other law enforcement officers arrived a few minutes later. Arriving officers began rendering aid to Lowe who had been struck by three bullets. Officers rendered aid for over 10 minutes before the first paramedics arrived, which likely saved her life.

Lowe was flown to a trauma center where she underwent surgery and is expected to recover. The injured deputy was treated at an area hospital and released, however, he will need future medical care.

When Lowe is released from the hospital, she will be transferred to the Santa Cruz County Jail and face charges of Attempted Murder of a Peace Officer.

The District Attorney's Office is investigating the shooting according to established county wide protocols and agreements.

Deputy Waltrip was placed on Administrative Leave per policy.

PREPARED BY:

Sergeant Brian Cleveland

Follow us on:

