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Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore released the following statement:

A Travis County Special Grand Jury has concluded its review of the shooting death of Hugo Alvarez by Austin Police Department SWAT Officer Matthew Judd that occurred on March 25, 2018. The Special Grand Jury also reviewed the shooting incident involving Austin Police Department Officer Massiel Taveras who discharged her weapon at Hugo Alvarez earlier in the evening but did not strike him. The Special Grand Jury did not return an indictment on either officer.

On March 25, 2018, a 911 call was received just before 11 p.m. requesting that police respond to a duplex of the 5000 block of Ponciana Dr. in Austin. The operator heard no disturbance and the caller, a male, was calm. After the call was disconnected the operator called back, but there was no answer. Patrol officers were dispatched to the address, and while in transit a second 911 call was made from the house, again requesting police but offering no additional information.

When officers arrived at the residence it was dark and appeared to be unoccupied. Officers attempted to make contact with the residents but no one answered the door. As the officers turned to leave, around 11:10 p.m., a shot was fired from inside the duplex, striking one of the officers in the arm. Officer Taveras returned fire, shooting once toward the door. The shot did not strike anyone and officers on scene then sought cover in case of more shots.

As a result of the shots fired, multiple patrol officers were dispatched to set up a perimeter around the house, and SWAT was called out. As SWAT evacuated residences in the area, officers heard gunshots coming from the residence. About midnight SWAT deployed several snipers who took up positions around the house.

The person inside the house was identified as Hugo Alvarez and police attempted to negotiate with him, calling his cell phone and using hailing devices (PA system) to get him to surrender peacefully. At no time did Alvarez respond to APD's efforts to establish a line of communication with him. During the time APD was trying to contact Alvarez, over the course of several hours, multiple gun shots were heard being fired from inside the house.

Just before 2 a.m., APD's bomb squad used a robot to breach the door of the residence, at which time another shot was fired from inside the house. The robot entered the house and showed images of Alvarez and an unknown person who was directly in front of him, moving down the hallway toward the front door. The operator of the robot broadcast "hostage" because it appeared Alvarez was using the unknown person (who was later identified as his mother) as a shield. The reference "hostage" was repeated twice and broadcast on radio traffic and was overheard by officers at the scene including Officer Judd. As they were walking towards the front door, Officer Judd heard the statement "coming out with a hostage" broadcast on the radio. Alvarez's mother exited the residence first with Alvarez following closely behind her. As Alvarez stepped outside the residence, Officer Judd fired one shot striking Alvarez. Alvarez was pronounced deceased on the scene at 2:10a.m.

The Special Grand Jury spent approximately sixteen hours reviewing evidence and heard testimony from multiple witnesses.

There is currently a federal lawsuit and a protective order regarding this case that prevents our office from releasing the usual press packet until the litigation is resolved.

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