

Dansie, Lynn

From: Brooks, Tammany
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Dansie, Lynn
Subject: FW: Officer Mike Mellone
Attachments: Summary of Michael Mellone Supp. Background Investigation.pdf

From: Brooks, Tammany
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:56 AM
To: City Council <Council2@ci.antioch.ca.us>
Cc: Bernal, Ron <rbernal@antiochca.gov>; Bayon Moore, Rosanna <rosannabmoore@antiochca.gov>; Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: Officer Mike Mellone

Good morning Mayor and members of council,

I am sending this email to advise you of the completion of the investigation into documents released by the City of San Francisco concerning Officer Mike Mellone, and his involvement in the line of duty shooting of Luis Gongora on April 7, 2016.

For a little background, Officer Mellone worked for the Antioch Police Department from 2006-2012. In 2012 he left us to become a police officer at SFPD. During his time at SFPD, Officer Mellone became a field training officer (2013), received a life-saving award for administering SFPD's first documented Narcan save of a person who had overdosed on drugs (2015), received a humanitarian award from Mayor Ed Lee (2015), was promoted to sergeant (2018), received a certificate of honor from the SF Board of Supervisors (2018), and was an award recipient at the San Francisco Rotary Emergency Services Day (2019).

In 2016, Officer Mellone was one of two officers who shot and killed Luis Gongora, when Gongora charged at the other officer armed with a large knife. This incident was investigated by SFPD, the San Francisco DA's Office, and the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (DPA). Each of these investigations determined the use of deadly force by both officers was justifiable. However, the SFPD and DPA investigations determined Officer Mellone violated a portion of a Departmental Bulletin concerning the use of the Extended Range Impact Weapon (beanbag shotgun). SFPD initially recommended Officer Mellone be retrained. The DPA, more than 3 years after the incident, recommended a 45 day suspension. Both of these findings were preliminary and not final, as now SFPD Sergeant Mellone had not yet been afforded his right to appeal the recommendations. The Departmental Bulletin in question has since been rescinded and is no longer part of SFPD policy.

I hired Officer Mellone back in August 2019. At that time he went through the same rigorous testing process as every other APD applicant. This included an oral interview, medical evaluation, polygraph test, psychological evaluation, and a thorough background investigation. As a side note, the Antioch Police Department is audited annually by the California Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to ensure our background investigations are conducted in accordance with POST standards. Officer Mellone passed all aspects of the hiring process. During the background investigation all available information concerning Officer Mellone's employment with SFPD, including the shooting of Gongora, was examined and vetted and no disqualifying information was identified.

In June 2020, the Antioch Police Department became aware of new documents released by SFPD pertaining to the Gongora shooting. These documents were not available during the initial background investigation and hiring of Officer

Mellone. Therefore, they were sent to our independent licensed contracted background investigator to inspect. The purpose of this review was to determine if any new information was provided that was not known to us at the time Officer Mellone was hired – and if there was, would any of the information have altered the ability for Officer Mellone to serve as a police officer.

Upon completion of this investigation it has been determined that no new evidence was identified, and Officer Mellone is still qualified to work as a police officer anywhere in the State of California. Please see the attached executive summary as confirmation of this fact.

I had originally reassigned Officer Mellone out of patrol until results of this investigation were known. Now that the investigation has been completed, he will return to his regular patrol duties beginning in January with my full support. Officer Mellone is a very caring and competent police officer who has spent his entire adult life working in law enforcement. And while some people have questioned his intentions or abilities based on limited information they know about one incident that occurred over 4 ½ years ago, I am completely confident in his abilities and know he has the right temperament, values, and character to serve as an Antioch Police Officer. If I didn't, I would not have hired him in the first place.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

T



Tammany Brooks III

Chief of Police

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