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To Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
From Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police *EDP*
Department Police
Date April 3, 2023
Subject Preliminary Report of March 27, 2023 Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred on March 27, 2023, in the 700 block of Cumberland Street. During this encounter, an individual later identified as Jorge Luis Vega-Lesama fired at multiple officers. In response, two officers discharged their department-issued firearms. Mr. Vega-Lesama was critically injured and later transported to a local hospital, where his death was pronounced by medical staff. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a criminal investigation of the shooting and will present a completed investigation directly to the Wake County District Attorney for review. The Detective Division of the Raleigh Police Department is conducting a separate investigation into the actions of Mr. Vega-Lesama, including multiple reports that he fired shots at vehicles prior to this incident and subsequent assaults on police officers. Additionally, the Raleigh Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is conducting an administrative investigation into the incident. When complete, the administrative investigation will be reviewed by members of the RPD Command Staff.

All investigations are ongoing, will be thorough, and will follow the available facts and evidence wherever they lead. Based on the information currently available to the Department, a preliminary review of the incident provides the following:

At approximately 6:53 a.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received a 911 call regarding a person near Ligon Magnet Middle School pointing a gun at passing vehicles. As officers with the Raleigh Police Department (RPD) were being dispatched to this initial call, ECC received additional calls. Multiple callers reported that the alleged suspect, identified as a black or Hispanic male wearing blue jeans and a white tank top, was standing in the middle of the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Coleman Street intersection while actively shooting at occupied vehicles. Two 911 callers reported that their vehicles were struck by gunfire by the shooter, including a caller whose children were in the vehicle. Another caller reported that the alleged suspect unsuccessfully attempted to open the car door of an occupied vehicle that was stopped at a traffic light. Multiple RPD officers throughout the City arrived in the general area of the middle school and surrounding residential area

beginning at approximately 6:57 a.m., in search of the alleged suspect. After becoming aware of the incident, the Wake County Public School System placed Ligon Magnet Middle School on a "Code Yellow" lockdown at approximately 7:00 a.m.

As officers searched the area, the alleged suspect was reportedly seen heading toward a nearby residential neighborhood on Cumberland Street. Sergeant R.A. Sirianna, his K-9 partner, Tiara, who was in the vehicle, and Officers M.L. Adams and P.J. Fernstrum arrived in the 700 block of Cumberland Street at approximately 7:06 a.m. Sergeant Sirianna was the first to arrive on the scene. Sergeant Sirianna saw Mr. Vega-Lesama, who matched the shooter's description, standing in front of a residence and attempted to notify the dispatcher of his location. As all three officers emerged from their respective patrol vehicles, Mr. Vega-Lesama began firing upon the officers, causing them to take cover behind their vehicles. At that time, a notification of "shots fired" was transmitted over the police radio. In response to the shots fired by Mr. Vega-Lesama, Officer Adams fired at him three times, then positioned himself behind Sergeant Sirianna's patrol car for cover. Mr. Vega-Lesama then fired additional shots in the direction of the officers before retreating behind the residence. Following the exchange of gunfire, Sergeant Sirianna notified the dispatcher, stating, "[the] suspect is actively firing at us; we have no line of sight." Shortly thereafter, while still holding the gun, Mr. Vega-Lesama moved towards the front of the residence by the driveway. As Mr. Vega-Lesama moved closer to Sergeant Sirianna's position, Sergeant Sirianna fired four shots at him, one of which resulted in a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

At approximately 7:07 a.m., Sergeant Sirianna relayed that the alleged suspect was down and called for Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"). Sergeant Sirianna and Officers Adams and Fernstrum all cautiously approached Mr. Vega-Lesama, who was on the ground in the driveway to the residence with a handgun and magazine lying next to him. Sergeant Sirianna kicked the handgun away as a precautionary measure, while Officers Adams and Fernstrum kept their respective weapons pointed at Mr. Vega-Lesama. EMS arrived at approximately 7:13 a.m. and transported Mr. Vega-Lesama to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Although multiple civilian and police vehicles were shot at or struck by gunfire, no officers or civilians sustained any injuries as a result of this incident. At approximately 7:25 a.m., the Wake County Public School System lifted the lockdown at Ligon Magnet Middle School.

Pursuant to Departmental policy, Sergeant R.A. Sirianna and Officers M.L. Adams and P.J. Fernstrum have been placed on administrative leave. All of the involved officers were in marked Raleigh Police vehicles and wearing their issued duty uniforms, including body-worn cameras. The body-worn cameras were operational during this encounter, as were the dash cameras from their marked patrol cars. As is standard protocol and in the spirit of transparency, the Department will seek the release of agency recordings that capture the officer-involved shooting in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4A.