



**STATE OF KANSAS  
Tenth Judicial District  
Steve Howe, District Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM:** District Attorney Steve Howe

**RE:** Lenexa Officer Involved Shooting June 22, 2025

**DATE:** October 9, 2025

---

**SYNOPSIS**

On June 22, 2025 at around 3:00 a.m. the Lenexa Police Department received a 911 call from a person who said that a tall Hispanic person in a blue shirt was holding a gun against the head of another person. This was occurring at the pool area at the Lenexa Crossings Apartments located at 12334 W. 97<sup>th</sup> Terrace. The caller said that she was in a car nearby.

Two Lenexa officers arrived minutes later and began to search the parking lot for the involved individuals. The officers saw a car with its lights on and approached it. Officer "A" approached the driver's door and saw a Hispanic male, later identified as Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon, in the driver's seat.

The officer immediately noticed a black handgun in Cartagena-Chacon's lap. Officer "A" ordered Cartagena-Chacon to put his hands in the air and not to touch the gun. Cartagena-Chacon picked up the gun. He then brought the gun up in a motion so the barrel was pointed toward the driver's door, where Officer "A" stood. Cartagena-Chacon then began to move the gun towards the front passenger door where Officer "B" stood. At that time Officer "A" fired his weapon multiple times, killing Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon. The Johnson County Officer Involved Critical Incident Investigative Team "OICIIT" was called to handle this investigation.

## SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FINDING

### **911 call: armed person pointing gun at victims**

On Sunday June 22, 2025 at around 3:00 a.m., Lenexa dispatch received a 911 call from a Spanish-speaking female. Lenexa used a "language line" Spanish interpreter to translate the call.

The conversation included the following statements, "she saw a guy shooting another guy in the pool." Very shortly thereafter the reporting party clarified that "he has not shoot [sic] him yet, he is just putting the gun on the head of the other guy, but nothing has happened yet. I'm just here, closer to the pool so please send the police now."

She went on to say, "There is only two guys, uh, the one that is having the gun, uh, on the face of the other one." She described the person with the gun as a "very tall, Hispanic male wearing a blue shirt..."

Based on this call, at 3:01 a.m. Lenexa officers "A" and "B" were dispatched to an "armed disturbance" at 12334 W. 97<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Lenexa Crossings apartment complex.

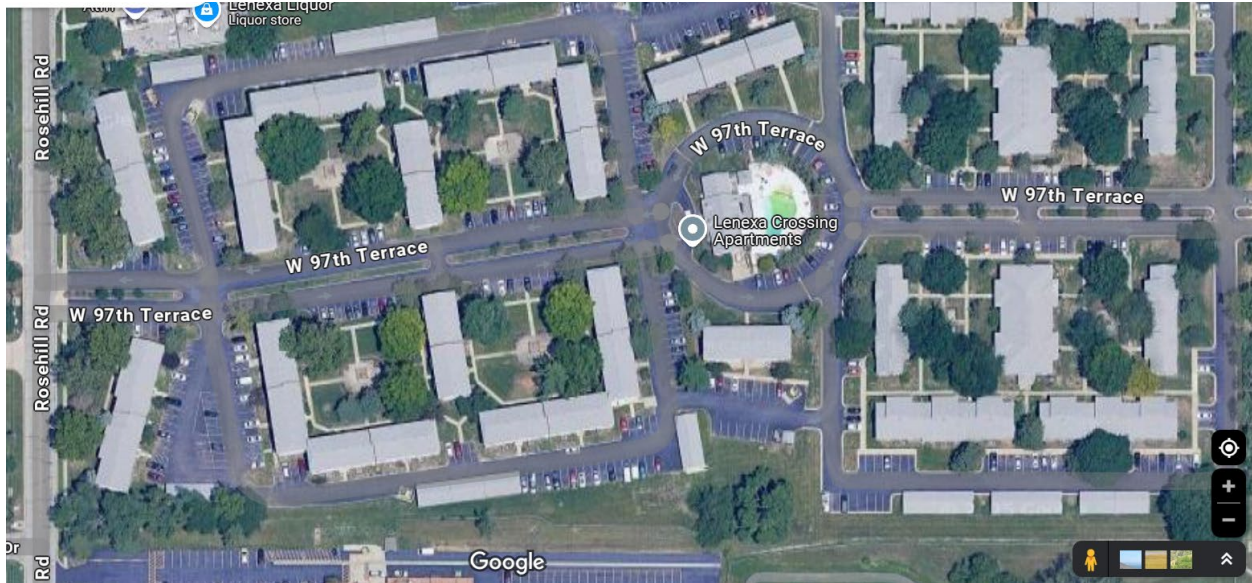
### **Police respond to apartment parking lot**

At 3:04 a.m., Officers "A" and "B" arrived at the east entrance to the Lenexa Crossings complex with their emergency lights on. The officers parked their marked police vehicles on 97<sup>th</sup> Terrace just east of the swimming pool area.

Both officers were dressed in standard issue uniforms that clearly identified them as law enforcement officers. Both officers had functioning body worn cameras. Officer "A" later told investigators that he was anticipating trouble, based on the type of call he was responding to. Both officers got out of their vehicles with their handguns already drawn.

When the officers began looking around, it was dark and quiet.

The following map is an overhead view of the scene. Both officers began to head north around the circular street using their flashlights, with guns drawn.



## The shooting

As Officer “A” was walking north around the pool parking lot he spotted a Volkswagen Jetta parked with its lights on. Officer “B” followed him a short distance away.

Officer “A” approached the driver’s door, believing this was the 911 caller. Dispatch had previously told them that the reporting party was in a car and could see what was going on. Officer “B” was behind the vehicle. At 3:04:19, Officer “A” was next to the driver’s door, inches away from the driver. The video showed that his flashlight was in his left-hand pointed at the driver’s window. He tapped the window, which was partially down, with his flashlight. The driver, later identified as Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon, looked up at Officer “A”. In his statement Officer “A” indicated that the driver appeared to be intoxicated: he had red, bloodshot, watery eyes and could smell alcohol “just reeking out of the car.”

While at the driver’s window Officer “A” observed a black handgun in the driver’s lap. At 3:04:20, Officer “A” pointed his handgun at the driver and began issuing orders: **“Put your fucking hands up. Put your fucking hands up or I’m gonna shoot you now. I see that gun. Keep your fucking hands up.”**

At the point that Officer "A" began issuing commands, the gun was in the driver's lap but not in his hands. Officer "B" went to the passenger side of the vehicle. The driver then placed his hand on the gun.

Then, at 3:04:27 the driver picked the gun up with his right hand and brought it up off his lap. The barrel was now pointed at the driver's side door. Officer "A" began backing up and continued issuing commands. Officer "B" was at the passenger front door and issued commands to put his hands up. The driver then shifted in his seat and moved his hand, with the handgun, towards the passenger door where Officer "B" was standing. Officer "A" began firing at 3:04:29. He fired eight rounds in quick succession. He stopped shooting at 3:04:31. As a result of Officer "A"'s actions Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon died of his injuries.

Minutes after the shooting Officer "A" said "Fuck buddy, I am so glad you're not shot right now, dude" A sergeant at the scene asked Officer "A" if the suspect was bringing it towards you? Officer "A" answered No, the driver was bringing it towards Officer "B".

#### **Statement of Officers "A" and "B"**

Officer "A" indicated that as he approached the Jetta, he believed it was the reporting party, and when he got to the driver's door and saw the gun: **"...I just remember thinking like...I just walked up on my suspect inadvertently."** **"When I walked up to the car and I see the gun I'm surprised."**

He went on to say that after issuing his commands that, **"I see the gun and I don't get anything response from him. He picks up the gun. I'm backing away from the car, I'm continuing to yell at him."**

**"The last thing I saw was, he was still sitting in the driver seat, he had the gun like this. And it looked like he was shifting his weight."**

**" I knew he wasn't going to have to aim, all he was going to have to do is just quickly bring it up because of how close we were. Our proximity to each other."**

**"He had full control over the firearm, and he had it up and ready. The last thing I thought was like he's about to shoot me and Officer "B". And then I discharge my firearm. He was going to kill us."**

Officer "B" during this time was on the passenger's side front door. He also saw the gun. He also saw the driver take the gun off his lap and bring the gun up pointed towards the driver's front door. Officer "B" also ordered Cartagena-Chacon to **"put his hands up, hey put your hands up."** He also saw the



driver swinging his arm towards the passenger side front door. As the driver's arm came towards him he heard the shots from Officer "A".

Officer "B" indicated, **"I felt like if that gun had come any further that I would have to use lethal force meaning shoot. I felt like that would have really been my only option. I don't know what that person would have been capable of."**

### **Evidence Recovered**

At the scene, the Johnson County crime lab recovered eight shell casings that were matched to the weapon used by Officer "A".

The weapon used by Cartagena-Chacon was also recovered. It was identified as a .177 caliber Umarex model Walther PPQ CO2 powered pellet gun that had a removable magazine and a moveable slide. This weapon looked just like a semiautomatic handgun. Below is the picture of the weapon.



The Autopsy determined that Cartagena-Chacon's cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds, from projectiles fired from Officer "A's" firearm. Mr. Cartagena-Chacon's blood alcohol level was .248.

### **Reporting Parties**

OICIIT interviewed two people who interacted with Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon in the hours leading up to the 911 call. They will be referred to as RP#1, who called 911, and RP#2.

They said that Cartagena-Chacon was invited over to hang out at the Lenexa Crossings pool Saturday night June 21, as he was friends with RP#2. When Cartagena-Chacon arrived that evening he already appeared under the influence of something. During the evening RP#2 and Cartagena-Chacon drank numerous beers. As the night unfolded Cartagena-Chacon's behavior became concerning to them. At some point Cartagena-Chacon pulled out the gun. He removed its magazine and moved its slide back multiple times. RP#1 recalled that Cartagena-Chacon said "it gives the feeling of wanting to kill somebody". He then pointed the gun at RP#2's side. RP#1 was scared by this behavior and tried to leave. Cartagena-Chacon stated "Where are you going? You're not going anywhere honey" and pressed the muzzle of the gun against her chest. She was terrified that she was going to be shot. Eventually she was able to leave.

RP#1's DNA was later found on the muzzle of Cartagena-Chacon's gun.

After RP#1 left, she began to receiving text messages from RP#2 indicating that he was afraid of being shot and to call the police. RP#2 texted RP#1 that Cartagena-Chacon pointed the gun at his chest and pulled the trigger three times. RP#2 later told RP#1 that Cartagena-Chacon said that he wanted to kill him and kill himself. RP#2 indicated that soon after making these comments Cartagena-Chacon walked to his car and RP#2 then got into his car and left. A short time later Lenexa officers arrived at the scene. Investigators recovered the text messages during these interviews.

## **Analysis**

### ***Applicable law***

#### **Officer's right to investigate**

Officer "A" responded to a 911 call for service. As such, he was allowed to approach, stop and question witnesses and suspects.

### *K.S.A. 22-2402 Stopping of suspect*

*Without making an arrest, a law enforcement officer may stop any person in a public place whom such officer reasonably suspects is committing, has committed or is about to commit a crime and may demand of the name, address of such suspect and an explanation of such suspect's actions.*

The 911 call for service provided the necessary reasonable suspicion to investigate pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2402. Officer “A” believed the person in the Jetta was a witness and had the right to approach and ask questions. When he saw the gun—which supported the 911 caller’s claims, his authority to demand things and to eventually frisk the suspect became even clearer. This scenario is a classic “Terry Stop” that was first set forth in *Terry v. Ohio* 392 U.S. 1, (1968). Officer “A” had a right to be where he was and do the things necessary to investigate the armed disturbance call. This also triggered his ability to defend himself.

### **Self-defense and reasonableness**

Officer “A” was not in the act of arresting Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon when he fired his duty weapon. Therefore, this case must be analyzed using basic Kansas self-defense principles and laws.

*K.S.A. 21-5222, Defense of a Person* states, in part:

*a) A person is justified in the use of force against another when and to the extent it appears to such person and such person reasonably believes that such use of force is necessary to **defend such person or a third person** against such other's imminent use of unlawful force.*

*(b) A person is justified in the use of deadly force under circumstances described in subsection (a) if such person reasonably believes that such use of deadly force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to **such person or a third person**.*

*(c) Nothing in this section shall require a person to retreat if such person is using force to **protect such person or a third person**.*

K.S.A. 21-5227 authorizes law enforcement officers to use force when “making a lawful arrest.” They need not retreat or desist from making the arrest in the face of resistance by the arrestee. Officers may use deadly force **if they reasonably believe that such force is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to themselves or others**. The linchpin is the “reasonableness” of the officer on the scene.

*Graham v. Connor*, 109 S. Ct. 1865 (1989), demands a “totality of the circumstances” approach to an officer’s use of force. It also defines what “reasonableness” should mean:

“The ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.

The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.”

Further, the ‘inquiry into the reasonableness of police force requires analyzing the ‘totality of the circumstances.’ *Barnes v. Felix*, 605 U.S. 73, 80; 145 S.Ct. 1352, 1358 (2025). “[D]eciding whether a use of force was objectively reasonable demands ‘careful attention to the facts and circumstances’ relating to the incident, as then known to the officer.”

“For example, the ‘severity of the crime’ prompting the stop can carry weight in analysis. [citations omitted.] So too can actions the officer took during the stop, such as giving warnings or otherwise trying to control the encounter. [citations omitted.] And the stopped person’s conduct is always relevant because it indicates the nature and level of the threat he poses, either to the officer or to others.”

In this instance officers responded to a call where they were told a person had pointed a gun at the head of another person. Additionally, Officers warned Cartagena-Chacon to keep his hands up and to not touch the gun. Despite these warnings Cartagena-Chacon moved the gun towards the officers.

“Most notably here, the ‘totality of the circumstances’ inquiry into a use of force has no time limit. ...earlier facts and circumstances may bear on how a reasonable officer would have understood and responded to later ones.” *Id.*

Kansas law requires a two-step analysis in any deadly-force self-defense claim. The claimant must have an *actual (subjective)* belief that using deadly force was necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to the claimant or someone else. That belief must be *reasonable (objective)*. See *State v. McCullough*, 293 Kan. 970, 270 P.3d 1142 (2015).

The standard is: what would a reasonable police officer do, if faced with the same facts and circumstances? Would a reasonable police officer believe that deadly force was needed?



### **Subjective belief prong**

Officer "A" clearly believed his life, and Officer "B"'s life was in danger when he made the decision to fire.

### **Objective facts prong**

These are the facts:

- Officer "A" was dispatched to an armed disturbance and was provided the following information before he arrived:
  - He was told it was occurring in the pool area;
  - He was told that one man was pointing a gun at another man's head;
  - The man with the gun was a very tall Hispanic wearing a blue shirt;
  - He was told that the reporting party was in a vehicle and could see what was happening.
- When Officer "A" arrived at the pool area of the apartment complex it was quiet and dark with no armed disturbance in sight;
  - He began searching the area using his flashlight which was scanning the pool area;
  - At this time his gun was up on his chest in a ready position;
  - Although he turned his siren off the video captured other sirens in the area and their emergency lights were still on.
- In the parking lot Officer "A" found a lone vehicle that had its lights on with a person inside;
- Officer "A" approached the vehicle in a posture that supported his belief that this was the reporting party and not the suspect;
  - He stated he believed he was approaching the witness;
  - Video showed him lowering his pistol as he approached the driver's side of the Jetta.
- Jorge Enrique Cartagena-Chacon was armed with a pistol;
  - The pistol appeared to be real: it was identical to a semi-automatic handgun that shoots bullets, not pellets;
  - The pistol was laying in Mr. Cartagena-Chacon lap;
  - The handgun was visible to Officer "A" and "B".

- Within a few seconds Officer “A” recognized that this was the armed suspect and not the reporting party;
  - In response Officers “A” and “B” began shouting commands;
  - They did not identify themselves as police officers;
  - Officer “A” raised his service weapon;
  - Mr. Cartagena-Chacon picked up the gun;
  - Officer “A” began backing up.
- Mr. Cartagena-Chacon ignored the commands of Officers “A” and “B”; Mr. Cartagena-Chacon picked up the gun and pointed it at the driver’s door;
  - Officer “A” saw Mr. Cartagena-Chacon shift his weight;
  - Officer “B” saw Mr. Cartagena-Chacon’s arm move the gun towards the passenger door where he was standing;
  - Officer “B” was backing up when the first shots were fired by Officer “A”.
- As Officer “A” began backing up he fired eight rounds into the Jetta;
  - The rounds went through the rear driver’s side window;
  - Several rounds impacted Mr. Cartagena-Chacon as he was seated in the vehicle.
- Officer “B” backed away and did not fire once Officer “A” began shooting.

### **Discussion/opinion**

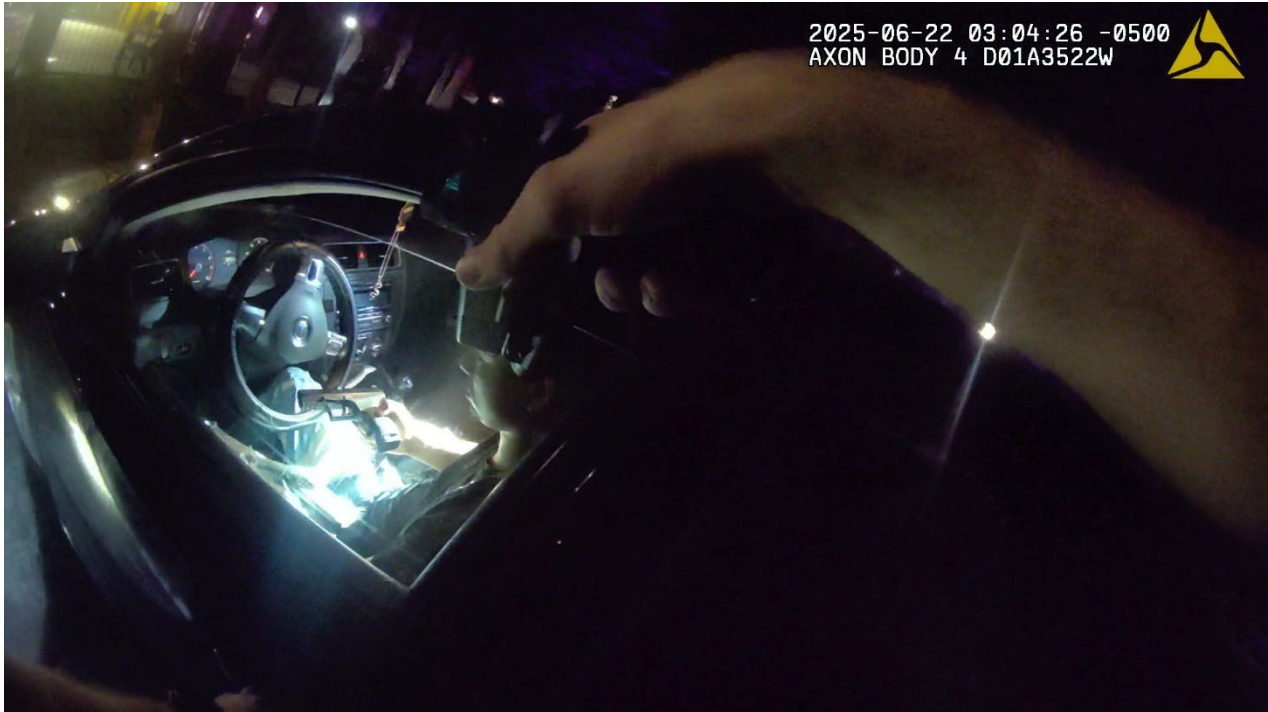
Officer “A” arrived at the Lenexa Crossings ready to deal with a suspect who was pointing a firearm at another person.

As he approached the complex, he unholstered his weapon and got out of his police car as fast as he could, preparing himself for a potential armed confrontation with a person using a firearm in a threatening manner.

What he found was...nothing. He scanned the area with his flashlight, gun ready. He saw no people. It was quiet, save for the sirens of the other police cars enroute.

Officer “A” walked to the right, with his gun up in a ready position. Then, he saw taillights lit up on a VW Jetta. As he told investigators, he believed this to be the reporting party. Officer “B”’s video captured this moment in time, as Officer “A” lowered his weapon and approached the driver’s side door with his gun down by his side. He relaxed.

In a split second, he realized his mistake: he had walked up within inches of the armed suspect who had a gun. He immediately shouted commands telling Cartagena-Chacon to not pick up the gun and put his hands up. Instead Cartagena-Chacon picked up the gun and began moving the gun so the barrel faced the driver's door, where officer "A" was standing. Cartagena-Chacon continued to ignore the shouted commands of Officer "A" and "B".



In a few split seconds, Officer "A" processed that he was in mortal danger, backed up and began firing.

**"The last thing I thought was like he's about to shoot me and Officer "B".. And then I discharge my firearm. He was going to kill us."**

**"I believe he was going to shoot me and Officer "B". It was like ice going through me. I was like 'fuck dude why'd you pick the gun up.' And when he was shifting, he was about to shoot me and Officer "B". And our reaction time was way behind him and that's when I discharged."**

The actions of the suspect: picking up the gun, moving the gun towards both officers, supported the officer "A"'s reasonable belief that he needed to use deadly force.

**Conclusion**

Lenexa Officer "A" reasonably believed that his life and the life of Officer "B" was in danger when Cartagena-Chacon picked up the handgun despite repeated commands by both officers. He then pointed the gun towards Officer "A". Objective facts supported his belief that deadly force was necessary to protect himself and Officer "B". Therefore, his use of deadly force which resulted in the death of Jose Enrique Cartagena-Chacon was justified under Kansas Law.