

NMSP officer involved in shooting near Prewitt, N.M.

Written by gallupsun
Thursday, 28 April 2022 13:50

The name of a New Mexico State Police Officer has now been released after a shooting that happened on April 16.

On April 16, 2022, the New Mexico State Police Investigations Bureau was called to investigate an officer-involved shooting on Interstate 40, milepost 64, near Prewitt, N.M.

Officers learned that around 11:56 am, New Mexico State Police Officer Corey Newman was dispatched to the area for a welfare check on a male slumped over the steering wheel of a brown BMW passenger car. The officer arrived and made contact with the male, who was later identified as Oliver Ashley Toledo Saldivar, 26, of North Carolina. Unbeknownst to the officer, Saldivar was the suspect in a homicide that occurred in Durham, North Carolina, just days earlier on April 12.

As Newman approached the BMW, Saldivar got out of the vehicle and locked the doors. The officer asked Saldivar to stand on the passenger side of his marked patrol vehicle while he got some information. Saldivar walked over to the officer's patrol unit and then reached for a black object that he had concealed in his jacket pocket. Newman immediately backed up and drew his duty weapon, but Saldivar charged the officer and tackled him.

During the attack, Newman fired at least one shot from his gun, striking Saldivar. After the gunshot was fired Saldivar continued to fight Newman and tried to grab his gun. As the two struggled, Saldivar bit the back of Newman's arm.

At this point, Saldivar had managed to retrieve a gun from his jacket. He was holding the gun in his hand, attempting to chamber a round into the weapon. Newman wrestled the suspect's gun away from him and threw it to the side.

A passing semi-truck driver saw Saldivar fighting with Newman and stopped to assist. The trucker observed the suspect's gun on the ground, threw it out of his reach, and helped the officer take him into custody. Once the suspect was in custody the officer called for an ambulance and medical aid was rendered to Saldivar.

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Saldivar died at the scene.

Newman suffered bite injuries to the back of his left arm. He was placed on standard administrative leave. He has four years of law enforcement experience with the New Mexico State Police.

The New Mexico State Police Investigations Bureau agents work to independently determine the series of events leading to the shooting, including collecting evidence and conducting interviews. Throughout the process, investigative findings are shared with the district attorney for their review and consideration.

The New Mexico State Police acts solely as factfinders in its cases and does not determine whether the actions of an officer were justified in these types of matters. That decision rests with the district attorney's office. This incident remains under investigation by the New Mexico State Police.



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