

PUBLIC SAFETY QUESTIONS: Done as soon as practical.

-Is there an outstanding suspect? If so, where is he/she and what is their description? Is he lying in ambush somewhere? How long ago did they flee? What weapons are they armed with?

-Was the officer or anyone else injured that may need assistance?

-Where is the crime scene? May be apparent, but maybe not. Where was the initial contact and are there other locations?

-Did you fire your weapon? If shots were fired, which direction were they fired?

-Who are my witnesses? May not need to be asked, but evidence and people need to be gathered as quickly as possible.

We truly need to focus on public safety, officer safety, and crime scene information.

If an officer refuses to give a statement related to public safety (which they can), supervisors need to evaluate if they need to order or “coerce” a statement from the officer. This may eliminate those statements from being used by the District Attorney in review but may still be used for administrative (internal) investigations and a civil case later.

Things that may need to be explained:

-Crime scene needs to be protected to prevent errors in the investigation.

-Pointing out involved parties and witnesses, describing outstanding suspects and their direction of travel and mode of flight.

-Direction of shots fired to ensure there are no other injuries.

-How are these statements going to harm you for a criminal prosecution? You are not talking about the substance of the incident.