

Use of Force Reporting for Unlawful Assemblies, Protests, and Demonstrations

June 10, 2025

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at approximately 9:00 p.m., the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) responded to assist the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) with crowd control at a protest near the intersection of 1st Street and Bristol Avenue in the City of Santa Ana. OCSD deputies, along with SAPD officers, were present to support public safety efforts and to help ensure participants could safely exercise their First Amendment rights. The protest involved an estimated 300 individuals, with approximately 100 law enforcement personnel deployed. The Santa Ana Police Department declared the gathering an unlawful assembly after members of the crowd began throwing rocks, glass bottles, and fireworks toward officers and deputies. Multiple dispersal orders were issued using a public address system in an effort to de-escalate the situation and reduce the need for force. After these efforts were unsuccessful and individuals continued to pose a threat to law enforcement personnel, SAPD deployed OC gas canisters to disperse the crowd. During the incident, one protester picked up an OC gas canister and attempted to throw it at the law enforcement skirmish line. In response, an OCSD deputy deployed one 40mm kinetic energy projectile (foam baton round) toward the individual to protect nearby officers. The subject was not struck by the less-lethal projectile and fled the scene. There were no reported or documented injuries to members of the public or law enforcement personnel during this incident.

At approximately 10:45 p.m., deputies remained positioned on a skirmish line near the intersection of 1st Street and Bristol Avenue. During this time, multiple protesters were observed throwing or launching projectile-style fireworks in the direction of law enforcement personnel. A deputy identified one subject assaulting law enforcement with these fireworks. In response, the deputy deployed approximately five pepperball rounds toward the subject. The rounds struck a vehicle adjacent to the subject, which caused the subject to stop his assault and he fled the area. There were no reported or documented injuries to members of the public or law enforcement personnel as a result of this deployment.