

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

JUNE 14, 2025

On Sunday, June 14, 2025, at approximately 12:15 a.m., the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) responded to assist the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) with a protest near the intersection of 4th Street and Broadway 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. An estimated 500 individuals were in attendance. Six OCSD deputies were deployed as a React Team to assist Mobile Field Force operations already active in the area, which were led by SAPD. The protest was declared an unlawful assembly by the Santa Ana Police Department after individuals in the crowd began throwing dangerous projectiles at law enforcement officers. Specifically, deputies observed and were targeted with multiple glass bottles filled with unknown liquids and mortarstyle aerial fireworks being launched in their direction. These items posed a significant threat of great bodily injury or death. Dispersal orders were issued through a public address system from a Bearcat vehicle positioned behind the skirmish line, following the formal declaration of unlawful assembly. Prior to the use of force, deputies made multiple de-escalation efforts. In response to the assaults, deputies deployed approximately 55 pepper ball rounds to protect themselves and others. The deployment of pepper balls successfully dispersed the crowd, and individuals responsible for the assaults fled the area. No injuries to members of the public or law enforcement personnel were reported.