Michael L. Rains, SBN 091013 1 **ENDORSED** RAINS LUCIA STERN, PC FILED 2 2300 Contra Costa Boulevard, Suite 230 ALAMEDA COUNTY Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 3 Telephone: 925.609.1699 APR 2 3 2010 Facsimile: 925.609.1690 Email: mrains@rlslawyers.com 4 5 Attorneys for Defendant JOHANNES MEHSERLE 6 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 10 11 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF AOC# 1009606-10 CALIFORNIA, Alameda County Superior Court Case #161210 12 Plaintiff. 13 **DEFENDANT JOHANNES MEHSERLE'S MOTIONS** IN LIMINE 14 JOHANNES MEHSERLE, 15 Defendant. 16 17 Defendant Johannes Mehserle hereby in limine as follows: 18 19 1. TO REQUIRE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND PROSECUTION WITNESSES TO REFER TO OSCAR GRANT BY NAME, RATHER THAN REFERRING TO HIM AS THE VICTIM 20 The prosecution no doubt believes that Oscar Grant is the victim of a crime. In fact, until 21 twelve jurors convict defendant Mehserle of a crime, such references by the prosecution or its 22 witnesses would be unnecessarily argumentative, distracting, and inaccurate. For that reason the 23 Court should insist that the DA and its witnesses refer to Mr. Grant by name. 24 In the event the Court denies the motion, defendant reserves the right, and there should be 25 no objection, to the defense referring to Mr. Grant as the suspect or the arrestee. In fact, such 26 references are more literally accurate than referring to Grant as the victim, which assumes a crime 27 has been committed. 28

2. To Require the District Attorney and Prosecution Witnesses to Refer to Defendant Mehserle as Officer Mehserle

At the time of all relevant events in this case, Johannes Mehserle was not a defendant, he was not a suspect—he was a BART police officer. The parties and witnesses therefore should be required to refer to the defendant as Officer Mehserle during this trial.

Doing so will have one important benefit unrelated to accuracy. Elsewhere Mehserle will argue that for various reasons relating to Mehserle's Fifth Amendment rights, evidence relating to employment actions taken against Mehserle should be excluded. By requiring that the parties refer to the defendant as *Officer Mehserle*, the Court will avoid any speculation by jurors regarding Mehserle's refusal to provide a statement to BART investigators, employment actions taken against Mehserle as a result of that decision or for any other reason, and the significance of such employment actions.

3. To Require the District Attorney to Admonish His Witnesses Not to Refer to the Grant Shooting as a Murder

In the days and weeks following Oscar Grant's death, members of the media, community leaders, religious leaders, and local, state, and national politicians, referred to the event as a murder, and in some cases an execution. Strictly speaking, of course, *murder* is an abstraction—a label we use to describe a particular confluence of act and mental state as to which the legislature has imposed a particular prison sentence. In fact, a homicide does not become properly classifiable as a murder until twelve jurors agree that the prosecution has satisfied the elements of Penal Code §187 beyond a reasonable doubt.

In this case the use of the word *murder* to describe the event is particularly prejudicial where the defendant is a police officer who shot a resisting suspect. But various individuals who will likely appear as prosecution witnesses have used the word—in interviews, at the preliminary hearing—to describe the events of January 1, 2009. Mehserle therefore seeks an order of this Court directing the District Attorney to admonish its witnesses, both lay and expert, not to use the word in their testimony.

4. To Preclude Spectators from Wearing Buttons, Ribbons, or any Other Signs of Partisanship During the Trial

As the Court is aware, the Grant shooting and the resulting prosecution have garnered massive and unprecedented community and media attention. As a result of that attention, and of violence that arose in Alameda County after the shooting, the matter was transferred to this Court. But given that demonstrations by groups and other supporters of Oscar Grant in favor of Mehserle's conviction have persisted, and will no doubt intensify during the trial, there is the real risk that jurors could be unduly influenced. In an effort to avoid such an invalid impact on Mehserle's right to a fair and impartial jury, a weakening of the presumption of innocence, and potential interference with the defendant's Sixth Amendment confrontation rights, the defendant moves the Court to preclude spectators seated in the gallery from wearing buttons, ribbons, or any other signs that suggest they support either the prosecution or the defense.

There can be no doubt that the Court has the power to control its courtroom and thus to impose such a restriction. See Richmond Newspapers, Inc. v. Virginia (1980) 448 U.S. 555, 564 (recognizing superiority of defendant's right to a fair trial over first amendment rights of nonparticipants). Because the presumption that a defendant is innocent until proved guilty is a "basic component of a fair trial under our system of criminal justice," "courts must be alert to factors that may undermine the fairness of the fact-finding process" and "must carefully guard against dilution of the principle that guilt is to be established by probative evidence and beyond a reasonable doubt." Estelle v. Williams (1976) 425 U.S. 501, 503.

Courts have long recognized two problems that arise when spectators with an obvious view that the defendant should be convicted are permitted to display signs of that view in the presence of the jurors. First, such a practice undermines the presumption of innocence. *See, e.g., Norris v. Risley* (9th Cir. 1990) 918 F.2d 828, 831 (buttons worn by women attending a rape trial "constituted a continuing reminder that various spectators believed the defendant's guilt before it was proven, eroding the presumption of innocence.")

Second, the display of such signs impacts a defendant's Sixth Amendment right of confrontation. See Norris, 918 F.2d at 833 ("failing to exclude the buttons interfered with the

defendant's constitutional right to be accused from the 'witness stand in a public courtroom where there is full judicial protection' of the rights of confrontation and cross-examination'"), quoting *Turner v. Louisiana* (1965) 379 U.S. 466, 472-73.

Defendant looks forward to a fair public trial before twelve unbiased jurors. He believes that an important means of ensuring such a fair trial and avoiding the undue influence of spectators on the jury is for the Court to insist that those observing the proceedings keep their views to themselves.

5. TO ADMIT EVIDENCE OF PRIOR MISCONDUCT BY OSCAR GRANT, GRANT'S PROBATIONARY STATUS IN 2007, HIS PAROLE STATUS AT THE TIME OF THE 2009 SHOOTING, AND THE FACT THAT GRANT HAD BEEN DRINKING IN THE HOURS PRIOR TO THE SHOOTING

Defendant anticipates that the DA will move to exclude (a) evidence relating to Grant's 2007 arrest and conviction for gun possession, including the fact that Grant was a felon on probation at the time of that arrest, (b) proof that at the time of the January 1, 2009, shooting Grant was on parole release after his conviction for the 2007 gun arrest, and (c) evidence that Grant had been drinking alcohol in the hours before the shooting, as proven by his elevated blood alcohol level.

As will appear, this evidence is both highly relevant and unquestionably admissible.

Moreover, its probative value far outweighs any prejudice to the prosecution, and its admission will not lead to undue consumption of time or juror confusion. Finally, exclusion of the evidence would amount to federal due process error.

a. Evidence Relating to Grant's 2007 Arrest and Conviction for Gun Possession and His Probationary Status at the Time of that Arrest

Just over two years before the shooting, Oscar Grant and two friends were riding in a car in San Leandro. (Exhibit A, Police Report). At the time, Grant was on felony probation, having been convicted for a narcotics offense in early 2006. Police made a traffic stop. The officer saw what he believed to be a handgun in Grant's pocket, though Grant denied that he was armed. Grant opened the rear passenger door and took off running. Police gave chase, ordering Grant to stop, but he did not.

Eventually the police used a TASER. It hit Grant, causing him to fall to the ground. Grant tried to get rid of the gun. With Grant now on the ground, officers ordered him to show his hands, but Grant refused to show his left arm or hand. An officer had to kick Grant several times to get him to comply. Finally the officers arrested and cuffed Grant. Police eventually recovered his gun—a loaded .380 caliber pistol.

Following the arrest, police discovered that Grant's probationary status, and therefore charged him for the following offenses: (a) §12021(a)(1)(felon in possession of a firearm, (b) §12025(a)(1)(felon in possession of a concealed firearm in a vehicle), (c) §12031(a) (convicted felon in possession of a loaded firearm), and (d) 148(a)(1)(resisting arrest).

Following the 2007 arrest and various gun and resisting charges, Grant again pled guilty—this time to the §12021(a)(1), felon in possession of a firearm count, and was sentenced to sixteen months in state prison. The conviction was his third felony conviction. Grant was released on parole in August 2007 and remained on parole on January 1, 2009.

The preliminary hearing judge excluded evidence of the gun incident, holding that unless Mehserle took the stand, the evidence was inadmissible. The magistrate cited no authority for such a proposition. And in deciding defendant's §995 motion the Superior Court acknowledged the ruling was erroneous.

Section §1103 says this: "(a) In a criminal action, evidence of the character or a trait of character (in the form of an opinion, evidence of reputation, or evidence of specific instances of conduct) of the victim of the crime for which the defendant is being prosecuted is not made inadmissible by Section 1101 if the evidence is: . . . Offered by the defendant to prove conduct of the victim in conformity with the character or trait of character."

In other words, a criminal defendant can offer evidence that the victim in the case has a bad character, including evidence of prior bad acts by the victim, so long as that evidence is offered to prove that the victim acted in conformity with that character trait at the time of the charged offense.

¹ Grant was arrested again for drug and vehicular offenses in June of 2008. He was returned to state prison until September of 2008. Defendant does not seek to introduce those offenses into evidence.

That, of course, is precisely the situation here. Mehserle's position is that Grant behaved in such a way—vigorously resisting arrest—so as to justify the officer's decision to employ a TASER. Similarly, as the Court will learn, the defense position is that because Grant would not give up his arms, and appeared to be moving one arm toward the waistband of his pants, Mehserle believed Grant might be going for a gun. It was that belief that caused Mehserle to decide to use a TASER, just as the officer did when the armed Grant refused to comply with police orders in October 2006.

Under Evidence Code §1103(a) Mehserle is entitled use evidence of Grant's character in support of his defense. Defendant is entitled to place before the jurors circumstantial evidence—in the form of specific prior bad acts—that Grant is the *sort of person* or had the *sort of character* that would lead him to behave during the relevant events in the manner asserted by the defense—resisting arrest, possibly due to his probationary status, refusing to give up his arms during an attempted arrest, and vigorously resisting arrest.

Longstanding California law supports the admission of the evidence precisely as described. Indeed, California courts have held that the right of a defendant to offer the evidence of the alleged victim's character for violence—which, of course, is precisely the type of evidence at issue here—rises to a due process right under the federal constitution. *People v. Mizchele* (1983) 142 Cal.App.3d 686, 691, citing *Chambers v. Mississippi* (1973) 410 U.S. 284, 302.

In *Mizchele*, the defendant was accused of killing his wife. He claimed at trial that during an argument he picked up his wife's coat in an effort to remove a gun he knew was inside the jacket to avoid her using it— the gun went off accidentally. The trial court excluded evidence that the wife had been violent in the past, including on occasions with others than the defendant. The court of appeal reversed, holding that the evidence was admissible on Mizhele's defense that the shooting had been an unintentional accident. 142 Cal.App.3d at 691.

Most important to this Court's analysis is the fact that the evidence in *Mizchele* of the victim's character was deemed admissible on *two distinct bases*. First, the evidence was admissible to prove the defendant's state of mind at the time of the offense. So, for example, where a defendant asserts self-defense, and is aware that the victim has acted violently in the past,

the victim's violent history has powerful relevance to the defendant's state of mind and therefore his intent at the time of the alleged offense. See People v. Rowland (1968) 262 Cal.App.2d 790, 797 ("It has long been recognized that where self-defense is raised in a homicide case, evidence of the aggressive and violent character of the victim is admissible.")

At the preliminary hearing, the magistrate took the view that because Mehserle did not testify he could not say he was aware of Grant's prior offense. And if the basis for admission described above—that is, state of mind—were the only one relied up by *Mizchele*, the court would have been right.

But there was a separate and entirely independent basis for admission. Notwithstanding the defendant's awareness of victim's violent history, the *Mizchele* court held the evidence admissible under §1103(a) to prove that the victim acted violently on the occasion of the charged offense—that is, that the victim acted in conformity with a character for violence proven by his prior bad acts. *See also People v. Rowland* (1968) 262 Cal.App.2d 790, 797. The ruling in no way relied on the defendant's awareness of the prior bad acts, and exclusion of the evidence amounted to due process error without regard for the defendant's awareness of the character evidence.

Thus, contrary to the magistrate's view, it makes no difference whatsoever whether Mehserle was aware of Grant's prior acts of resistance, probationary status, and gun possession. Under longstanding California law, because the character evidence (here in the form of prior bad acts) was offered to prove that Grant behaved in conformity with that character trait during the incident that led to criminal charges against Mehserle, it was admissible without regard to Mehserle's awareness. And, as in *Mizchele*, any exclusion of the evidence interfered with Mehserle's right to present a defense and therefore would comprise federal due process error.

To see how clearly this rule is established and how the magistrate's ruling ran afoul of the evidence code, turn the tables for a moment. Assume for the moment that a hypothetical defendant, Smith, was charged with assault on Officer Mehserle. Can this Court say that Smith, in an effort to assert self-defense, would not be able to offer evidence that Officer Mehserle had

improperly used force on ten defendants in the past if he could not prove that he was aware of those incidents at the time he assaulted Mehserle?

As California courts have long held, Smith would indisputably be entitled to offer such evidence under § 1103(a). See, e.g., Lemelle v. Superior Court (1978) 77 Cal.App.3d 148 (Evidence of officer's tendency to violence, whether in the form of opinion, evidence of reputation, or evidence of specific acts of conduct, is admissible in prosecution in which defendant is charged with battery on a police officer and resisting arrest.); Kelvin L. v. Superior Court (1976) 62 Cal.App.3d 823 (evidence of prior acts of unwarranted or excessive violence by arresting officer would be admissible at juvenile's trial for battery on police officer on issue of self-defense.)

As appears, the evidence of Grant's 2007 gun arrest and his probationary status at the time of that arrest is admissible. As noted, its exclusion would comprise federal due process error.

Neither should the court exclude the evidence pursuant to Evidence Code §352. The defense will present a single witness on the subject—the officer who stopped and arrested Grant and who eventually recovered the gun. The testimony should not be long: the officer will describe the events, and will testify as to Grant's probationary status. There is no need for the jurors to learn why Grant was on probation in late 2006.

The evidence is highly probative on the subject of Grant's character—indeed, in some respects the incidents are early similar: in both instances Grant, subject to serious sanction due to his probationary/parole status, refused to comply with police orders and resisted arrest, in both cases he refused to give up his arms for cuffing, and in both cases Grant's resistance to detention and/or arrest compelled officers to use force in the form of a TASER.

The evidence is not at all prejudicial. Although the incident does not make Grant look like an angel, neither does it so besmirch his character that any juror is likely to acquit simply because of Grant's criminal history. Rather, the evidence allows the jurors to understand who Grant was, and the sort of decisions he might have made on January 1, 2009, regarding willingness to be arrested without use of force by police.

Finally, nothing about the evidence would confuse or distract the jurors—it is being introduced on the central issue in the case: did Grant resist arrest on January 1, 2009, such that Mehserle was justified in deciding to use his TASER.

b. Evidence that Grant Was on Parole at the Time of the 2009 Shooting

Evidence that Grant was on parole at the time of the 2009 shooting is admissible for similar reasons and under the same authorities. Likewise, exclusion of the evidence would amount to federal due process error. Finally, evidence of Grant's parole status should not be precluded under §352.

Again, a key factual dispute in this case is whether Grant was actively resisting arrest during the January 1, 2009, incident, thus justifying Mehserle's decision to use his TASER. In that regard, the jurors may reasonably ask themselves why Grant did not simply allow himself to be arrested. The clearest answer to that question is that perhaps more than anyone on the platform that night, Grant had reason to avoid arrest—had would almost certainly have been headed back to state prison.

Grant ran during the 2006 gun arrest because he was on probation and was a felon and knew that if he were caught he would likely be going to state prison. He refused to be detained, ran, leading to the use of a TASER. Grant then continued to resist, refusing to give up his arms for cuffing. The police officer involved had to kick Grant in order to get him to submit.

As noted, Grant's circumstance was more problematic in January 2009—he was on parole, and he was no doubt aware that if he were arrested for resisting arrest or for fighting, there was a substantial likelihood that he would be sent back to San Quentin.

Defendant has a federal due process right to offer proof of Grant's motive to resist on January 1, 2009—such proof being circumstantial proof that Grant *did* resist up to the time of the shooting—but defendant cannot meaningfully do so without introducing evidence that Grant was on parole at the time. Such evidence can be introduced quickly, and in a manner that need not be unduly prejudicial or confusing to the jury.

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c. Evidence that Grant Had Been Drinking Alcohol in the Hours Before the 2009 Shooting

One of Grant's parole conditions was that he "totally abstain from the use or possession of any alcoholic beverages, liquors, or self-prescribed medications with alcohol." Toxicology reports done at Highland hospital after shooting establish that, Grant had been drinking in the hours prior to the shooting. Thus, Grant knew that if he were detained and his blood alcohol tested, he would be found to have violated his parole conditions and would be subject to reincarceration.

As with Grant's parole status, the fact that he was drinking is relevant not because it makes Grant look bad—it was New Years Eve, after all—but rather because it explains his conduct. Again, Mehserle is entitled to offer circumstantial evidence that Grant resisted arrest up to the time of the shooting in form of proof that he had a strong motivation to do so. Because of the no alcohol parole condition, Grant had a powerful reason to avoid detention and arrest—if the police discovered he had been drinking, the consequence would have been a trip back to state prison.

As with the evidence discussed above, there is nothing so complicated or confusing or prejudicial about these facts that would make them excludable under §352. But the evidence is critical to Mehserle's defense with regard to perhaps the central factual dispute in the case. For that reason, and relying on the foregoing authorities, the exclusion of evidence that Grant had been drinking would amount to federal due process error.

6. TO ADMIT EVIDENCE THAT OSCAR GRANT WAS INVOLVED IN A FIGHT ON THE BART TRAIN, WHICH INCIDENT PRECIPITATED HIS DETENTION AND ARREST

Although the incident was the subject of much testimony at the preliminary hearing during both the prosecution and defense cases, and was discussed in detail in the prosecution's trial brief, defendant presumes in making this motion that the prosecution will seek to exclude pursuant to §352 evidence that Oscar Grant was involved in a fight on the BART train on January 1, 2009. It was, of course, that incident that led the train operator to summon police, which led to the detention of Grant and his friends, and which ultimately precipitated Grant's arrest. The incident

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is therefore relevant simply to explain what preceded and precipitated the events on the BART platform.

It is true, of course, that Grant was not arrested for fighting; rather, Officer Pirone informed Mehserle that Grant was under arrest for resisting. But without informing the jury of the reason for the original detention, the conduct of the officers in this case—that is, those who began the detention, and ultimately Mehserle, who entered late in the process—would appear to be irrational. Without evidence of the train fight, the jury will be left to speculate about the reason for the detention. The evidence is highly probative.

Evidence that Grant fought on the train, like the evidence that he was on parole at the time of the shooting, is also relevant and admissible under §1103 as evidence of his character for violence and aggression. It is also relevant to establish circumstantially Grant's awareness that if the police detained him for fighting or some other violent behavior, as was true of his use of alcohol, he would have been subject to parole violation and thus incarceration in state prison.

The fight evidence is also not particularly consumptive of time or prejudicial or confusing. The proof will be straightforward, although there is some disagreement about the seriousness of the fight. As with the gun offense and probationary/parole evidence, while the BART train fight does not make Grant look particularly good, it also would not demonize him in a way that would unduly prejudice the state. And there is nothing about the evidence that would confuse or distract the jurors. Indeed, as noted, the jurors require education on how Grant and the others ended up on the platform, and there is no way to explain that circumstance without informing them of the fight.

7. TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BART OFFICER ANTHONY PIRONE AND BART OFFICER MARYSOL DOMENICI

Officer Anthony Pirone and Officer Marysol Domenici were the two BART officers who arrived at the Fruitvale BART station in response to the call of a fight on the train. There have been allegations in the civil case in this matter that they were sexually involved with each other and that some of the actions they took that night were because of their relationship.

The evidence is entirely irrelevant to any matter in dispute in this case. Also, evidence of any nature that Officers Pirone and Domenici had a relationship should be excluded pursuant to Evidence Code § 352, because its admission will (a) necessitate undue consumption of time and (b) create substantial danger of undue prejudice, of confusing the issues, and of misleading the jury.

In order to establish if the allegations are true, the court would have to conduct a mini-trial regarding the private lives of Officer Pirone and Officer Domenici. This would necessitate undue consumption of time.

Further, any evidence of their relationship is likely to create substantial danger of undue prejudice, confuse the issues, and mislead the jury, because the central issue here is whether defendant intended to draw and fire a TASER instead of a gun. The proffered evidence has no significance to this vital issue or any other issues in the case against defendant. *People v. Rodrigues* (1994) 8 Cal.4th 1060, 1124-1125.

8. TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF BART EMPLOYMENT ACTIONS AGAINST OFFICER ANTHONY PIRONE AND OFFICER MARYSOL DOMENICI

Following the shooting of Oscar Grant, BART commenced an administrative investigation that has resulted in the imposition of discipline against Officers Pirone and Domenici. Like assertions of a romantic relationship between the officers, evidence relating to their employment status or any discipline imposed has no probative value whatsoever as to any matter in dispute in this case.

Moreover, the evidence should be excluded pursuant to Evidence Code § 352, because its admission will (a) necessitate undue consumption of time and (b) create substantial danger of undue prejudice, of confusing the issues, and of misleading the jury.

The court would have to conduct a mini-trial regarding BART's Internal Affairs investigation of Officer Pirone and Officer Domenici. This would necessitate undue consumption of time.

Further, any evidence of the labor actions is likely to create substantial danger of undue prejudice, confuse the issues, and mislead the jury, because the central issue here is whether

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 defendant intended to draw and fire a TASER instead of a gun. The proffered evidence has no significance to this vital issue or any other issues in the case against defendant. *People v. Rodrigues* (1994) 8 Cal.4th 1060, 1124-1125.

9. TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE WHICH REFERS TO OR RELIES ON THE MEYERS NAVE REPORT DATED JULY 31, 2009 PREPARED FOR BART

BART hired the law firm of Meyers Nave to investigate the actions of the officers present during the incident in question to determine if they acted within policy and procedure. In a report dated July 31, 2009, Meyers Nave made findings and recommendations, which focused primarily on Officer Pirone's and Officer Domenici's conduct. Meyers Nave was not hired to determine if Officer Mehserle intended to fire a TASER as opposed to a gun.

Defendant anticipates that the District Attorney intends to offer the report, or portions of that report. The report should be excluded as inadmissible hearsay. Also, the report is irrelevant to any issue in dispute in this case. It should also be excluded pursuant to Evidence Code § 352, because its admission will (a) necessitate undue consumption of time and (b) create substantial danger of undue prejudice, of confusing the issues, and of misleading the jury.

In order to establish if Meyers Nave's findings are correct, the court would have to conduct a mini-trial regarding the accuracy of the information proffered by Meyers Nave in reaching its conclusions. This would necessitate undue consumption of time. Its use in this case could prejudice Mehserle as a result of its criticism of BART policing in general, but has little probative value on any issue in dispute in this case.

The criminal case does not concern whether the Meyers Nave firm concluded that Officer Pirone's or Officer Domenici's conduct was inappropriate that night, whether the parties worked properly as a team, whether the parties communicated properly to each other, or whether BART's policies invite transparency and accountability. The report thus has no relevance in this proceeding.

Finally, introduction of the report, which relies on the testimony of various witnesses and experts, would raise serious hearsay and Sixth Amendment confrontation problems as well, all of which would have to be sorted out before the Report or any part of it was placed into evidence.

10. To Exclude Evidence or Testimony Regarding Officer Mehserle "Fleeing" to Nevada

Defendant anticipates that the District Attorney may attempt to present evidence that Officer Mehserle "fled" to Nevada after the incident, to show a consciousness of guilt. The District Attorney's own actions, detailed below, indicate that the District Attorney knew the defendant did not "flee" to Nevada. Indeed, former DA Orloff made a public statement that his office did not consider the fact that Mehserle was arrested in Nevada to comprise evidence that Mehserle was attempting to avoid detention, arrest, or trial.

Any evidence of defendant going to Nevada should be excluded pursuant to Evidence Code § 352, because its admission will (a) necessitate undue consumption of time and (b) create substantial danger of undue prejudice, of confusing the issues, and of misleading the jury.

In order to establish if defendant "fled" to Nevada, the court would have to conduct a lengthy trial-within-a-trial regarding the circumstances surrounding defendant's decision to leave California. If the District Attorney is allowed to go forward with this evidence, defendant will defend his actions by presenting evidence (a) of the death threats against him; (b) that the District Attorney knew he could reach defendant through his attorney at any time but, instead, chose to engage in inappropriate and unlawful conduct to try to obtain a statement from defendant; (c) that the District Attorney had actual knowledge of defendant's location before and at the time of arrest; and (d) that the District Attorney's claim in various court proceedings (which directly conflicted with the statement described above) that defendant was a flight risk was made solely for political reasons, to appease an angry public.

Regarding the District Attorney's actions, the DA knew who was representing defendant at all times and knew he could contact defendant through his attorney. He further knew that defendant had exercised his right not to be questioned without his counsel present. If the DA pursues a consciousness of guilt argument or instruction, the defendant would be forced to introduce evidence that former District Attorney Tom Orloff enlisted the assistance of Oakland police officers to interview defendant, *sans* counsel, at midnight on January 13, 2009 in violation of his Constitutional rights shortly after defendant had been arrested.

The DA should not be able to introduce evidence in support of a flight or consciousness of guilt argument when the DA knows that the defendant did not flee, and said so in the newspaper. Given the circumstances described above and in more detail elsewhere in this case, it ought to be clear that if the issue is placed before the jury there would be a substantial danger of undue prejudice, of confusing the issues, and of misleading the jury.

11. TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OR TESTIMONY THAT JOHANNES MEHSERLE RESIGNED FROM HIS EMPLOY WITH THE BART POLICE DEPARTMENT

On January 7, 2009, the defendant resigned from his position as a police officer at BART Police Department. On February 19, 2010, Deputy District Attorney David Stein filed the People's Trial Brief in this matter with the Alameda County Superior Court. In that Trial Brief, Mr. Stein noted this fact. (See p. 5 of the Trial Brief.) Thus, the defendant anticipates that the prosecution intends to present evidence on this nature.

First, evidence or testimony of this nature offers little to no relevance in the criminal trial and, therefore, necessitates exclusion. (Evid. Code § 210; *People v. Warner* (1969) 270 Cal.App.2d 900; *People v. Slocum* (1975) 52 Cal.App.3d 867, 891.) This anticipated evidence has no legal significance to the vital issues in this case. (*People v. Rodrigues* (1994) 8 Cal.4th 1060, 1124-1125.)

Second, this evidence should be excluded pursuant to section 352 of the Evidence. By permitting this issue, significant time will be spent, by the prosecution and defense alike, on issues concerning employment law, BART employment policies, Internal Affairs investigations, discipline procedures in general and specific to BART, etc. As previously stated, permitting commentary on and/or evidence about the defendant's resignation may force the defense to bring in rebuttal witnesses in the form of evidence or testimony from current or prior defense counsel, which would, of course, eviscerate on the defendant's attorney-client privilege.

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12. TO EXCLUDE DIRECT OR IMPEACHMENT EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT RELATING TO JOHANNES MEHSERLE EXERCISE OF HIS FIFTH AMENDMENT PRIVILEGE AGAINST SELF-INCRIMINATION IN BOTH THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE OSCAR GRANT SHOOTING

When investigators seek to question a California police officer about a matter that may result in a criminal sanction, they are required to inform that officer of his constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent in the face of such questioning. Govt. Code §3303(h); Lybarger v. City of Los Angeles (1985) 40 Cal.3d 822, 829. The officer, too, is entitled to be represented by counsel and to be informed of that right prior to any questioning. The advisement contemplated by the statute is the same as required under Miranda v. Arizona (1966) 384 U.S. 436, and must be given in the case of a criminal investigation or at any time an officer refuses to answer investigator's questions on self-incrimination grounds. 40 Cal.3d at 829 n.1.

Unlike in the usual criminal case, where *pre-arrest* silence by a defendant may be a proper subject of cross-examination² (see Jenkins v. Anderson (1980) 447 U.S. 231), because of the operation of §3303, in the police context such silence falls squarely within the protection of Doyle v. Ohio (1976) 426 U.S. 610.

Put another way, whether or not he has been arrested, when a California police officer is covered by §3303, as was defendant Mehserle, and receives advisement of his rights, his refusal to make any statement in reliance on that right may not be the subject of prosecution evidence or argument, whether in its case-in-chief or in cross-examining the defendant.

As will appear, Mehserle's refusal, upon the advice of counsel, to speak either to BART investigators or to the Oakland police or District Attorney falls squarely within these protections. The Court should therefore exclude any direct or impeachment evidence or argument relating to Mehserle's decision to remain silent in the face of questioning.

Within hours of the Grant shooting Mehserle was represented by counsel who joined him at the Lake Merritt BART Station. Thereafter, BART investigators and representatives of the

Although there is conflict among the federal circuits on the issue, the California Court of Appeal recently held that such pre-arrest silence may not be used by the prosecution for any purpose other than impeachment of a testifying defendant, and may not be used in the prosecution's case-in-chief. See People v. Waldie (2009) 173 Cal.App.4th 358.

Alameda District Attorney's Office sought to question him. Mehserle was given the *Miranda* advisement. Through his counsel, and expressly relying on his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent, Mehserle declined to give a statement.

BART investigators thereafter sought to compel an administrative interview with Mehserle, who was then still employed by BART. The interview was compulsory in the sense that while Mehserle had a Fifth Amendment right to remain silent, his failure to speak would have amounted to insubordination that could have been grounds for administrative sanction, including termination. *See Lybarger*, 40 Cal.3d at 827. As was his right under the circumstances, Mehserle resigned rather than submitting to the compelled interview or, alternatively, refusing to answer any questions and subjecting himself to firing.

Finally, late on January 13, 2009, in a jail cell in Nevada, two Oakland police officers again attempted to interview Mehserle. After they gave him the *Miranda* admonition, Mehserle declined to give a statement.³

Under *Doyle*, the prosecution can make no use of Mehserle's *post-arrest* silence for any purpose in this criminal case. *See People v. Champion* (2005) 134 Cal.App.4th 1440, 1447-1448 (no use in case-in-chief); *People v. Evans* (1994) 25 Cal.App.4th 358, 367 (no use as impeachment evidence).

Moreover, because from the outset Mehserle faced with police and administrative interviews, was covered by §3303, was therefore formally advised of his *Miranda* rights, and expressly relied on his Fifth Amendment right in choosing not to give a statement, the prosecution is similarly barred from using Mehserle's *pre-arrest* silence for any purpose at trial.

That fact is made absolutely clear when one considers what would have happened had Mehserle, then covered by §3303, decided to speak to administrative investigators. In that case his statements—which are considered involuntary—would not have been admissible for any purpose at the criminal trial, including impeachment. See New Jersey v. Portash (1979) 440 U.S.

³ As Mehserle has argued elsewhere, the *attempt* to seek a statement from Mehserle after his arrest, and long after he had retained counsel, was a violation of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel pursuant to *Massiah v. United States* (1964) 377 U.S. 201.

450; compare Harris v. New York (1971) 401 U.S. 222 (statements obtained in violation of Miranda, unlike those obtained involuntarily, may be used in cross-examination of a defendant). It would be illogical to exclude the statements themselves, yet permit the DA to use evidence of silence.

In the event this Court were to find that evidence or argument relating to Mehserle's silence is *not* constitutionally barred, it should nevertheless be excluded under Evidence Code §352. In *Jenkins* the United States Supreme Court made clear that even where pre-arrest silence is admissible to impeach a defendant without violating the Fifth or Fourteenth Amendments, state courts may insist that the evidence the prosecution seeks to offer is more probative than it is prejudicial. *Jenkins*, 447 U.S. at 239.

Mehserle had a right under Government Code §3303 and by operation of the BART Police Union contract to be represented by counsel in the case of a police-involved shooting. Counsel arrived at the Lake Merritt BART Station, where Mehserle had been taken after the shooting. Counsel then informed the investigators that Mehserle would exercise his Fifth Amendment right not to give a statement or answer any questions.

In view of the chaotic circumstances at the Fruitvale BART platform, and given that by all accounts Mehserle appeared to be in a state of shock after the shooting, it may well be that the lawyer advised Mehserle not to provide a statement at that time, and that Mehserle simply followed his advice without carefully contemplating the possible impact of that decision. If the prosecution were to be able to offer evidence of Mehserle's silence in support of a consciousness of guilt theory, in that case, how probative would the evidence really be?

Also, if the prosecution attempts to use the silence evidence, certainly the defendant would want to offer opposing proof that he was simply following the directives of his lawyer in circumstances in which his own ability to make a reasoned judgment was compromised. But in order to explore the issue fully, Mehserle would have to invade sanctity of the attorney-client relationship, and might well be forced to waive the privilege in an effort to counter the prosecution's evidence. This Court should not put Mehserle in such an untenable position.

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In any event, the process would be unwieldy and time-consuming. It would likely distract the jurors from their primary task—that is, to determine whether Mehserle intended to use his gun on January 1, 2009.

Finally, as noted, the evidence is of very little probative value. The admittedly serious incident rapidly deteriorated into a circus in the days after the shooting, with members of the press, community and religious leaders, and politicians of all stripes calling Mehserle a murderer before the investigators had finished their work. In that light, Mehserle's decision not to speak—until, perhaps, the relative calm of a criminal trial—would seem to have more to do with appreciating the futility in asserting that he accidentally shot Grant than with evidencing consciousness of his own guilt.

On the other hand, the evidence could be extremely prejudicial, given that lay people often attribute a failure to defend oneself in the face of criminal allegations by police or the media as a proxy for an admission of guilt.

The evidence should be excluded on both Constitutional and §352 grounds.

13. To Admit Expert Testimony by Defense Experts Greg Meyer and William J. Lewinski, Ph.D.

As the Court is by now aware, it will be Mehserle's defense to the charge of malice murder that he neither intended to kill nor to shoot Oscar Grant with his gun. Rather, justifiably intending to use his TASER, and after announcing that intent, Mehserle mistakenly and accidentally pulled and fired his service weapon. Compare Torres v. City of Madera (9th Cir. 2008) 524 F.3d 1053; Henry v. Purnell (4th Cir. 2007) 501 F.3d 374; Torres v. City of Madera (E.D. CA 2009) 655 F.Supp.2d 1109, 1123; see also Atak v. Siem (D. MN 2005) 2005 WL 2105545 *2.

At the preliminary hearing defendant sought to introduce highly qualified expert testimony on matters that are central to his defense: for example, how officers *should* be trained to use TASERs; how Mehserle's training fell far short; how as a result of his inadequate and incomplete training the chance of an accident of precisely the sort that occurred in this case was

greatly increased; and how, based on the physical evidence, it is the expert's conclusion that Mehserle attempted to deploy his TASER but mistakenly fired his gun.

The preliminary hearing court excluded expert testimony on the training and use of TASERs. When Mehserle challenged the magistrate's ruling in his motion pursuant to Penal Code §995, arguing that exclusion of this key evidence was federal due process error, the Superior Court found that the defendant's proffer had been inadequate. The §995 court declined to reach the merits of Mehserle's constitutional claim.

In an abundance of caution, therefore, and because Mehserle anticipates the District Attorney will again seek to preclude the fact finder from considering this critical defense evidence, Mehserle offers this legal analysis and offer of proof relating to two of his proposed expert witnesses. Mehserle of course reserves the right to seek the admission of additional expert evidence—in the form of expanded subject matter from the two experts identified here, or through other experts—as the case proceeds.

a. The Law

There are four fundamental and overlapping limitations on expert testimony in California.

First, an expert may offer opinion testimony only on subjects "sufficiently beyond common experience that the opinion of an expert would assist the trier of fact." Evidence Code §801(a); People v. Cole (1956) 47 Cal.2d 99, 103. "Even though facts may be within the knowledge or understanding of the trier of fact, the conclusions to be drawn therefrom may require expert testimony. The decisive consideration in determining the admissibility of expert opinion evidence is whether the subject of inquiry is one of such common knowledge that men of ordinary education could reach a conclusion as intelligently as the witness or whether, on the other hand, the matter is sufficiently beyond common experience that the opinion of an expert would assist the trier of fact." People v. Harvey (1991) 233 Cal.App.3d 1206, 1227 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

Second, under Evidence Code §803, a court may not admit "testimony in the form of an opinion that is based in whole or in significant part on matter that is not a proper basis for such an

opinion." For example, where an expert bases his or her opinion on matters not reasonably relied upon by other experts in the field, the opinion evidence is inadmissible.

Third, pursuant to Evidence Code §720, "A person is qualified to testify as an expert only if he or she has sufficient knowledge, skill, experience, training or education to qualify as an expert on the subject matter of his or her testimony."

Finally, while courts have been hesitant to permit experts to pronounce opinion on the ultimate guilt or innocence of a defendant (see People v. Torres (1995) 33 Cal.App.4th 37, 46-47 (citing cases); People v. Stoll (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1136, 1149 n.13), Evidence Code §805 provides that "Testimony in the form of an opinion that is otherwise admissible is not objectionable because it embraces the ultimate issue to be decided by the trier of fact."

In other words, while an expert cannot tell a jury to convict, he or she can render a qualified, properly based opinion, even though it treads on the jury's ultimate obligation to decide the facts of the case. As the court of appeal said in *People v. Harvey* (1991) 233 Cal.App.3d 1206, 1227:

Testimony in the form of an opinion that is otherwise admissible is not objectionable because it embraces the ultimate issue to be decided by the trier of fact. We believe . . . that there is no hard and fast rule that experts may not be asked questions that coincide with the ultimate issue in the case, and that the true rule is that admissibility depends on the nature of the issue and the circumstances of the case, there being a large measure of discretion involved. We believe further that the modern tendency is against making a distinction between evidentiary and ultimate facts as subjects of expert opinion.

(Internal quotation marks and citations omitted)

Many cases in varying contexts have so held. See People v. Olguin (1994) 31 Cal.App.4th 1355, 1370 (officer permitted to offer opinion on ultimate issue in the case, which was whether the defendant was a member of a gang); People v. Doss (1992) 4 Cal.App.4th 1585, 1596 (police officer permitted to testify on ultimate issue, which was whether the drugs possessed by the defendant were intended for sale; court notes that "It is neither unusual nor impermissible for an expert to testify to an ultimate issue, and such opinions are expressly contemplated by Evidence Code section 805"); Paez v. Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Bd. (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d

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1025, 1026 (officer could testify on ultimate issue—whether customer in bar was obviously intoxicated)

Moving to the key issue in this case, experts have often been called upon to provide insights and opinions relating to the question whether a certain set of facts might or might not have been the result of an accident and/or how a particular outcome might have resulted given a particular set of facts. See, e.g., People v. Harbert (2009) 170 Cal. App. 4th 42, 50 (defense accident reconstruction expert explains how defendant might not have seen the victim in time to avoid hitting her with his car); People v. Tackett (2006) 144 Cal. App. 4th 445, 451 (crime scene reconstruction experts on both sides offer opposing testimony regarding whether the defendant could have been driving the truck that led to a fatality); People v. Wattier (1996) 51 Cal.App.4th 948, 952 (prosecution expert testifies that accident and fatality was caused by unsafe and erratic driving on part of defendant); People v. Singh (1995) 37 Cal. App. 4th 1343, 1377 (officer could offer opinion whether automobile accident had been staged); People v. Marsh (1985) 175 Cal. App. 3d 987, 992 (prosecution experts testify that based on injuries suffered by child, death could not have been accidental); People v. Smith (1983) 196 Cal. Rptr. 106 (unpublished)(defense forensic expert testifies that shooting was result of an accident due to contact with gun by third person).

The Proposed Expert Testimony

i. Greg Meyer

1. Offer of Proof

Defense expert Greg Meyer is a nationally recognized expert in the field of use of force. He has 34 years of law enforcement experience. See Exhibit A, Greg Meyer CV. Meyer is a retired as a Captain with the Los Angeles Police Department. He has more than 30 years experience with TASERs, including research, testing, instructor training, and use in tactical situations. He has written and lectured widely on various law enforcement subjects including TASER training and deployment and use of force. Mr. Meyer, while Captain of the Los Angeles Police Academy from 2004-2006, commanded units that taught firearm and TASER use. Mr. Meyer has consulted in more than 100 criminal, civil, and administrative cases, including numerous officer-involved

shootings and TASER-related cases. Mr. Meyer has testified for and against police officers in criminal, civil, and administrative cases, including officer-involved shooting cases, TASER cases, and use of force cases.4

Mr. Meyer will offer testimony as follows (notably, some of what follows falls into the category of facts considered by Meyer, upon which his conclusions rely; some are the conclusions themselves):5

- 1. Mr. Meyer has reviewed investigation reports, witness interviews, and all of the relevant documentary and physical evidence relating to the Oscar Grant shooting, including videotapes;
- 2. Mr. Meyer has conducted personal interviews with the BART training officers who conducted TASER training of the defendant on December 3, 2008. He has also reviewed the videotape of the defendant being tased during the course of that training class;
- 3. Mr. Meyer is thoroughly familiar with the TASER X26 carried by the Defendant on January 1, 2009, and is aware of the manner in which it was carried on the defendant's equipment belt;
- 4. Meyer is also thoroughly aware of the firearm carried by the defendant on January 1, 2009 and the manner in which that firearm would commonly be drawn from the Safariland ALS Holster carried by the defendant on the date at issue;
- 5. Mr. Meyer is thoroughly familiar and has studied approximately six other documented incidents prior to January 1, 2009, in which police officers intended to deploy their TASERs and/or announced their intention to deploy their TASERs and, instead and by mistake, drew and fired service weapons;

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⁴ This brief contains a summary statement of Mr. Meyer's qualifications to give the Court a clear sense that the expert is qualified to offer opinions in the subject areas that follow. He will, of course, be fully qualified at trial.

⁵ Mehserle has attempted to be complete in his general description of the proposed Meyer testimony. He of course reserves the right to add or subtract areas of evidence depending on the prosecution's case.

- 6. Mr. Meyer is familiar with various civil actions that have ensued as a result of those prior matters and where available has read judicial opinions relating to those cases;
- 7. Based upon Mr. Meyer's review of the evidence in this case, including statements of witnesses describing Mehserle's reaction to the shooting, and evidence that Mehserle stated his intention to tase Mr. Grant just prior to firing the fatal round, it is Mr. Meyer's expert opinion that the fatal shooting of Oscar Grant by defendant Johannes Mehserle was an accident resulting from Mehserle's attempt to use a TASER and his mistaken use of his firearm instead;
- 8. Mr. Meyer will testify that defendant's decision and attempt to use the TASER was objectively reasonable and proper according under the circumstances, the relevant law, BART policy, and the training the defendant had received prior to January 1, 2009 concerning deployment of the TASER;
- 9. Mr. Meyer will also testify concerning numerous instances in which the TASER has been deployed by police officers in an attempt to avoid the use of lethal force against police officers by suspects—i.e., instances in which officers might have resorted to the use of firearms but, instead, chose to deploy TASERs in the face of the threat of the use of lethal force against them.

Mr. Meyer will also provide testimony as follows:

- 10. It was objectively reasonable under the law, their training, and the circumstances for BART officers to detain subjects they reasonably believed were involved in the fight on the train;
- 11. It was objectively reasonable under the law, their training, and the circumstances for the officers to handcuff those subjects;
- 12. Grant unlawfully physically resisted detention in violation of Penal Code § 148a;
- 13. Grant's resistance caused the officers' efforts to bring him under control to be prolonged;
- 14. Various factors, including the increase in noise on the BART platform, the large number of bystanders compared to police officers, and the justifiable conclusions of the

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officers that the crowd could become aggressive, escalated tensions and stresses in the
incident and are circumstances relevant to the question whether Mehserle acted in an
objectively reasonable manner during the Grant detention;

- 15. Police may use force to make an arrest, overcome resistance, or prevent escape and to defend themselves or others from bodily harm;
- 16. Under the circumstances, training, and law, the force used to attempt to subdue and handcuff Grant prior to the shooting was an objectively reasonable use of force to overcome Grant's unlawful resistance;
- 17. Grant physically resisted the lawful control efforts of the officers by secreting his right arm under his body and resisting the efforts of Officer Mehserle to pull it out;
- 18. Officer Mehserle engaged in prolonged physical efforts to gain control of Grants right arm with the apparent intent to handcuff Grant;
- 19. Grant repeatedly contorted his body by twisting and turning and bucking against the officer's attempts to control him and handcuff him;
- 20. Various facts apparent from the physical evidence as well as his training, it is apparent that Officer Mehserle determined to deploy the TASER to attempt to control Grant;
- 21. Under the law, his training, and the circumstances, the decision to deploy the TASER was an objectively reasonable decision, after conventional soft empty-handed tactics failed to control Grant;
- 22. The TASER is typically far less injurious than hard-hands tactics or blunt force instruments, which were the next level of force above what the officers were using on Grant;
- 23. If Officer Mehserle observed or perceived that Grant's hand was entering his waistband or pants pocket area, it was likely that Officer Mehserle's level of fear would escalate, and in that case, under the law, the circumstances and his training, it was objectively reasonable for Officer Mehserle to deploy a TASER to stop Grant's actions;
- 24. Officer Mehserle loudly announced that he was going to use the TASER on Grant;

- 25. Officer Mehserle's ultimately failed attempt to draw the TASER impacted by the stresses of the moment and inadequate training and experience with the TASER;
- 26. Officer Mehserle had great difficulty drawing his weapon, a fact proven by the contorted actions of his right hand and thumb, which seemed be employing TASER unholstering techniques on the gun holster;
- 27. Officer Mehserle accidentally drew his handgun instead of his TASER;
- 28. Officer Mehserle stood up and positioned his right hand and right arm in a manner entirely consistent with an intention to deploy a TASER—namely he attempted to create a sufficient spread between the two TASER darts to achieve a neuromuscular incapacitation and stop Grant's resistance;
- 29. Officer Mehserle's position immediately before the shot was entirely inconsistent with an attempt to shoot a handgun;
- 30. The physical evidence uniformly supports the claim that Officer Mehserle believed he was firing a TASER, not a handgun, when he fired the single shot;
- 31. Officer Mehserle's physical actions and facial expressions immediately after firing the shot are indicative of shock and surprise;
- 32. Officer Mehserle's announcement that he was going to use the TASER on Grant and his statement shortly afterward to Officer Pirone that he (Mehserle) thought that Grant was going for a gun, are not at all inconsistent with each other or with an attempt to deploy the TASER;
- 33. Meyer is aware of dozens of incidents in which police officers were either concerned about an imminent deadly threat from a suspect, or actually faced such a threat, and chose to use TASERs to end the incident without deploying deadly force;
- 34. A suspect's back has been the preferred TASER target area for more than 30 years;
- 35. Using a TASER to overcome physical resistance is entirely consistent with BART policy and is typical of other TASER policies throughout the world;
- 36. As the result of three different TASER holster configurations issued to officers on different shifts, BART officers did not become sufficiently familiar with the equipment

to achieve the muscle memory	required to perform	automatically in	n emergency
situations;			

- 37. The fact that Mehserle had use of the TASERs for only one month before the Grant shooting greatly increased the risk of the sort of accidental shooting that occurred;
- 38. By not incorporating realistic, dynamic, interactive, stress-inducing tactical scenarios during TASER training, BART did not adequately prepare its officers for the realities of tactical decision-making and TASER use in the real world;
- 39. Other than the fact of the shooting itself, there exists no physical evidence that Officer Mehserle attempted to use deadly force on January 1, 2009.

2. Argument for Admissibility

After they hear the opening arguments of counsel—the DA stating his belief that the shooting was intentional, defense counsel stating his position that the shooting was an accident—there will naturally be two central questions in the minds of the jurors relating to Mehserle's asserted defense: first, how could a police officer make such a mistake? And second, why would Mehserle have chosen to use his TASER in the first place?

Neither question is answerable by reference to the jurors' common experience. And even if some of the facts are within the jurors' experience—say, the noise on the platform—the relevant conclusions to be drawn therefrom require expert assistance. *People v. Harvey* (1991) 233 Cal.App.3d 1206, 1227. The defendant is entitled to offer evidence from a qualified expert in order to assist the jurors to understand that Mehserle's decision to use the TASER in this case was entirely justified.

Mehserle is likewise entitled to offer expert testimony to assist the jurors in their understanding of the physical evidence, and in particular the videotape. Meyer will explain, for instance, how various circumstances apparent from the video—e.g., Mehserle's position, the actions of his hand during long effort to unholster the gun, the manner in which he held the gun, his conduct following the shooting—are consistent with an attempt to deploy the TASER and inconsistent with an attempt to deploy his firearm.

Mehserle is also entitled to offer expert testimony that the mistake he made and the accidental shooting that occurred was not at all a surprise under the specific circumstances—inadequate and improper training, lack of experience in tactical situations, the particular stressors at the BART platform, and so forth—and that the mistake was not the product of an conscious disregard for human life. All of the categories of testimony listed above relate to these two questions and Meyer is obviously qualified to offer his opinion accordingly.

Moreover, under the authorities discussed previously, Meyer should be allowed to render his ultimate opinions that (a) Mehserle's intent was to draw the TASER and not his firearm and (b) Mehserle's use of the gun rather than a TASER in this case was an accident and was not the product of an intent on the part of the officer to employ deadly force.

A brief look back at the preliminary hearing suggests why such expert testimony on the training and use of TASERs, as well as the proper use of non-lethal force, will be so critical to the jurors ultimate decision on the murder charge. Recall, of course, that the magistrate had excluded Meyer's testimony. In the absence of that assistance, the magistrate concluded that Mehserle intended to shoot and not to tase Grant. (PHT 1061) That conclusion was based two on two facts:

(a) that Mehserle had two hands on his weapon when he fired it and (b) that Mehserle drew the weapon with his strong (i.e., dominant) hand. The magistrate concluded that both facts were consistent with an intent to fire his gun, and inconsistent with an intent to use the TASER. Here's what the court said: "The fact that he grabbed it with his right hand and the testimony is he took two hands and shot down at the victim, tells me that it's consistent with his intent to shoot the victim at the time." (PHT 1061)

Had the magistrate permitted Meyer to assist him in his understanding of the relevant facts, the outcome of the preliminary hearing might have been very different. The expert would have squarely contradicted the magistrate's conclusion that the two-hand grip and the strong hand draw support are inconsistent with Mehserle's accident defense.

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First, expert Meyer will explain at trial, there was nothing whatsoever about Mehserle's two-hand grip that was inconsistent with an attempt to use the TASER or a belief that he had the TASER in his hand when he shot Grant. Indeed, a training video upon which Meyer's relies in part for his opinions proves the opposite. Meyers will testify that officers are *trained* to use a two-hand grip when deploying the TASER. Similarly, the expert will make clear that the fact that Mehserle grabbed the gun with his right (strong) hand is in no way inconsistent with an attempt to deploy the TASER.

In case the Court chooses to instruct the jury on the lesser-included offense of involuntary manslaughter, Meyer's expert opinion becomes doubly relevant. As defendant has discussed in detail in his Trial Brief on Instructional Issues, the focus of the jury's attention, should they be required to decide whether Mehserle was sufficiently reckless on the BART platform to warrant an involuntary manslaughter conviction, would be (a) whether he was justified in using the TASER under the circumstances (i.e., whether his conduct was *objectively reasonable*) and (b) whether his mistake in firing his gun rather than his TASER demonstrated a level of recklessness that suggests an indifference to the consequences. As the federal courts have found in the context of §1983 cases involving the mistaken use of a gun rather than a TASER, facts such as adequacy of training, officer compliance with training, and factors distracting the officer from his or her training, including the conduct of a suspect, are highly relevant to the question of the officer's reasonableness. These are precisely the subjects of expert Meyer's proposed testimony.

Finally, it must be said that given his importance to the defendant's case, the exclusion of Meyer's expert opinion evidence in this case would amount to federal due process error. As the United States Supreme Court held in *Chambers v. Mississippi* (1973) 410 U.S. 284, 302 (1973): "Few rights are more fundamental than that of an accused to present witnesses in his own defense."; see also Washington v. Texas (1967) 388 U.S. 14, 18-19 (due process error to exclude defense evidence).

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ii. William Lewinski

1. Offer of Proof

William Lewinski, PhD, is an expert on psychological and physiological factors surrounding the use of force by police officers, including use of deadly force and officer-involved shootings. He has been qualified in this and related areas and testified in civil and criminal matters more than 150 times. *See* Exhibit B, William Lewinski CV. Dr. Lewinski, a professor at Minnesota State University, is currently the Director of the Force Science Research Center, which is "dedicated to the study of human dynamics in high stress, rapidly unfolding force encounters. Through classes and consultation, the Institute strives to facilitate the application of Force Science concepts during investigations, training and the evaluation of the appropriateness of officers' behavior during these encounters."

Dr. Lewinski will offer testimony as follows:

- He has reviewed evidence in this case which is relevant to making a determination
 concerning psychological and physiological factors which may have impacted Officer
 Mehserle's observations, his thought processes and his responses during the events of
 January 1, 2009. His review of evidence has included documentary evidence and
 videotapes take of the incident in question;
- 2. He has reviewed Officer Mehserle's training records and training history in the areas of the use of a TASER and his training concerning use of a firearm. From his review of written reports and materials, he is familiar with Mehserle's prior experience in dealing with subjects who are perceived to be a threat because of the placement of their hands or other factors. He is familiar with and has personally conducted a variety of research projects directly relevant to issues in this case including, but not limited to, (a) the threat level of a prone subject who is suspected of having a gun in his hand or is reaching for a gun; (b) the attentional resources that are directed to a threat and their effect on perception, decision-making and response; (c) the role of training in developing automaticity in behavior which can facilitate correct decision-making and performance

- in high stress situations; and (d) training and behavioral elements that can lead to a mistaken response in the type of circumstances involved in this incident;
- 3. Based upon studies he has conducted and which are currently ongoing, Dr. Lewinski will testify regarding the threat level that a prone subject poses to a police officer. Specifically, he will describe research data demonstrating that a suspect prone on the ground who has a weapon either underneath his body or in a pocket can draw and fire the weapon at an officer who already has his weapon trained on a suspect and who has his finger on the trigger of the weapon at a faster rate than the officer can return fire. Research conducted by Dr. Lewinski has established that a prone suspect with a gun underneath the body or in a front pocket can draw and fire the weapon between one fourth of a second and two thirds of a second:
- 4. Dr. Lewinski will testify how an officer's training and experience influence how the officer sees, interprets, and reacts to the behavior of a suspect. This will include testimony concerning the fact that once an officer's focus is directed to a particular area, his ability to observe other potentially important things around the officer becomes significantly impaired, causing something referred to as "inattentional blindness";
- 5. Dr. Lewinski will testify how inattentional blindness and the focus on a particular isolated area of action which an officer perceives to be a potential threat will force the officer to rely on automatic behavior to deal with the threat;
- Dr. Lewinski will explain the decision-making process that is most commonly used in a
 highly threatening, visually and behaviorally complex, dynamic, and rapidly evolving
 situation;
- 7. Dr. Lewinski will explain that an officer is trained to perceive certain actions by individuals as a threat and to respond with a certain pattern of behavior or an "automatic procees." Such training does not involve mere mechanical issues—it must include training on recognizing the pattern of behavior and formulating an appropriate and instinctive response;

8.	In order for an officer to respond appropriately to a pattern of threatening behavior, the
	officer needs to be trained that the response needs to be instinctive. Where there is
	insufficient training, the response may not occur at all or may not be the desired
•	response;

- Dr. Lewinski will testify regarding the training of police officers to develop automaticity in behavior, which then can facilitate correct decision-making and performance in threatening, visually and behaviorally complex, dynamic, and rapidly evolving tactical situations;
- 10. Dr. Lewinski will explain what studies show concerning how often training must be conducted to repeat the correct and desired response to a perceived pattern of conduct so that the desired behavior/response becomes the default option;
- 11. Dr. Lewinski will testify to the fact that inadequate and improper training can lead to problems of inattentional blindness and what is sometimes referred to as "confirmation bias," where whatever information an officer is receiving during a stressful moment erroneously signals to him that he has made the right choice to respond to a threat when in fact, that is not the case at all;
- 12. Dr. Lewinski will testify that Mehserle's reactions as shown on the video immediately after the shot was fired are indicative of a response which he did not anticipate before firing the shot;
- 13. Based upon a comprehensive study of the evidence in this case, his participation in relevant research studies, and his awareness of relevant research in the field, Dr. Lewinski will offer his opinion that, as a result of contextual factors, including Mehserle's prior training and experience, together with the presence of a variety of factors which affected his attentional resources and, in turn, his perception, decision-making, and response, together with his responses immediately following the firing of the weapon, it is clear that Officer Mehserle accidentally drew and fired his firearm rather than his TASER on January 1, 2009.

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2. Argument for Admissibility

Dr. Lewinski is unquestionably qualified to offer analysis and opinion on the subject of psychological and physiological factors surrounding the use of force by police officers. This witness is an international leader in this field, having been regularly qualified in courts around the country on these very issues, often on behalf of prosecutors. He is the director of an organization that is solely dedicated to research in this area.

Like expert Meyer, Dr. Lewinski's testimony is admissible on the key defense claim: that Mehserle intended to use his TASER, but rather used his gun. Again, the jurors will fairly be asking themselves, how is it a trained officer makes this sort of mistake? They require and defendant is entitled to offer the jurors assistance in answering this question.

To recap, Meyers will testify regarding the justifiability of the intended use of force, will explain how Mehserle's lack of adequate or effective training made an accident more likely, and will show how Mehserle's conduct on January 1, 2009, was entirely consistent with an intent to use his TASER and entirely inconsistent with an intent to use his gun.

Dr. Lewinski will explain how the inadequate and ineffective training, the fact that he had not carried or used the TASER with any regularity, and the various circumstances present on January 1, 2009—including, but not limited to, Grant's position on the platform, the fact that Grant refused to give up his arms for cuffing, the noise, the number of people on the platform, the perceived threat level, and the fact that Mehserle was aware that guns had been retrieved from BART riders that evening—led Mehserle to make the tragic mistake that officers in several other cases made before him.

Jurors can certainly imagine the circumstances on the BART platform—they can understand the noise, the chaos, and perhaps can even imagine that the officers felt outmanned and under siege. But, as per *People v. Harvey* (1991) 233 Cal.App.3d 1206, 1227, while they may understand these facts, they are in no position, without assistance from an expert like Dr. Lewinski, to grasp how those factors and the others described above might have resulted in the sort of confusion, and mistaken physiologic response, that led to the accidental shooting.

The question is simply whether this area is "of such common knowledge that men of ordinary education could reach a conclusion as intelligently as the witness"—in other words, whether Dr. Lewinski's testimony would in no meaningful way assist the jurors in their understanding of what happened on January 1, 2009. In fact, this expert's many years studying psychological and physiological factors surrounding the use of force by police officers in tactical put him in a unique position to assist the jurors. Dated: April 23, 2010 Respectfully submitted, RAINS-EUCIA STERN, PC Attorneys for Defendant JOHANNES MEHSERLE

1	PROOF OF SERVICE
2	I, Joseph Lucia, am a citizen of the United States, and am over 18 years of age. I am
3	employed in Contra Costa County and am not a party to the above-entitled action. My business
4	address is Rains Lucia Stern, PC, 2300 Contra Costa Blvd., Suite 230, Pleasant Hill, California
5	94523. On the date set forth below I served a true and correct copy(ies) of the following
6	document(s):
7	Defendant Johannes Mehserle's Motions in Limine
8	upon all parties addressed as follows:
9 10	Nancy E. O'Malley, District Attorney Michael O'Connor, Sr. Deputy District Attorney David Stein, Deputy District Attorney
11 12	County of Alameda 1225 Fallon Street, 9 th Floor Oakland, CA 94612
13	said service was effected as indicated below:
14 15	[X] HAND DELIVERY - I placed true and correct copies of the above-referenced document(s) in a sealed envelope, addressed to the above-named parties, and personally delivered them.
16 17	[] FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION - I caused true and correct copies of the above-referenced document(s) to be delivered by facsimile transmission.
18 19	[] ELECTRONIC MAIL – I caused true and correct copies of the above-referenced document(s) to be delivered by electronic mail transmission.
20 21	[] OVERNIGHT DELIVERY - I placed true and correct copies of above-referenced document(s) in a sealed envelope, properly addressed to the above-named parties, with fees prepaid in a receptacle regularly maintained by OnTrac.
22	[] MAIL - I placed true and correct copies of above-referenced document(s) in a sealed envelope, properly addressed to the above-named parties, with postage prepaid in a receptacle regularly maintained by the United States Post Office.
24	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
25	foregoing is true and correct and was executed on April 23, 2010, at Pleasant Hill, California.
26	
7	Joseph Lucia
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People v. Johannes Mehserle

Case No. AOC 1009606-10

Proof of Service

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SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE REPORT SAN LEANDRO, CA 94677 (510) 577-3217 RECORDS



CASE NO. 2006-00041639

PAGE 1 OF 5

ASSOCIATED SLPD CASE #(S) 2006-00041643 2006-2006-

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REPORTING OFFICER

SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE REPORT SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577

(510) 577-3217 RECORDS



2006-00041639

PRIMARY OFFENSE / OCCURRED INCIDENT TRAFFIC STOP

CASE NARRATIVE

296\ HIDAS, ALEX, J,

DATE / TIME WRITTEN 10/15/2006 22:13 APPROVING SUPERVISOR

DETAILS:

On 10/15/06, about 2105 hours, I was on duty in full police uniform and driving a marked patrol vehicle (#361). I was driving W/B on Fargo Ave, when I noticed a vehicle traveling on Fargo Ave in the opposite direction (E/B). As the vehicle approached and passed me, I noticed all four head lamps including the high beams were on, and the driver did not turn off the high beams, in violation of 24409(a) V.C. The high beams affected my vision and I had to pull over temporarily.

I made a U-turn, caught up to the vehicle, and performed an enforcement stop in the parking lot of the Techco Gas Station, 15201 Washington Ave. I noticed three occupants in the vehicle, so I requested another unit for assistance and Officer Deguzman was dispatched to assist me. I contacted the driver, (IP) lke Jackson Anderson, the front seat passenger, (IP) Michael Greer, and the passenger sitting behind Greer, (AR) Oscar Grant. The driver stated he had his high beams on because one of his head lamps is broken. The driver had no valid form of identification and was later arrested per 40302(a) V.C.

I noticed Grant was not wearing his seat belt, in violation of 27315(d)(1) V.C., so I asked him to show me his identification. Grant was wearing a black jacket that was unzipped and blue jeans. He moved his jacket aside and appeared to be checking all of his pockets, but he stated he left his ID at home. As Grant moved his jacket away from his left front pant pocket, I noticed what appeared to be the handle of a pistol inside his left front pant pocket. The handle was flat, rectangular, and it was brown and black.

For safety reasons, I told Grant to place his hands on the headrest of the front passenger seat. I also told the driver to place his hands on the steering wheel, and the front passenger to place his hands on the dashboard, and all parties complied, initially. I drew my firearm and waited for assistance. Grant moved his right arm away from the headrest, so I pointed my firearm at him and ordered him to place his hands back on the headrest. I told Grant not to move because I believed he was in possession of a firearm. Grant stated he had "weed" on him, but no gun.

Suddenly, Grant opened the right rear passenger door, and fled on foot through the parking lot and onto S/B Washington Ave. I chased Grant on foot and ordered him to stop and get on the ground. Grant refused to stop and kept running. I advised SLPD Dispatch and continued after Grant. Officer Deguzman arrived and followed Grant in his marked patrol vehicle onto the property of Big O Tires on Washington Ave.

Grant refused to stop, so Officer Deguzman and I both chased Grant on foot through the intersection of Washington Ave and Lewelling Blvd toward the ARCO Gas Station at 712 Lewelling Blvd. I advised that Grant was armed. Officer Deguzman caught up to Grant and ran along side of him with his Taser (Less Lethal Weapon) pointed at Grant. Grant refused to stop, so Officer Deguzman fired his Taser at Grant. 01140

It appeared the Taser struck Grant in that he lost his balance and began to fall to the ground. As he was falling. Grant threw the object believed to be a firearm into the air and it landed in the parking lot of the ARCO gas station. Grant fell and collided with a parked vehicle in the parking lot. His upper body was underneath the vehicle, and I could not see his left hand or arm.

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SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE REPORT SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577 (510) 577-3217 RECORDS

2006-00041639

PRIMARY OFFENSE / OCCURRED INCIDENT TRAFFIC STOP

CASE NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

296\ HIDAS, ALEX, J,

DATE / TIME WRITTEN 10/15/2006 22:13 APPROVING SUPERVISOR

Officer Deguzman and I both ordered Grant to show us his hands, but he did not bring his left arm or hand behind his back or into our view. Since, I believed Grant was armed and had a weapon. in his left front pant pocket, and he refused to show me his left hand. I kicked Grant in the left side of his upper body (about 2-3 times) until he brought his hand behind his back. Grant was detained in hand cuffs without further incident.

I located the object Grant threw about 15-20 feet in front of him in the parking lot. The object was a .380 caliber pistol with brown pistol grips. The pistol was the same pistol I saw in Grant's pocket earlier. The pistol had a magazine attached to it and it appeared to be loaded. I brought the pistol back to Officer Deguzman's location, and I began to return to the Techco Gas Station.

Since, I noticed and located a firearm on Grant while he was inside the vehicle, I advised other SLPD Officers to locate and perform a high risk stop on the vehicle back at the Techco Gas Station. Other SLPD Officers arrived, completed a high risk vehicle stop, and detained the remaining two occupants. I searched the vehicle incident to arrest, but I did not locate any other weapons or anything illegal inside the vehicle. Both parties were pat searched for weapons, but none were found in their possession. Greer was released, but I arrested Anderson per 40302(a) V.C. Officer Teng transported Anderson to the SLPD Jail for booking. (See SLPD Case 2006-41643).

I returned to the ARCO Gas Station. Officer Ruff arrived as the evidence technician. He photographed and recovered the pistol, performed a records check on the pistol, and submitted it into SLPD Property as evidence. He advised me the pistol was loaded with one unexpended bullet in the chamber and 5 unexpended bullets in the magazine. The records check did not produce any exact matches for the pistol, and it was not listed as being stolen.

A records check on Grant revealed he is a convicted Felon, and he is on active probation with a four way (S7) search clause for a violation of 11377 HandS and 11359 HandS. Therefore, I arrested Grant upon probable cause for a violation of 12021(a)(1) P.C. (Convicted Felon in possession of a firearm), 12025(b)(1) P.C. (Convicted Felon in possession of a concealed firearm), 12031(A) P.C. (Convicted Felon in possession of a loaded firearm), 12316(b)(1) P.C. (Convicted Felon in possession of ammunition), and 148(a)(1) P.C. (Resisting arrest).

Officer Deguzman advised me Grant vomited and was injured during his arrest. Grant complained of pain in his back, the left side of his head, and his left knee. He had an abrasion on his left knee and was limping. Officer Ruff photographed Grant's injuries, and Officer Deguzman transported Grant to San Leandro Hospital for treatment. I followed him there and took custody of Grant at the hospital.

I read Grant his rights per Miranda, and he decided to give me a statement. Grant stated he was a passenger in his friend's vehicle earlier when I pulled them over. Grant admitted to having a loaded pistol in his left front pant pocket and claimed ownership of the pistol. Grant then stated he wanted to wait for his lawyer, so I ended the interview. See Grant's statement attached.

Grant was treated and cleared for incarceration by hospital staff. I transported Grant to the SLPD



SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE REPORT

901 E. 14TH STREET SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577 (510) 577-3217 RECORDS



2006-00041639

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PRIMARY OFFENSE / OCCURRED INCIDENT

CASE NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

REPORTING OFFICER

296\ HIDAS, ALEX, J,

DATE / TIME WRITTEN 10/15/2006 22:13

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

Jail for booking.

I parked and locked Anderson's vehicle at the scene and gave him the keys.

Sergeant Calcagno and Lt. Dekas arrived to assist us and view the scene. I advised Sergeant Calcagno of my findings and the use of force applied on Grant per SLPD policy.

See Officer Deguzman's Supplemental Report and Officer Ruff's Photo and Tech Reports attached.

No further details.

ARRATIVE

CONTINUATION

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SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE REPORT SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577 (510) 577-3217 RECORDS



2006-00041639

PRIMARY OFFENSE / OCCURRED INCIDENT

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

301\ DEGUZMAN, WARREN, F,

DATE / TIME WRITTEN 10/15/2006 23:00 APPROVING SUPERVISOR

On 101506 about 2107 hours, I was working patrol wearing a San Leandro police uniform and driving a fully marked police vehicle when I responded as a cover officer for Ofc Hidas at the Tech Co Gas Station on Washington Ave and Fargo Ave. As I approached southbound on Washington Ave near the intersection of Fargo Ave, I immediately noticed two persons begin to run. I then recognized Ofc Hidas chasing after a black male subject, later identified as AR-Oscar Grant, southbound Washington Ave on the west sidewalk. Ofc Hidas advised on the radio that he was in a foot pursuit of the subject.

I followed after Grant in my vehicle. Grant continued to run southbound on the west sidewalk past Big O Tires. I pulled into the Big O Tires parking lot, exited my vehicle and removed my Taser X-26 from my holster. I then ran southbound, parallel to the west sidewalk, through the Big O Tires parking lot. I saw Grant stumble and almost fall near the intersection of Lewelling BI at Washington Ave. At this point, I heard Ofc Hidas yell that Grant was in possession of a gun. I continued to run southbound after Grant from his blind side, on his right, across Lewelling Bl. As I got within the taser's 21 FT shooting range, I pointed the red laser dot at Grant's rear center body mass and pulled the trigger. I saw a prong enter Grant's jacket and knew I had hit my mark. Grant then began to stumble forward as his momentum carried him. I continued to run forward as well in order to keep the prong intact. Grant finally collapsed to the ground where he hit his head on the side of a parked vehicle in the Arco Gas Station just a few feet from the south sidewalk of Lewelling Bl. When Grant collided with the parked vehicle, I saw a small black object fly into the air over the parked vehicle. When Grant tried crawling underneath the parked vehicle where I could not see his hands. I continued to depress the taser trigger. After Grant continued to resist, I executed a right foot strike to the right side of Grant's ribs and ordered Grant to show me his hands. Grant finally cooperated and placed his right hand to his side. Ofc Hidas managed to get control of Grant's left hand. I then detained Grant in handcuffs.

After detaining Grant, I looked over the parked car and saw a small black handgun laying on the ground. I advised Ofc Hidas of it's location. Ofc Hidas retrieved the handgun and placed it on the hood of the parked vehicle. He then retrieved my vehicle and parked it in the Arco Gas Station. I then removed the taser prong off of Grant's jacket and placed Grant in the back of my patrol vehicle. I then secured the handgun inside the trunk of my vehicle.

When Tech Ofc Ruff arrived on scene. I advised him of Grant's gun inside the trunk of my vehicle. Ofc Ruff then took custody of the weapon and rendered the weapon safe. See Ofc Ruff's tech report for more details.

I then transported Grant to the San Leandro Hospital for medical clearance since he had injured himself during the foot pursuit as well as having been tased.

I collected the spent taser cartridge with the prongs and wires and submitted all into property as evidence.

See Ofc Hidas' report for more details.

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SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE REPORT SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577



CASE NO. 2006-00041639

PRIMARY OFFENSE / OCCURRED INCIDENT

CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN NARRATIVE

REPORTING OFFICER 293\ RUFF, DANIEL, B. DATE / TIME WRITTEN 10/15/2006 19:55

On 15Oct06, about 2115 hrs, I responded to the area of Washington/Fargo to cover Officer Hidas. While at the scene, I photographed a suspect who was in custody for a firearms violation. The suspect, AR Grant, had hit his head on a parked vehicle after falling during the arrest. I also took custody of a Mauser HSc pistol, .380 caliber, serial # 4241, that Officer Hidas had recovered from Grant. The pistol was loaded with one cartridge in the chamber and five cartridges in the magazine. The photos were taken at the ARCO station, Washington/Lewelling and are as follows:

- Case sheet
- #2 Overview of AR Grant
- #3 C/U of Grant's face
- #4 Same as above left side
- #5 Same as above right side
- #6 View of recovered Mauser pistol, loaded magazine and live cartridge taken from chamber
- Same as above showing left side of pistol
- #8 C/U of slide and serial number
- #9 C/U of serial number

All photos were taken using a Canon digital camera with an 18-55 lens and flash. All photos were downloaded to a CD and submitted into property as evidence. I unloaded the pistol and submitted it into property as evidence, along with the magazine and ammunition. SLPD dispatch performed a records check and could not locate any owner information or DROS for the pistol.

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