

Close-out Memorandum of the  
Investigation Regarding  
Lester Ramirez Rodriguez  
May 28, 2024



State Attorney's Office  
Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
Miami-Dade County  
February 24, 2026



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
State Attorney

DATE: February 24, 2026

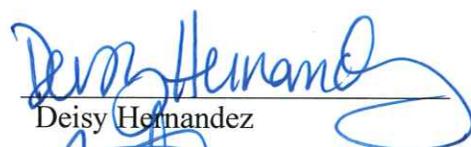
FROM: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

RE: SAO Case #: 62/24/05/28/001  
Injured: Lester Ramirez Rodriguez

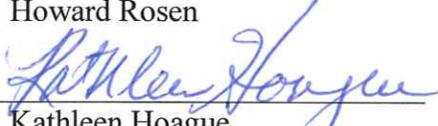
Based on the information obtained and reviewed during the course of the investigation, the conclusion of the staffing/review team is the following:

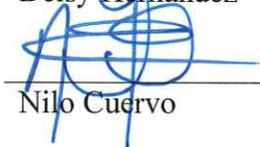
On May 28, 2024, at about 9:00 P.M., the Hialeah Police Department received notice of a stolen vehicle, and Officer Carlos Rios was assigned as the primary unit to investigate. Officer Rios located the stolen vehicle on Okeechobee Road, followed it east on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, and attempted a felony stop. Officer Rios exited his police cruiser, and the driver of the stolen vehicle backed up and attempted to make a U-turn while driving toward Officer Rios. Officer Rios moved out of the way of the vehicle while firing three shots at the driver. The stolen vehicle came to a rest shortly after the shooting, and the driver was identified as Lester Ramirez Rodriguez. Rodriguez suffered nonlife threatening gunshot wounds to the right wrist and left shoulder. The incident was witnessed by Officer Adrian Trujillo and captured on CCTV footage from the nearby shopping center. Pursuant to Florida Statutes 776.012, after reviewing the facts and evidence, the use of deadly force used by Hialeah Police Officer Carlos Rios 04-2310 is determined to be legally justified.

  
Howard Rosen

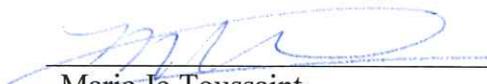
  
Deisy Hernandez

  
Stephen K. Talpins

  
Kathleen Hoague

  
Nilo Cuervo

  
Jose Arrojo

  
Marie Jo Toussaint

Approved by State Attorney on this 24 day of Feb, 2026.

  
KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
State Attorney



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

DATE: February 23, 2026

FROM: Johnathan Nobile  
Assistant State Attorney

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO  
SAO Case # 62/24/05/28/001

Scott Warfman  
Assistant State Attorney

OFFICER INVOLVED:	Officer Carlos Rios 004-2310 Hialeah Police Department
INJURED:	Lester Ramirez Rodriguez
DATE & TIME:	May 28, 2024 @ approximately 9:05 P.M.
LOCATION:	West 12th Ave and 29th Street, Hialeah
WEAPON:	Glock, Model 34 Gen 5, SN: BSML852 (Officer Rios)
LEAD/REPORTS RECEIVED:	Special Agent Claudia Mulvey / November 14, 2025
FDLE CASE #:	MI-27-0258
SAO CASE #:	62/24/05/28/001

### **SUMMARY OF FACTS**

On May 28th, 2024, at approximately 9:00 pm, the Hialeah Police Department received an Automated License Plate Reader hit on a stolen vehicle, identified as a 2020, black BMW bearing Florida Tag # 98DYNQ, entering the City of Hialeah. At approximately 9:05 pm, Officer Carlos Rios was assigned as the primary unit reference the stolen vehicle. Moments later, Officer Rios, in his marked patrol unit, located the stolen vehicle on Okeechobee Road and followed the vehicle east on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Rios attempted to stop the stolen vehicle by driving around the vehicle and blocking the vehicle at the intersection of West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Rios exited his police cruiser as the stolen vehicle backed up and attempted to make a U-turn while driving toward Officer Rios. Officer Rios moved out of the way of the vehicle while firing three shots at the vehicle. Simultaneously, back up unit Officer Adrian Trujillo arrived in his marked patrol unit. Officer Trujillo witnessed the officer involved shooting. The stolen vehicle came to a rest shortly after the shooting as backup officers detained the occupants of the vehicle. The vehicle was occupied by the driver, Lester Ramirez Rodriguez, front seat passenger Yasel Sanchez-Duvergel, rear driver's side passenger Alexis Rodriguez, and her minor daughter seated in the rear middle seat. The driver, Lester Ramirez Rodriguez suffered gunshot wounds to the right wrist and left shoulder and recovered from his injuries. He was transported to Jackson Memorial Hospital in stable condition. No other occupants were injured.

### **VIDEO EVIDENCE**

There is no body worn camera from police that captured the shooting. However, there is CCTV footage from the Portofino Shopping Center located at 2900 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue which captured the incident. The footage shows the stolen vehicle traveling eastbound on 29<sup>th</sup> street and stopping at the light on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Footage shows Officer Rios' patrol vehicle with no emergency lights activated behind the stolen vehicle. The footage captured Officer Rios' patrol vehicle drive around the driver's side of the stolen vehicle and pull in front of the stolen vehicle. The footage shows the stolen vehicle back up in what appears to be an effort to make a U-turn to evade police as Officer Rios exits the driver's seat of his patrol vehicle and approaches the front of the stolen vehicle. The footage shows the stolen vehicle accelerate towards Officer Rios as he jumps out of the way. After the vehicle accelerates towards the

officer, the officer shoots and strikes the middle of the windshield and hood of the stolen vehicle. Footage shows the stolen vehicle travel westbound and roll to a stop.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT STATEMENTS**

#### **Officer Adrian Trujillo**

Officer Trujillo advised that he was on patrol on the night of the incident when he heard over the radio a “be on the lookout” for a stolen vehicle that entered the City of Hialeah as evidenced by an automated license plate reader hit. Officer Trujillo stated that Officer Rios advised over the radio that he had a visual on the stolen vehicle at West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Okeechobee Road. A short time later, Officer Rios advised over the radio that he had the vehicle stopped on West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Trujillo drove north on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Okeechobee Road and drove to the intersection of West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Trujillo observed Officer Rios’ patrol vehicle stopped in the intersection blocking the stolen vehicle which was stopped at the light. Officer Trujillo parked his vehicle in front of Officer Rios’ vehicle. Before exiting his cruiser, Officer Trujillo observed Officer Rios standing close to the rear of Officer Rios’ vehicle with his pistol drawn and pointing towards the front of the stolen vehicle. Officer Trujillo then observed the stolen vehicle reverse, and drive forward as to make a U-turn on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street to go westbound. Officer Trujillo observed the stolen vehicle accelerate towards Officer Rios causing Officer Rios to jump out of the way and observed Officer Rios discharge his pistol towards the stolen vehicle. Officer Trujillo stated that after the shooting, the stolen vehicle made the U-turn and slowly drove a few feet westbound on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street before stopping on the roadway. Officer Trujillo drove his vehicle and parked behind the stolen vehicle where he observed the front driver’s side door open and then observed the driver (Lester Ramirez Rodriguez) fall out of the vehicle onto the ground. Other Officers arrived on scene and the other occupants were removed from the vehicle.

### **CIVILIAN STATEMENTS**

The front seat passenger, Yasel Sanchez Duvergel and backseat passenger, Alexis Rodriguez provided sworn recorded statements to law enforcement. Their statements are consistent with each other. According to them, they were passengers in the BMW being driven by Lester Ramirez Rodriguez. They both advised that they observed a police cruiser place itself in front of the BMW at the intersection of

West 29<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They both advised that the officer exited the police vehicle and placed himself in front of their vehicle while Lester Ramirez Rodriguez attempted to make a U-turn at which point in time, the officer began shooting at their vehicle.

Lester Ramirez Rodriguez did not provide a statement.

### **EVIDENCE ANALYSIS**

The BMW had three gunshot defects on the front including two gunshot defects on the hood of the vehicle close to where the hood and the windshield meet and one gunshot defect in the center of the windshield. Two spent 9mm shell casings were recovered from the roadway on the westside of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street before the intersection with West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. One spent 9mm shell casing was recovered on top of the BMW.

Based on the round counts of the surrendered firearm from Officer Rios, Officer Rios fired up to three rounds. All three spent shell casings recovered from the scene were identified as having been fired from Officer Rios' surrendered 9mm Glock pistol, model 34 Gen5, serial number BSML852.

### **CONCLUSION**

The role of the State Attorney in this investigation and in conducting this review is limited to determining whether a criminal violation of Florida law has occurred, whether any person may be held criminally responsible, and whether such criminal responsibility can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. The State Attorney does not establish agency policy, procedures, or training requirements. Nor does the State Attorney have any responsibility for determining disciplinary action or pursuing civil litigation in these matters. In other words, given the applicable law, the State Attorney's role is to determine whether the actions of Officer Rios constitute a criminal act that can be proven beyond and to the exclusion of every reasonable doubt.

Florida Statute 776.012 which governs the use of force states that:

A person is justified in using or threatening to use deadly force if he or she reasonably believes that using or threatening to use such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony. A person who uses or

threatens to use deadly force in accordance with this subsection does not have a duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground if the person using or threatening to use the deadly force is not engaged in a criminal activity and is in a place where he or she has a right to be.

In this case, based on the totality of the evidence (the video evidence, civilian statements, officer statement, forensic evidence), Mr. Lester Ramirez Rodriguez initiated the threat of deadly force by accelerating the stolen vehicle towards Officer Rios. Therefore, pursuant to Florida Statutes 776.012, Officer Rios' use of deadly force is legally justified.

Prepared by:

/s/ Johnathan Nobile

Assistant State Attorney  
Johnathan Nobile

/s/ Scott Warfman

Assistant State Attorney  
Scott Warfman