

Close-out Memorandum of the
Investigation Regarding
Frank Edismaro Diaz
March 11, 2026



State Attorney's Office
Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Miami-Dade County
October 7, 2026



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

DATE: October 7, 2026

FROM: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

RE: POLICE SHOOTING CLOSEOUT MEMO
SAO CASE 62/26/03/11/002

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

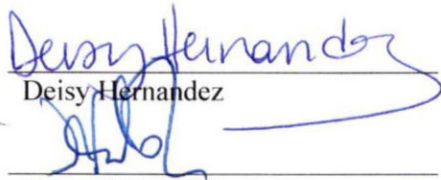
On Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at about 6:25 P.M., Sweetwater Police received a 911 call about a domestic violence situation involving a knife at a private residence. Officers Justin Statfeld, Francisco Garcia, Orlando Villaverde and Maria Quintana responded to the call, and were directed to the backyard of the home. In the backyard, Officers encountered Frank Diaz holding a pregnant woman in front of him in a chokehold. Officer Quintana yells out numerous times for Diaz to "drop the knife." When Diaz failed to comply, Officer Statfeld fired one round, Officer Garcia fired four rounds, and Officer Villaverde fired two rounds. The incident is captured on Body-Worn Camera (BWC) video.

Diaz collapsed, and Officers Garcia and Villaverde rendered him aid, while Officer Quintana assisted the female victim, who appeared to be unconscious or possibly in shock. Diaz was declared deceased at the scene, and the pregnant victim was taken to the hospital and treated for lacerations to her hand and foot. A seven-inch kitchen knife with a wooden handle is found near where Diaz collapsed, and an eight-inch bread knife with a white plastic handle was found on a wooden table on the patio. Security video from inside the home prior to the police arriving captures a domestic violence altercation between the female victim and Diaz and captures Diaz arming himself with two knives when the victim's father arrives to help his daughter.

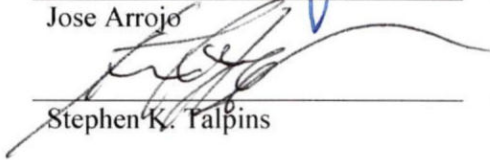
Pursuant to F.S. 776.05 and 776.012, and a review of the facts, evidence, and law in this investigation, we find that the deadly force used by Officers Justin Statfeld 25-418, Orlando Villaverde 25-437, and Francisco Garcia 25-272 in discharging their weapons was legally justified.

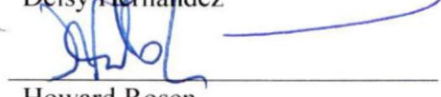
The members of the staffing/review team for this case are:


Jose Arrojo


Deisy Hernandez


Kathleen Hoague


Stephen K. Talpins


Howard Rosen


Nilo Cuervo

Approved by State Attorney on this 7th day of October, 2026.


KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM

DATE: 10/2/26

FROM: Elvia Medina Marcus
Assistant State Attorney

RE: Police Shooting Closeout Memo
SAO Case #: 62/26/03/11/002

Mari Jimenez
Assistant State Attorney

OFFICERS INVOLVED:	Officer Justin Statfeld – Sweetwater PD (025-0418) Officer Orlando Villaverde – Sweetwater PD (025-0437) Officer Francisco Garcia – Sweetwater PD (025-0272)
DECEASED	Frank E. Diaz
DATE & TIME:	March 11, 2026 @ Approximately 6:25 PM
LOCATION:	Sweetwater, Florida
LEAD/REPORTS RECEIVED:	FDLE Special Agent Michael Gaudio/ 7-1-26
CASE NUMBERS:	FDLE # MI-27-0322 SWPD # SW260311002317 MDSO # PD260311-071866
SAO CASE #	62/26/03/11/002

FACTUAL SUMMARY

On Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at around 6:25 p.m., Sweetwater Police received a 911 call for service regarding a domestic situation involving a family member armed with a knife at a home located on Miami, Florida. Officers Justin Statfeld, Francisco Garcia, Orlando Villaverde and Maria Quintana responded to the call. Upon arrival, family members outside the residence directed the officers to the back yard of the home. The events after the arrival of the officers were documented by the Body Worn Cameras (BWC) of Officers Quintana and Garcia. The BWC of Officer Villaverde was not turned on until immediately after the shooting. Officer Statfeld did not have his BWC activated during the incident.

The shooting occurred on the western half of a duplex dwelling. The dwelling that comprises the eastern side of the duplex, was not involved in the incident.

Officers Villaverde and Quintana approached the back of the residence via the west side solid wood gate that led to the back yard, while Officers Garcia and Statfeld entered the house through the front door, which was opened for them by a woman later identified as A C the mother-in-law of the deceased, Frank E. Diaz, hereinafter Diaz, and immediately traversed it on their way to the back yard.

Officers Villaverde and Quintana approached the wood fence and gate that led to the back yard with their guns drawn, with officer Villaverde in front and Officer Quintana bringing up the rear. Officer Quintana's BWC's audio captured her yelling out eight times to 'drop the knife' or 'drop the knife now,' as they made their approach to the gate. Once there, Officer Villaverde opened the gate and BWC shows Diaz facing the direction of the officer while holding a woman in front of him in a chokehold. The fatal shooting unfolded quickly after that – Officer Quintana is heard yelling "shoot, shoot," as the sound of approximately six gunshots are captured on BWC. A review of Officer Quintana's BWC and Officer Villaverde's shows that Officer Villaverde turned on his camera as Diaz collapsed, immediately after the shots were fired. The shooting occurred one minute and forty-one seconds (1:41) after Officer Quintana arrived on scene.

As Officers Quintana and Villaverde were approaching the yard from the western side, Officers Statfeld and Garcia reached the backyard by traversing the house from the front door. BWC of Officer Garcia shows him and another officer, later identified as Officer Statfeld, walk through the living room

to the back of the house, containing a kitchen and dining area. That area leads to the backyard through a pair of sliding glass doors, which are shattered, with broken glass visible all over the floor on the inside and immediately outside the doors. Multiple other objects besides the shattered glass are observed strewn about on the floor of the kitchen in the BWC and crime scene photos.

The officers yell 'Sweetwater Police' and 'come out' a few times as they traverse and exit the house into the small backyard, which is completely surrounded by a privacy wooden fence. The area which the officers enter is covered with artificial turf and contains a sofa and chair. The officers turn left (west) upon entry to the backyard, where loud agitated voices are heard, and as they turn the corner of the house in a southerly direction, they see a man, later identified as Diaz, holding a woman in front of him in a chokehold, while another man, later identified as the father of the female victim, L A is in front of them. The father, J A is facing them and is seen reaching for Diaz's arm with his left arm and his daughter's neck area with his right arm, as if trying to pull Ms. A from Diaz' grip. Diaz's body is up against the west perimeter fence, facing toward the side of the house, with Ms. A held directly in front of him facing the same direction. The BWC shows Officer Villaverde in front and to the right of Diaz, holding a gun with his arms extended in the direction of Diaz. The incident unfolds very fast, the situation is very fluid, and it is impossible to see Diaz's hands, only part of his arms are visible. All four individuals are positioned inside the yard, right in front of the entry gate located on the western side of the property.

BWC of Officer Garcia shows Officer Statfeld in front and to his left as they encounter the struggle, and both then appear to shoot their firearms in that direction. The shooting occurs one minute and thirty-nine (1:39) seconds after Officer Garcia's BWC is activated.

At least seven or eight shots are heard in the audio of the BWC. FDLE investigators subsequently determined by a round count that Officer Stafford fired one round, Officer Garcia fired four rounds, and Officer Villaverde fired two rounds.

Diaz collapsed immediately after the shooting, and Officers Garcia and Villaverde went to him to render aid, while Officer Quintana assisted L A , who appeared to be unconscious or possibly in shock. Officer Garcia immediately started chest compressions on Diaz, who appeared unresponsive, with officer Villaverde relieving him after a few minutes, until MDRF responded and took over. They declared Diaz deceased at the scene.

Two knives were recovered. A seven (7) inch kitchen knife with a wooden handle is seen on the ground to the left (east) of where Diaz falls to the ground, and an eight (8) inch bread knife with a white plastic handle is found on a wooden table on the patio. The knife was not originally seen at that location in the BWC, and it is unknown how or who put it there.

Security video from inside the house prior to police arrival captures the violent fight that led to the police being called. Diaz and L A are seen arguing in the kitchen, after which Diaz is seen on the phone telling someone, later determined to be L A father, as confirmed by his statement, that Ms. A had hit him in the back. He then becomes enraged and starts throwing different objects, including a phone, vase and fruits and vegetables, at Ms. A yelling that now he was hitting her. The video shows the glass sliding doors shattering when Diaz threw something at them.

The video shows the dog running toward the front of the house when Ms. A father arrives, whereupon Diaz is seen opening kitchen drawers and arming himself with the same two knives that are later found by his body. He threatens to 'take' Ms. A with him if the police are called, as Mr. A tries to calm him down, and all three move out of camera range and to the area where the shooting happened, with still yelling threats with the knives in his hands.

After the shooting Ms. A was taken by fire rescue to the Kendall Regional Hospital. She was approximately five (5) months pregnant at the time of the incident, and sustained lacerations to her hand and foot. Ms. A was interviewed, along with her father, brother, and stepmother. The fourth officer who was also present during the use of force who did not discharge her weapon, Officer Maria Quintana, was also interviewed.

In the audio recorded interview of Officer Quintana, she replied that she responded as backup to this scene. Officer Quintana said she arrived on scene with the three other officers. Upon arrival, a female civilian on scene guided them to the back and told them the subject had a knife. Officer Quintana stated that as she approached the house, she heard arguing and a woman crying. She went through a white gate at the front of the house. She stated she could then see movement behind a brown wooden fence on the side of the house. As they continued to approach, she yelled out "put the knife down or we will shoot". Officer Villaverde was approaching in front of her. Because of this, she put her gun away for the safety of Officer Villaverde. Officer Quintana said that at this point, Officer Villaverde opened the door to the

fence. She said that she could see a male holding a woman with a knife to her neck. She said she did not lift her gun because of the officer in front of her.

Seeing that the male continued to hold the woman at knifepoint, Officer Quintana yelled "shoot, shoot". The male with the knife was just a few feet away and Officer Villaverde was between Officer Quintana and the male. Officer Quintana described that when she yelled "shoot, shoot", the male was holding the female with the knife to her neck. The hold was like he was hugging her. The male and the female were standing up, and she saw the knife on the female's neck. Officer Quintana described that she could not see what was going on with the male's other hand, but there was a knife in the one hand she could see up against the female's throat. After Officer Quintana said, "shoot, shoot", the male was shot.

After the shots were fired, the officers immediately attempted to render aid to the male. Officer Quintana was asked about the other two officers. She advised that they came from the other direction, having gone through the main door through the house. Officer Quintana stated that she knew they were coming from the other way, however, at the time she yelled "shoot, shoot" she did not see them. She advised that she heard the two shots from Officer Villaverde but did not hear or see anyone else shoot.

L A was interviewed at the Kendall Regional Hospital Emergency Room. Ms. A advised that Diaz was her husband. They got into an argument at home and he pushed her. As the argument continued, Diaz called Ms. A's dad and said he was going to kill her. Then Diaz began throwing things. The first thing he threw was the phone. Then, several other items including a crystal vase. As he was throwing things, he broke the door. Ms. A said she was able to get to the back yard. Then, her brother showed up. Ms. A said that Diaz grabbed her brother by his neck. Diaz would not let her brother breathe (it should be noted that although this happened outside of security camera range, the brother is shown going outside to where Ms. A and Diaz had gone, and you can hear Ms. A saying "let him go" or words to that effect a few times). Ms. A told Diaz to let him go. She said Diaz let go because he had an attack. Ms. A said that a few moments later her mom and dad arrived. When they arrived, her father tried to talk to Diaz. Ms. A said that at this point Diaz had two knives in his hands. Ms. A said that while she was outside, he came and put one knife up to her neck. Ms. A said this is how she cut her hand. Ms. A advised she did not know who called the police. She said that her dad was talking to Diaz, trying to get him to put down the knives and speak to him. Ms. A said she was there when the police arrived and when the shots

were fired. She stated she did not know how many shots there were, but that it was many shots. She said that Diaz had a knife in each hand and was standing behind her. She said that after this, the officers got her out of there and took her to fire rescue. When asked how many officers were there, she could not remember. She did remember a female officer helping her. Ms. A said that Diaz was not under the influence of any substances. She denied any prior domestic violence had occurred in the relationship.

J A was interviewed at the scene. He stated that he and his wife got a call from Diaz saying he was sick of their daughter and was going to kill her. Mr. A and his wife came to the house. His wife stayed outside, Mr. A went in. Diaz confronted him. Mr. A said that his daughter L was on the patio outside. Mr. A said Diaz went to the back yard. Diaz went up to L brought her to the side of the house and held her with two knives. Mr. A said one knife was at her neck and the other against her back. Mr. A said that when the police arrived, Diaz was shot. Mr. A and his daughter fell to the floor. Mr. A stated that once Diaz had the knives up against his daughter, at no time did he stop holding them against her neck and her back. He said Diaz never dropped the knives. Mr. A stated he saw three or four officers enter.

A C the stepmother, and L A the brother of L A also provided recorded statements. They did not see the police use of force. The witnesses' statements were consistent with each other and were consistent with the evidence captured in the Body Worn Camera footage, the processing of the scene, and the medical examiner's conclusions.

Diaz sustained gunshot wounds and was pronounced deceased on scene by Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Benjamin Mathis also arrived on scene. A later autopsy was performed by Dr. Tiffany Sheganoski. Diaz had two gunshot wounds on the right side of his torso, two gunshot wounds on the left side of his torso, and one gunshot wound to his head.

ANALYSIS AND 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 law enforcement 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. The State Attorney's role is

to determine whether the actions of Officers Statfeld, Garcia, and Villaverde constitute a criminal act that can be proven beyond and to the exclusion of every reasonable doubt.

We have reviewed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Investigative Summary into the Police Use of Force in this incident. We have also reviewed the sworn statements, body worn camera footage, and other evidence compiled by FDLE under FDLE Case Number MI-27-0322. We find the summary to be complete, thorough, and consistent with the witness statements we participated in on the day of the incident as well as consistent with our observations at the scene. We adopt and attach that Investigative Summary hereto and also offer our conclusion based on the results of our investigation and review.

Frank E. Diaz attacked his pregnant wife with knives causing lacerations to her hands and foot. He was holding knives in each hand against his wife's body and did not respond to officers' commands to disarm. This knife can be seen on Body Worn Camera footage found next to Diaz's body after he had been shot. The officers in this investigation each fired to ensure the safety of themselves, L A and J A in the home at the time of Diaz's violent attack. Section 776.012, Florida Statutes, permits the use of deadly force when a person reasonably believes such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony. Section 776.05, Florida Statutes, permits a law enforcement officer to use any force that he believes is necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making an arrest. Based on the facts of this case we find that the shooting of Frank E. Diaz was legally justified pursuant to Florida law.

Prepared by:

/s/ Elvia Medina Marcus

Elvia Medina Marcus
Assistant State Attorney

/s/ Mari Jimenez

Mari Jimenez
Assistant State Attorney