

## BSO shooting of day laborer investigated

**The Mexican consulate is looking into the BSO shooting of a day laborer who had recently arrived in Pompano Beach. The man was in critical condition Thursday night.**

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The Mexican consulate has hired an attorney to look into the shooting of a day laborer who had just moved to Pompano Beach.

"We are very troubled by the way this unfortunate incident came about," Consul General Jorge Lomonaco said Thursday. "We have asked our attorney to look into it, to follow the investigation step by step, and to make sure that the appropriate actions are taken."

The Broward Sheriff's Office is investigating the shooting of Germán Gómez, 22, by Deputy Lewis Perry, who was hired Jan. 8, 2001.

Gómez was taken to North Broward Medical Center, where he was in critical condition late Thursday.

Perry, 38, has had nine complaints lodged against him in the almost four years, including excessive force, conduct unbecoming a deputy and insubordination.

The BSO's Professional Compliance unit recommended that Perry receive four written reprimands and a one-day suspension for five of the nine complaints. Professional Compliance is also investigating Perry on another complaint.

He has been on paid administrative leave, a standard procedure in deputy-related shootings.

The shooting occurred about 6:40 p.m. Wednesday after deputies responded to a call of a burglary in progress at the Whispering Isles complex on West Sample Road.

When deputies arrived, they were met by two witnesses who gave a description of two men who they said were trying to break into an apartment that the manager later said was vacant. Moments later, two other deputies, Perry and Richard Mosca, 37, on the force for 14 months, arrived.

The deputies spotted Gómez and his cousin, Javier Domínguez, 21, who had arrived in Pompano Beach on Monday, after leaving Chiapas, Mexico, a month ago. Perry and Mosca tried to talk to the two men who were in the parking lot.

Gómez and Dominguez, undocumented workers, did not speak English. It was unclear whether the two deputies spoke Spanish.

According to the BSO, Perry fired his weapon at Gómez, who crumpled to the ground, bleeding from a gunshot wound to the head.

Gómez was taken to the hospital, and Dominguez was taken to BSO headquarters and questioned for a few hours, then released.

"This is an active and ongoing investigation," BSO spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said Thursday. "Our detectives are working diligently to sort out the circumstances surrounding the shooting."

She provided few details.

On Thursday afternoon, two officials from Consul General Lomonaco's Miami office accompanied attorney David Kubiliun to Pompano Beach to meet with the victim's relatives. Kubiliun spoke with Domínguez.

"He said they were coming home to what they thought was their apartment but the key wouldn't turn," Kubiliun said.

Realizing they were in the wrong building and wrong apartment, the two men walked back downstairs to the parking lot where they found themselves surrounded by deputies with guns drawn, Kubiľiun said.

"They both raised their arms and attempted to communicate with the officers. But they don't speak English and none of the officers spoke Spanish," Kubiľiun said. 'Javier told me all he could understand was `shut-up! Shut-up!' "

While Domínguez was being handcuffed, a shot rang out, Kubiľiun said. Domínguez told Kubiľiun he turned and saw his cousin on the ground.

"One of the [BSO] investigators confirmed to me that my clients were unarmed. He assured me neither one of them will be charged," Kubiľiun said.