



DEPARTMENT OF CORONER



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**TO:** Ilona Lewis, Director

**FROM:** Christopher Rogers, M.D., Chief  
Forensic Medicine Bureau  
Craig R. Harvey, Acting Chief  
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**SUBJECT:** REVIEW OF RIOT-RELATED CASES

Attached are summaries of the 61 cases which were initially classified as being riot-related.

A committee comprised of Dr. Rogers, Assistant Chief Jimenez, Captain Gilmour and Acting Chief Harvey were assigned the task of determining the validity of each case remaining on the list.

The committee reviewed each case and evaluated it based on information within the investigator report and department possession of a finalized police report for the death.

After the preliminary review, fourteen (14) cases were identified as requiring additional follow-up with the investigating police agency.

All fourteen cases have now been further investigated and based on the known circumstances of the death and additional information from the police agency which was unavailable when the case was reported, a total of 10 cases have been recommended for removal from the list of those cases considered **riot-related**.

The final total number of deaths related to the April '92 Riots now stands at 51.

CRH:sb

c: Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D.  
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Mark Cooper, Disaster & Community Services



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## RIOT CASES SUMMARIES 8-10-92

92-3926 Edward Travens

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 15 year old Hispanic male who expired on 4-29-92 in San Fernando. This decedent was brought to Holy Cross Hospital following a shooting, reportedly by a Black suspect who is a gang member. The cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds. The Coroner's investigator's report mentions that this was a drive by shooting but does not mention riot relatedness.

DISPOSITION: This is not considered a riot case because it was outside the main riot area, and may have been gang related.

92-3929 Edwardo Vela

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 33 year old Hispanic man who was involved in a shooting on 4-29-92 in the 5100 block of West Slauson Avenue. He reportedly was an occupant of a vehicle which broke down. The other occupants of the vehicle left the vehicle to seek help and when they returned they found him unresponsive in the street.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because the decedent's automobile broke down in an area affected by the riot during the riot period.

92-3930 John Willers

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 37 year old Caucasian man who was involved in a shooting on 4-29-92. He was reportedly rendering aid at the scene of a head on traffic collision when he was shot. The place of death was Mission Hills. The victim is Caucasian and the assailants are Black.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because of the appearance of racial overtones.

92-3931 Darnell Mallory

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 18 year old Black male who died because of a traffic accident during police pursuit. A traffic stop was initiated because of a broken tail light and this decedent as well as two others (92-3932 and 92-3933) lost control of their automobile during the subsequent pursuit and struck a brick wall. They had reportedly committed a robbery in the riot area.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because of the riot-related robbery.



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### 92-3932 Jerel Channell

SUMMARY: This is a 26 year old Black male who died during a traffic accident during police pursuit. The decedent and two others (92-3931 and 92-3933) were stopped because of a broken tail light. During police pursuit, the decedent's automobile struck a fixed object.

DISPOSITION: This is considered riot related (see 92-3931).

### 92-3933 Juanita Pettaway

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 38 year old Black female who was killed during a traffic collision during a police pursuit. She and two others (92-3931 and 92-3932) were stopped because of a broken tail light. During police pursuit, they struck a fixed object.

DISPOSITION: This is considered riot related (see 92-3931).

### 92-3934 Dennis Jackson

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 38 year old Black man who was involved in a shooting on South Alvarado Street in Los Angeles. He was shot in an area where there was sniper activity related to the riot. There was an exchange of gun fire between the alleged snipers and the police. This decedent and one other (92-3935) were found dead following the shooting.

DISPOSITION: This case is considered to be riot related because of the riot-related sniper activity.

### 92-3935 Anthony Taylor

SUMMARY: This decedent is a 31 year old Black man who was involved in a possible officer involved shooting on South Alvarado Street in Los Angeles. He was in an area where there was sniper activity related to the riot. Police officers were called and exchanged gunfire with the snipers. Following the exchange of gun fire, the decedent as well as one other person (92-3934) were found dead.

DISPOSITION: This case is considered to be riot related because of the riot related sniper activity.

### 92-3936 Ira McCurry

SUMMARY: This decedent is a 45 year old Caucasian County employee who was at 102nd Street and Avalon Boulevard on 4-30-92 when he received a gunshot wound. The exact circumstances are unknown, as the



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decedent was taken to a police command post following the shooting and no investigation was undertaken until much later.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because this gunshot wound occurred in the riot area.

### 92-3937 Dwight Taylor

SUMMARY: This decedent is a 42 year old Black man who was reportedly involved in a drive by shooting on Martin Luther King Boulevard on the evening of 4-29-92. He was reportedly standing with other individuals on the street while on his way home from work.

DISPOSITION: This case is considered riot related because it is a shooting in the riot area.

### 92-3938 Louis Watson

SUMMARY: The decedent is an 18 year old Black male who was reportedly shot while standing with a group of people at Vernon and Normandie on 4-29-92.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because it was a shooting in the riot area.

### 92-3939 Elbert Wilkins

SUMMARY: This decedent is a 33 year old Black man who was involved in a shooting on 4-29-92 at the intersection of 92nd Street and Western Avenue. He and several others reportedly drove to the riot area just prior to the shooting.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because it occurred within the riot area.

### 92-3940 Willie Williams

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 29 year old Black man who fell from the back of a pickup truck on 4-29-92. The decedent was reportedly looting a store and was leaving with several appliances in the back of the pickup truck.

DISPOSITION: This case is considered riot related because it was a traffic accident occurring in association with riot-related looting.



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92-3941 Arturo Miranda

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 23 year old Hispanic man who sustained a gunshot wound in the chest in the vicinity of 120th Street and Central Avenue on 4-29-92. He was transported by private parties to Gardena Memorial Hospital.

**DISPOSITION:** This case is considered riot related because it was a gunshot wound occurring in the riot area.

92-3942 Anthony Netherly

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 21 year old Black male who sustained a gunshot wound to the head at the area of 78th Street and San Pedro Street on 4-29-92.

**DISPOSITION:** This case is considered riot related because it is a gunshot wound occurring in the riot area.

92-3954 Brian Andrew

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 30 year old Black man involved in an officer involved shooting on 4-30-92. This shooting occurred during a foot pursuit following riot-related looting.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because the shooting occurred following riot-related looting.

92-3957 Jose Garcia

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 15 year old Hispanic male who sustained a gunshot wound to the chest on Fresno Street in East Los Angeles. He was reportedly engaged in an altercation and was then taken to a nearby tunnel and shot. The Coroner's report does not indicate riot-relatedness.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case as it may be gang related.

92-3959 Howard Epstein

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 45 year old Caucasian man who sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the head at Slauson and 7th Avenue in Los Angeles on 4-30-92. He was driving his automobile when shots were fired from another automobile. He was reportedly in the riot area because he was checking on his business in that area. The decedent was removed from the scene and taken to the LAPD Command Post.



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DISPOSITION: This case is considered riot related because the decedent was in the area due to the riot.

92-3960 Thanh Lam

SUMMARY: This is a 25 year old Oriental male who was involved in a shooting at the corner of Alondra and Willowbrook Avenue in Compton on 4-30-92. He was reportedly working as a delivery person in that area.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because the decedent was delivering to the riot area.

92-3961 Frank Lopez

SUMMARY: This decedent is a 36 year old Hispanic male who sustained an assault with fatal head trauma in the area of 16th Street and Central in Los Angeles on 4-30-92. The decedent was reportedly attempting to direct traffic in that area while intoxicated. Blood ethanol level was .21 grams percent. Initially it was believed that the decedent had been struck by a vehicle. However, autopsy showed injuries which were inconsistent with traffic collision. The case was therefore considered a homicidal assault.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because it was an assault during the riot in the riot area.

92-3962 Patrick Bettan

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 30 year old Caucasian male who suffered a gunshot wound to the head on West Olympic Boulevard in Los Angeles on 4-30-93. He was working as an armed guard at a shopping center. A gun fight erupted when he confronted looters.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the decedent was involved in a gun fight with looters.

92-3963 Hector Castro

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 49 year old Hispanic man who sustained a gunshot wound to the back at the intersection of Vermont and 3rd Street, Los Angeles on 4-30-92. He was reportedly shot from a vehicle.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because it is a drive by shooting in the riot area.



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92-3965 Matthew Haines

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 32 year old Caucasian man who sustained a gunshot wound and battery in Long Beach on 4-30-92. He and a roommate were reportedly traveling on a motorcycle into the riot area when they were accosted by approximately 15 individuals.

**DISPOSITION:** This case is considered riot related because the decedent was reportedly traveling to the riot area for sightseeing purposes.

92-3966 Mark Garcia

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 15 year old Hispanic male who was involved in an officer involved shooting in Lennox on 4-30-92. He was reportedly looting a jewelry store, and was shot by officers during police pursuit.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case due to the police pursuit following looting.

92-3970 James Taylor

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 27 year old Black man who sustained a gunshot wound to the back in Hollywood. He was reportedly a looter at a shopping mall when he was shot, possibly by one of the shop owners.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because it involved riot related looting.

92-3972 Edward Lee

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 18 year old Oriental male who was shot at the intersection of Third Street and Hobart Boulevard Los Angeles on 4-30-92. The decedent was a passenger in an automobile. He and other occupants of the automobile were reportedly involved in a gun fight with unknown suspects. The police were called, and were also involved in the gun fight.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because of the location and the gun fight involving police.



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#### 92-3973 Cesar Aguilar

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is an 18 year old Hispanic male who sustained a gunshot wound to the chest. This occurred on West Sixth Street in Los Angeles on 4-30-92. He was reportedly looting a convenience store. He was shot by police when they attempted to arrest him.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because it was an officer involved shooting prompted by looting.

#### 92-3975 Franklin Benavidez

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 27 year old Hispanic male who was involved in a shooting on Western Avenue in Los Angeles on 4-29-92. He was reportedly robbing a gas station and was shot by police.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because it involved robbery in the riot area.

#### 92-3976 Kevin Edwards

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 35 year old Black man who was shot in Compton on 4-30-92. He reportedly approached a house in Compton, acting strangely. The owner of the house ordered him to leave the property. The decedent then returned to the property and said "A dog told me to come to your house". The owner of the house then reportedly shot him.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case.

#### 92-3977 Andres Garcia

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 32 year old Hispanic man who sustained a stab wound to the chest on West Pico Boulevard in Los Angeles on 4-30-92. This occurred during a drug deal and street robbery.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case.

#### 92-3979 Juan Tineda

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 20 year old Hispanic man who was involved in a drive by shooting on Santa Monica Boulevard on 4-30-92. He was reportedly caught in cross fire between snipers on the roofs of businesses and others in passing vehicles.





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DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because it occurred in a riot area and was related to possible sniper fire or gunfire from business owners.

92-3980 Kevin Evanahen

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 24 year old Caucasian male who was found in a check cashing business on Braddock Drive in Los Angeles on 5-1-92. He was reportedly helping a business man retrieve items from his store which was on fire. The decedent climbed onto the roof of the building with a bottle of water and apparently fell through the roof of the building.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the decedent died during a riot-related fire.

92-3981 Noel Solorzano

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 25 year old Hispanic male who died of gunshot wounds at the intersection of Santa Monica and Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles on 4-30-92. He was reportedly shot by a shop keeper while he was looting.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the decedent was shot while he was looting.

92-3982 Harry Doller

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 56 year old Caucasian man who was found following a house fire on 5-1-92. Cause of death was determined to be acute ethanol-phenobarbital intoxication, indicating that he had died of an overdose before the fire. The fire may have been started by the decedent with a lit cigarette.

DISPOSITION: This is not considered a riot related case.

92-3983 Meeker Gibson

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 34 year old Black man who received a drive by shotgun wound to the chest in Pomona on approximately 5-1-92. He was found in an area which had suffered damage and looting during the rioting previously.

DISPOSITION: This is considered to be a riot case because of the area where the incident occurred.



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92-3988 Gregory Davis

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 15 year old Black male who suffered a gunshot wound to the head at the intersection of Vermont and 43rd Street, Los Angeles on 4-30-92. He was reportedly passing through that intersection on foot, when he was struck by a single shot to the head. Phencyclidine was present on toxicology screen.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because the decedent was in the riot area when he was shot.

92-3989 George Sosa

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 20 year old Hispanic male who received a gunshot wound on 4-30-92 and was transported to LAC+USC Medical Center. The decedent was later found to have been injured at the intersection of Florence and Pacific in Huntington Park, and was reportedly shot while looting.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because the decedent was shot while looting.

92-3990 William Ross

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 33 year old Black male who was found in a burned building on Ninth Street in Los Angeles. The building was a grocery store which burned during the riot in the riot area. A large quantity of cash was found in the decedents clothing.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because the decedent died as a result of a riot-related arson fire.

92-3996 Paul Horace

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 38 year old Black male who sustained multiple gunshot wounds on Walnut Street in Los Angeles. The decedent was reportedly traveling to Los Angeles from the Oakland area in order to transport ammunition for riot-related purposes.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because the decedent was in the area for riot purposes.

92-3997 Lucie Maronian

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 51 year old Caucasian woman who sustained multiple stab wounds in her residence in Altadena on 5-1-92. The



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assailants were reportedly chasing the decedent's son and others. They came to the decedent's house and stabbed her.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the assailants were involved in riot/disturbance activities.

### 92-4005 Aaron Ratinoff

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 68 year old Caucasian man who died of neck trauma and blunt force injury following a physical altercation. He reportedly went to a store in the riot area because the stores were closed in his neighborhood due to the civil unrest. He was reportedly assaulted in the market by the store clerk.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the decedent left his usual neighborhood due to the riot.

### 92-4008 Betty Jackson

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 57 year old Black female who was involved in an auto accident at the corner of 51st and Main Street, Los Angeles on 5-1-92. One cause of the accident was reportedly that the traffic signals were out at that intersection due to the rioting.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the signals were out as a result of the riot.

### 92-4009 Charles Orebo

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 22 year old Black male who sustained gunshot wounds on the Harbor Freeway on 5-1-92. He reportedly threatened an off duty police officer with a weapon while driving by in a vehicle. That officer and another off duty officer pursued him. He exited or was thrown from the suspect vehicle, having sustained multiple gunshot wounds in an officer involved incident.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because it was an officer involved shooting in the riot area.

### 92-4010 Deandre Harrison

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 17 year old Black male who sustained gunshot wounds in an officer involved shooting in the South Central Area of Los Angeles on 4-29-92. There is a possibility that the decedent was a sniper shot by police.



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**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because the decedent was armed and was shot by police in the riot area.

92-4012 Ernest Neal

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 27 year old Black male who was involved in a drive by shooting at Western Avenue and 92nd Street, Los Angeles on 4-29-92. This decedent was involved in the same incident as case 92-3939. The decedent and friends were reportedly standing at an intersection in the riot area when they were shot from a vehicle.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot-related case because the decedent was shot while in the riot area.

92-4014 Alfred Miller

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 32 year old Black man who was shot in a drive by incident on Florence Avenue in Los Angeles on 5-1-92. He was taken home, then to the hospital.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because it is a drive by shooting in the riot area.

92-4017 Carol Benson

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 43 year old Black female who was involved in a hit and run vehicle vs pedestrian accident on the Harbor Freeway north of Slauson on 5-2-92. The blood alcohol was 0.35. No disabled vehicle was present in the area. The decedent lives nearby.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because the decedent may have been looting liquor stores; there is no other explanation of why she was on the freeway.

92-4032 George Alvarez

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 42 year old Hispanic man who had blunt head trauma on North Main Street, Los Angeles on 5-1-92. The decedent was reportedly a transient who was assaulted by other transients.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case.

92-4037 Juana Espinosa



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**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 65 year old Hispanic woman who was involved in a shooting on Compton Avenue in Los Angeles on 5-2-92. She was reportedly a pedestrian on the sidewalk when she was struck by gun fire intended for police cars passing in the street.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because of the gunfire intended for police.

92-4042 John Doe #80

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is an unidentified male who was found in a Pep Boys Store on 5-2-92. The store was located on South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles and reportedly burned on 4-30-92.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because it was related to riot arson.

92-4046 Susan Morgan

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 24 year old Black woman who sustained a gunshot wound to the head on East 115th Street in Los Angeles on 5-1-92. She was reportedly a victim of an altercation between herself and her boyfriend on that date.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case.

92-4052 Fredrick Ward

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 29 year old Black male who was involved in a drive by shooting in Pacoima on 5-2-92. He was standing in front of a private residence when he was shot from an unknown location.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because it occurred in an area which had reported riot activity.

92-4055 Howard Martin

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 22 year old Black man who was involved in a shooting in Pasadena on 5-3-92. Police were reportedly called for a disturbance at a party. Shots were fired at a police helicopter, forcing it to land. The decedent was shot during an exchange of gunfire between officers and others.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because of the general lawlessness which was pervasive in the area contributed to the rapid escalation of violence at the party.



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92-4056 Hugo Ramires

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 24 year old Hispanic male who sustained a gunshot wound in Baldwin Park on 5-3-92. He was reportedly found unresponsive on the street.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case because it was outside the riot area.

92-4061 Imad Sharaf

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 30 year old Caucasian man who was apparently set on fire in Mission Hills in a brushy area. The body was found on 5-3-92. Date of the fire is unknown. Cause of death was related to the fire, and mode of death was homicide. This was apparently related to a drug deal.

**DISPOSITION:** This is not considered a riot case.

92-4063 Vivian Austin

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 89 year old Black woman with no known medical history. She lived on 60th Street in Los Angeles, and had reportedly been extremely distressed by the riots and house fires close by. She expired on 5-3-92 and was signed out as having arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot case because the stress from the riot was well documented and is a contributing factor in death from arteriosclerotic disease.

92-4088 Victor Rivas

**SUMMARY:** The decedent is a 31 year old Hispanic male who was reportedly shot by the National Guard when he attempted to run over them. This incident occurred at Pico Boulevard and New Hampshire in Los Angeles on 5-3-92, and happened during the curfew.

**DISPOSITION:** This is considered a riot related case because of the involvement of the National Guard and the curfew.

92-4093 John Doe #90

**SUMMARY:** This unidentified Hispanic male was arrested on 5-3-92 in the evening for curfew violation at Venice Boulevard and Hope Street



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Los Angeles. At that time, he appeared to be under the influence of an unknown substance. He sustained cardiac arrest at Parker Center. Cause of death was combined effects of ethanol, haloperidol intake and fatty liver. Mode of death was accident.

DISPOSITION: This is not considered a riot case because death would have occurred whether or not the riot had taken place or a curfew imposed.

92-4099 Jimmie Harris

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 38 year old Black male who was involved in an auto vs auto accident at Avalon Boulevard and Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles on 4-29-92. Paramedics arrival was delayed due to rioting in the area. Traffic signals were reportedly functional at the time of the accident. Autopsy information suggests that delay of the paramedics was not a factor in the decedent's death, as the injuries involved laceration of the liver and spleen and substantial head trauma.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot case because of the late arrival of the paramedics due to the riot; however, the injuries would probably have been fatal in any case.

92-4579 Juan Salgado

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 20 year old Hispanic male who was found on 5-20-92 in the remains of a burned out clothing store. He had last been seen looting the store.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because it involved looting of the store during the riot.

92-4694 Wilson Alvarez

SUMMARY: The decedent is a 40 year old Hispanic man who was reportedly assaulted on 5-1-92 while he was throwing rocks at looters. He was taken to LAC+USC Medical Center, where he died of consequences of head injury on 5-23-92.

DISPOSITION: This is considered a riot related case because the initial injury was related to looting.

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