



# NEWS RELEASE

GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GLENDALEAZ.COM/POLICE



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 4, 2021

CONTACT: Sergeant Randy Stewart 623 930-3076  
Officer Tiffany Ngalula 623 930-3276

## **Glendale Police Officer Involved Shooting on Northern Avenue**

**GLENDALE, AZ.** – On May 3, 2021, just before 8:00AM, in the area near 59<sup>th</sup> Ave and Northern Ave, patrol officers responded to a burglary alarm call. The alarm company also notified the homeowner who contacted a family member to respond to check on the home. The family member arrived prior to police and located an unknown adult male inside of the property. Officers arrived on scene and could hear a car horn going off inside the garage. They located the suspect barricading himself inside of a vehicle parked in the garage. The suspect shouted to officers they were going to have to shoot him.

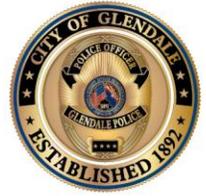
At about 9:00AM, the SWAT team and canine unit arrived at the residence to take over the scene. Negotiations were attempted for a peaceful surrender. The suspect had used a refrigerator to further attempt to block police from entering the garage. At 10:04AM, the immediate action team was sent to make contact at the rear window of the vehicle. The suspect jumped out of the vehicle and charged at the officers with hand tools. The hand tools recovered near his body were screwdrivers, a cutting instrument, and other hand tools. The team attempted to safely retreat, when one officer feared for the lives and safety of his team and discharged his firearm striking the suspect. Immediate trauma first aid was provided, and Glendale Fire responded to assume medical treatment. The suspect was transported to a local valley hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. No officers were injured at the scene.

The decedent was identified as 45-year-old Mariano Villegas (Phoenix resident). The officer who discharged his weapon has been placed on administrative leave which is standard practice in this situation. The investigation is on-going at this time.



# NEWS RELEASE

GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GLENDALEAZ.COM/POLICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



*Mariano Villegas (booking photograph 5/2/2021)*

*\*Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission  
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department  
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*