



San Benito Police Department

601 North Oscar Williams Road, San Benito, Texas 78586 956-361-3880



PRESS RELEASE

-UPDATE -

Interim Chief of Police
Fred Bell

Assistant Chief of Police
Mario Perea

Lieutenant of Patrol
Michael Galvan

**Lieutenant of Criminal
Investigations**
Michael Cortez

Lieutenant of Patrol
Rene Garcia

Lieutenant of Patrol
Isaac Vasquez

Lieutenant of Patrol
Milton Resendez

Release Date: August 20, 2020. UPDATE TIME 3:35 p.m.

On August 19, 2020, at approximately 11:00 p.m., officers with the San Benito Police Department (SBPD) responded to a disturbance call near the intersection of South Bonham Street and East Powers Street in San Benito, Texas.

Responding San Benito Police Officer Oscar Lara arrived to find Mr. Samuel Mata, 21, and his mother arguing about the use of a vehicle. The mother was attempting to prevent Mr. Mata from driving off in her car when a physical altercation ensued. Officer Lara attempted to de-escalate the situation when Mr. Mata brandished a revolver and pointed it at his mother and subsequently at Officer Lara.

Officer Lara aimed at Mr. Mata and discharged his firearm. Police officers administered CPR to Mr. Mata, but he later succumbed to his injuries.

The Texas Rangers arrived and initiated an investigation. San Benito police detectives are assisting in the investigation.