

We started out the month of February on a very somber note. Officer Gonzalo Carrasco Jr. was gunned down while protecting the community of Selma. I touched on this last month, as it had just happened the day prior. I am taking this time during the month of February to brief all of you on the many hours put in to helping Selma through this line of duty death. This really encompassed a tremendous amount of time, and most certainly many hours that were never logged.

Immediately following the critical incident, the FDSA opened our doors and our hearts to members of the Selma Police Department during the uncertain time following the shooting. What began as an afternoon filled with disbelief and concern ended in an evening filled with tears and overwhelming grief.

I want to take a moment to share with you the support we have given to the Selma POA and the Selma Police Department, as it touches the core of our mission here.

The moment we learned a Selma Police Officer was struck by gunfire, we opened our building up to Selma PD to offer support and a place to gather while they awaited updates from the hospital.

Our presence and care were what we offered them during this tragedy, as words can feel so inadequate because of the magnitude of the loss.

I am attaching a timeline to show our membership our mission lived out and how we assisted the Selma POA.

- On behalf of the Selma POA a Memorial Fund was immediately established for Carrasco's family
  - Both mail and phone donations accepted
  - Set up Fund a Hero with PORAC
  - Pushed out details to media- to ensure the fund would be included as part of the evening newscasts.
- Meeting on Wednesday 02/01/23 with Selma PD Chief, CHP and FPOA Peer Support
  - Discussed preliminary funeral arrangements and logistics.
  - Use of the Fresno Convention Center/Selland Arena was offered as a donation by Mayor Dyer on behalf of the City of Fresno.
  - Chapel of the Light had provided transport of Officer Carrasco from CRMC to the Fresno County Coroner's Office. Chapel of the Light also offered funeral services free of charge.
  - Chief and staff met with the Carrasco family to make these decisions. They chose both the venue (Selland Arena) and Chapel of the Light as funeral director.
  - Preplanning began
- Thursday 02/02/23 Several Planning Meetings began.
  - Met with both Table Mountain Casino and Pardini's for the catering portion of the reception. Pardini's selected for reception. Table Mountain Casino could not handle the

catering portion due to the casino being brand new and having to fully staff their restaurants and venue center. TMC gave a significant donation for the reception.

- Met with Selland Arena management and laid out options. ASM ensured they would accommodate any needs the family or Selma PD requested.
  - Met with FPOA leadership. Asked for help in securing hotel rooms for funeral attendees. This was a priority as the funeral date was the same time as the World Ag Expo in Tulare as well as a band convention.
  - Phone call with Reedley POA President about the Starbucks fundraiser they put together for Sunday 02/05/23.
- Friday, 02/03/23
    - Met with Lt. Ediger from Reedley PD who was securing a location in the City of Reedley for a venue to feed the family after the cemetery.
    - Decision was made for catering 2500 attendees at Selland Arena and feeding 300 family members in Reedley. All catering handled by Pardini's.
  - Sunday, 02/05/23
    - Attended Reedley Starbucks event. Very well attended fundraiser. Roughly \$20,000 raised at this event between checks, cash, and Fund a Hero QR code.
  - Monday, 02/06/23
    - Lt Devins tasked FDSA with hotel booking that would be put on Teletype. Contact would be staff at FDSA. Total rooms secured throughout Fresno County is about 125. All requests are run through FDSA staff through Wednesday morning, 02/15/23.
  - Tuesday, 02/07/23
    - Large meeting at Convention Center Selland Arena with everyone involved in funeral planning. Total count was about 60 people in attendance. Everyone was tasked with their assignments. FDSA's two assignments are reception(s) (Reedley and Selland Arena) along with hotel contact for out of county LEOs arriving to the funeral.
  - Wednesday 2/08 through Friday 2/10 we worked on small logistic matters that came up. We were in contact with Pardini's daily for little details and finishing touches. We opted to pull away from round table seating at the funeral and go with more floor seating and upper area seating for the public and LEOs. At this time, total capacity was set for 6,200 people. If needed, the arena capacity is over 10,000.
  - Monday 2/13, Tuesday 2/14 and Wednesday 2/15, we attended some last-minute meetings in regard to logistics for the funeral that was to be held Thursday, February 16. Lt. Devins ran the ICS portion for Selma Police Department in the organization of the funeral. Everyone who had a piece of the operation attended a meeting Monday at Chapel of the Light funeral home to go over final details to ensure everyone was aware of the plan. Any questions were also answered at this time.

- Tuesday and Wednesday were finalizing items with Selland Arena, Pardini's catering, family and Selma POA on any additional requests that were needed.

Our goal throughout this process was to remain focused on ensuring the desires of the Carrasco family were met and the needs of the Selma Police Department. This is and was truly about supporting them during this time. We never lost focus of that.

The funeral was an honorable ceremony that paid tribute to Officer Carrasco in a very meaningful way.

I would like to specifically thank Sgt. Rascon who handled the Selland Arena portion from the ICS end. She understands what it means to ensure the operations are smooth and focus is never lost.

I want to also thank Jeff Wolff and Mark Moreno from ASM, they manage the Selland Arena and assured me from the beginning they were here to assist and facilitate in any way they could. Both were spot on and understood the tremendous undertaking and meaning of this event.

This grief and sadness that continues to overwhelm the police department is real and takes a long time to heal. I shared some words with the Selma POA President and their treasurer last Tuesday. They remain in our prayers and thoughts. My heart hurts for the pain they are experiencing. I can say I understand how they feel. I (along with many who have worked in this agency for decades) have suffered a lot of loss. Seven friends have died in the line of duty. My way of coping and carrying on is through helping others get through these terrible incidents.

We will always serve other local law enforcement agencies when called upon with no expectation in return. We all do the same job, take the same risks, and answer the same calls.

I'm honored to lead this organization and am so grateful for members, like you- who have given your full support to helping Selma POA and Selma PD.

Truly Yours,

Eric Schmidt  
President, Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association