



Office of the New York State Attorney General Letitia James

Office of Special Investigation

August 31, 2026

Report on the Investigation
into the Deaths of
Maria Garcia,
Magdalena Garcia, and
Mario Garcia

OVERVIEW

New York Executive Law Section 70-b (Section 70-b) authorizes the Attorney General's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) to investigate and, if warranted, to prosecute offenses arising from any incident in which the death of a person is caused by a police officer or peace officer, whether or not formally on duty. When, as in this case, OSI does not seek charges, Section 70-b requires issuance of a public report. This is the public report of OSI's investigation of the deaths of Maria Garcia and Magdalena Garcia, who were shot on January 22, 2026, by off-duty Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Police Officer Mario Garcia Jr., who then took his own life. Maria Garcia died on January 22, 2026, and Magdalena Garcia died from her injuries on February 16, 2026.

FACTS

According to PAPD Deputy Chief Mark Magrone, Officer Garcia was a police officer with the PAPD since 2002 and was assigned to the Laguardia Airport Police Command, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Unit.

On January 22, 2026, at 7:54 a.m., security video from the lobby of 2500 Johnson Avenue, Bronx County, a residential building, captured the sound of what appeared to be a single gunshot. According to the Intergraph Computer Aided Dispatch (ICAD) System, at 7:57 a.m. the building doorman called 911 and reported that a man shot himself on the first floor of the building.

New York City Police Department (NYPD) Police Officer Catherine DeJesus, equipped with a body-worn camera (BWC), arrived at 2500 Johnson Avenue at 8:00 a.m. and was directed to a nearby hallway. Officer DeJesus's BWC video showed Officer Garcia in the hallway, seated on the floor, and leaning against the wall next to apartment door LE. Officer Garcia was unconscious and bleeding heavily from a visible gunshot wound to the left side of his head. At 8:01 a.m. Officer DeJesus radioed dispatch for an ambulance. BWC video showed that Officer DeJesus removed a firearm from Officer Garcia's left hand and recovered another firearm from his lap. At 8:03 a.m. additional officers arrived and entered apartment LE. Maria Garcia (Officer Garcia's sister) was discovered in the bedroom, lying in bed in a pool of blood; Maria Garcia was declared dead by responding paramedics. Magdalena Garcia (Officer Garcia's mother) was discovered in the living room, seated on a daybed, bleeding from an apparent gunshot wound to the face. Magdalena Garcia was conscious and removed from the apartment by paramedics. At 8:04 a.m. officers arrived with an automated external defibrillator (AED) and placed the AED pads on Officer Garcia's chest. The AED advised "no shock." BWC footage showed that officers performed chest compressions on Officer Garcia until 8:05 a.m., when New York City Fire Department (FDNY) paramedics arrived and assumed medical care. At 8:06 a.m. Officer Garcia was declared dead by paramedics.

Magdalena Garcia was transported to NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. On February 16, 2026,

she died from her injuries.

According to the BWC footage, no one else was present in the apartment when the officers arrived.

Evidence Collection and Analysis

NYPD's Crime Scene Unit (CSU) collected evidence and took photographs. A Glock Model 43 9mm Luger firearm and a Glock Model 45 9mm Luger firearm were recovered next to Officer Garcia's body. CSU officers inspected the firearms:

- The Glock Model 43, identified as Officer Garcia's off-duty firearm, had a capacity of seven rounds (six in the magazine and one in the firing chamber). The firearm had one live round in the chamber and four live rounds in the magazine, which was consistent with Officer Garcia having discharged two rounds;
- The Glock Model 45, identified as Officer Garcia's duty firearm, had a capacity of 18 rounds (17 in the magazine and one in the firing chamber). The firearm had one live round in the chamber and 15 live rounds in the magazine, which was consistent with Officer Garcia having discharged two rounds.

NYPD's Firearms Analysis Section (FAS) tested the recovered firearms and found them to be operable.

CSU recovered four discharged 9mm Luger Winchester shell casings, and one deformed discharged round. The deformed discharged round and two shell casings were recovered in the hallway near Officer Garcia's body, one shell casing was recovered in the living room where Magdalena Garcia was discovered, and one shell casing was recovered in the bedroom where Maria Garcia was discovered.

FAS microscopically compared the 9mm Luger Winchester shell casings and deformed round with test fires from Officer Garcia's firearms and concluded that two shell casings were discharged from Officer Garcia's Glock Model 43, two shell casings were discharged from Officer Garcia's Glock Model 45, and the deformed round was discharged from Officer Garcia's Glock Model 45.

As detailed below, following microscopic analysis, FAS determined that a bullet fragment recovered during Officer Garcia's autopsy was discharged from his Glock Model 45.



CSU photo showing Officer Garcia's off-duty firearm, magazine, and live rounds.



CSU photo showing Officer Garcia's duty firearm, magazine, and live rounds.

Autopsy

Dr. Christina Shreve of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner conducted all three autopsies and concluded that the cause of Maria Garcia's death was "gunshot wound of head" and deemed the manner of death to be "homicide." Dr. Shreve concluded that the cause of Magdalena Garcia's death was "complications of gunshot wound of face," with "hypertensive cardiovascular disease" as a contributing factor, and deemed the manner of death to be "homicide." Dr. Shreve concluded that the cause of Officer Garcia's death was "gunshot wounds of head" and deemed the manner of death to be "suicide (shot self)." According to the autopsy report, Officer Garcia sustained one perforating gunshot wound to the right temporal scalp with surrounding soot and muzzle abrasion, and one penetrating gunshot wound to the left temporal scalp with surrounding soot, searing, and muzzle abrasion. Dr. Shreve recovered a bullet fragment from the right temporal lobe of Officer Garcia's brain. As noted above, microscopic analysis of the bullet fragment determined that it was discharged from Officer Garcia's Glock Model 45.

CONCLUSION

A full review of the evidence supports the conclusion that Officer Garcia was solely responsible for the deaths of Magalena Garcia, Maria Garcia, and himself. OSI found no evidence indicating that any other person was involved. All the ballistics evidence at the scene showed that only Officer Garcia's guns were involved. As for Officer Garcia's two wounds, OSI concludes, based on the positions of the recovered guns, the single gunshot sound captured on the security camera audio, the entry wounds at the left and right temples, and the presence of soot and muzzle abrasion at both entry wounds, that he had one gun in each hand and fired both at the same time. Therefore, OSI has no basis on which to seek charges against any living person and closes the matter with the issuance of this report.

Dated: August 31, 2026