

U.S.

# ‘Victimizing Me All Over Again’: San Bernardino Victims Fight for Treatment

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA NOV. 30, 2016

A year after a terrorist’s bullets ripped through her, after so many operations and infections she has lost count, Valerie Kallis-Weber has a paralyzed left hand, painful bone and bullet fragments in her pelvis, psychological trauma and tissue damage, including a fist-size gouge in her thigh where a bullet tore away the muscle.

Ms. Kallis-Weber, a survivor of the shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., that left 14 people dead and 22 seriously injured, still faces a long, hard road to reach something like recovery. She needs more operations, she relies on a home health aide, and her doctors want her to get physical and occupational therapy to relearn to use her arms and legs.

“I can’t type, I can’t put a bra on, I can’t cut a steak, I can’t drive, I can’t do laundry, I can’t wrap a present, I can’t put my shoes and socks on, I can’t do much walking or standing or sitting,” she said. “I need help with everything.”

But the visits from the health aide have been reduced, and she has been told they will end soon. Approval of her antidepressant medication was withdrawn. Her occupational therapy was cut off, and her physical therapy stopped, restarted and stopped again.

Her conflicts over treatment are not with her health insurance plan; the shooting on Dec. 2, 2015, was a workplace attack, not covered by regular insurance. Instead, her treatment comes under the workers' compensation system, which in California and many other states often restricts coverage more than health insurance does.

Ms. Kallis-Weber and other victims of the attack, all San Bernardino County employees, have spent months fighting the county and private companies that help administer the system, as treatments that their doctors approved have been delayed or denied.

"I was shot by terrorists, and it feels like the people I worked with are victimizing me all over again," said Ms. Kallis-Weber, 59, who spent three months in a hospital and a rehabilitation center after the shooting.

The county and the victims have a stark disagreement about what the county should — or even could, legally — do for the survivors. The employees say the county could simply pay for medical care, even if it is not strictly required by California law, but county officials have insisted that an employer has no role in making such decisions.

Officials with the California Department of Industrial Relations, which oversees workers' compensation, told county officials on Monday that they could, in fact, provide care beyond what the law required, said Christine Baker, the department director.

A county spokesman, David Wert, conceded that treatment approval had been balky and slow, but he said the county did not want to deny anyone needed care.

"We're very frustrated at the system, and by the fact that our employees are not happy with what's going on," Mr. Wert said. County workers check in regularly with survivors, trying to resolve their problems, he said, and "we're actually in the process of hiring a dedicated workers' comp liaison to work solely with these people."

Both sides say that part of the problem lies with the state workers' compensation law and the guidelines for applying it, which anticipate common workplace injuries like those resulting from a slip and fall, not those seen in a war

zone. The guidelines say treatment cannot be denied just because a condition is not explicitly mentioned, but in such cases, decisions become less straightforward.

California and several other states have also changed their workers' compensation laws in recent years, in ways that curb benefits and save employers money. A 2013 change in California removed the option of appealing a denial of coverage to a state administrative law judge. This makes the process faster but also means that denials are reversed much less often.

“The guidelines in the law are one-size-fits-all, which doesn't work for unusual cases, and we used to have the ability to convince a judge of that,” said Marc G. Marcus, a workers' compensation lawyer in Sacramento who is not connected to the case. “What's happening to these people in San Bernardino is just a very extreme example.”

Ms. Baker, the state industrial relations director, said the system had become more stringent because “there were huge abuses,” with doctors prescribing unnecessary treatments. And some San Bernardino survivors' claims were denied because providers had made mistakes with the requests.

As in other mass attacks, charitable groups have raised millions of dollars to help the victims in San Bernardino, and some medical providers have given their services free. But survivors of the other attacks have usually not had to deal with workers' compensation.

As employees of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health took part in training sessions last December, one of them left and then returned with his wife. The couple carried out the slaughter using variants of the AR-15 assault rifle. The weapon's bullets travel three times the speed of rounds from a typical handgun and often fragment, causing wounds that trauma surgeons say are far worse than those from ordinary gunshots.

One bullet hit Amanda Gaspard, now 32, in the right leg, fractured her thighbone, destroyed muscle tissue, tore away part of her knee cartilage and badly damaged the top of her shinbone. Another bullet hit her right forearm, and flying debris peppered her body. Half of her blood drained onto the conference room floor.

She could not put any weight on her leg for three months, and it was not until August that she could stand long enough to take a shower. Her orthopedic doctors say her leg needs reconstructive surgery, including a bone graft, but it is not clear whether workers' compensation would pay for the highly specialized operation.

For now, she can walk, with a cane, for only a short time — or not at all, depending on her level of pain.

“I have literally hundreds of pieces of shrapnel in me,” Ms. Gaspard said. “The word ‘painful’ doesn’t do it justice.”

She wears clothes that cover her wounds; she cannot bear to see them, or to have them seen.

“I have gone to weekly psychological appointments since January, and the county has made only two payments, and that was only after I called them,” she said. She goes to physical therapy weekly, but workers' compensation is not paying for that, and her doctors' requests for therapeutic exercise sessions with a trainer have been denied.

California workers' compensation guidelines place limits on how much physical therapy an employer must provide if the patient is not improving. Therapy can be denied, even if the patient would deteriorate without it.

In California and many other states, a request for services under workers' compensation goes to a private firm, hired by the employer, for “utilization review.” That company has a doctor review the case file and decides whether services are medically necessary and legally required. Its decisions can be appealed to another company, hired by the state, for a second review.

For months, county officials have said they are required to abide by the decisions; it was not clear whether that would change after the state's intervention on Monday.

Shooting survivors and workers' compensation lawyers have insisted that if patients' doctors call for treatments that are considered appropriate, the county's Department of Risk Management, which processes claims, is free to approve them,

even if they are denied in utilization review. Excel Managed Care, the utilization review contractor the county used for many of the San Bernardino claims, agreed.

Lawyers and victims also question whether the doctors reviewing case files — who never see the patients — have experience with injuries like those in the San Bernardino shooting.

Excel, which no longer works for the county, “at all times matches the specialty of the expert reviewer to that of the requesting/treating physician as closely as possible,” Brenda Smith, the chief executive, wrote in a statement in response to questions. “This would apply to wounds, trauma and other injuries which might be sustained in a terrorist attack.”

Even when the process works, it can be slow. Ms. Kallis-Weber and Julie Paez, another survivor, had to remain in the hospital for a few extra days — at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars — while waiting for approval of medication they would need to take at home.

Ms. Paez, 51, was shot in the lower abdomen and the rectum. Surgeons gave her a colostomy, screwed her shattered pelvis back together and installed a “fixator,” with rods protruding through her skin to hold everything in place.

After another operation, in March, to remove the fixator, her doctors prescribed physical therapy to help her walk again. Workers’ compensation approved six weeks of therapy, then denied more, then approved it briefly in June, then denied it again, then approved it again.

In August, she had another operation, to reverse the colostomy and remove scar tissue. She has painful bone spurs and still needs a pelvic bone graft.

“They said we’ll wait until after the bone graft to approve more physical therapy,” Ms. Paez said. “Well, I don’t know when I’ll be able to have the bone graft.”

Tracie Thompson, 50, was hit in the leg and pelvis by a bullet that remains in her. Despite sometimes severe pain, her primary problem is emotional.

“I watched several people I knew murdered, and if they didn’t die right away, I tried to hold eye contact with them,” she said.

After she requested psychological services, she said, it took weeks for her to see a doctor, who diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder, and weeks more to get an appointment for treatment — an hour’s drive from her home. “I could barely face leaving the house, and it’s too painful for me to sit for any length of time, so that was out of the question,” she said.

Eventually, she decided to circumvent workers’ compensation. She found a nearby counselor who accepted the compensation provided by a local victim assistance program, she said, and a physical therapist who agreed not to charge for now.

Ms. Thompson returned to work part time in October.

“I’m having a really hard time with it,” she said. “You’d think they would want to make it easier.”

A version of this article appears in print on December 2, 2016, on page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: Shot at Work, Terror Victims Suffer Anew on Medical Bills.



# San Bernardino Shooting Survivors Fight for Medical Treatment Workers' Comp Denied

The county plans to hire a company to speed up the medical review process so employees can get the care they need.

By Liz Wagner



Some survivors of last year's terrorist attack in San Bernardino are fighting for care after the county's workers' compensation program denied medical and mental health treatments. The NBC Bay Area Investigative Unit first exposed that the state's system designed to help get workers better and back on the job can actually make their recoveries more difficult. Now some injured workers say what's happening in San Bernardino proves the system is broken. Liz Wagner reports in a story that aired on December 2, 2016. (Published Friday, Dec. 2, 2016)

Some survivors of last December's San Bernardino terrorist attack are fighting for care after the county's workers' compensation program denied medical and mental health treatments. Survivors brought their concerns to county supervisors during a meeting on Monday.

County worker Sally Cardinale said she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder after hiding in a bathroom during the attack. She said she had to plead for more medication when she was notified that she would be weaned off of it.

"We just want help," she said. "We just want them to acknowledge that we were victims. That what we are feeling is real and stop making us feel like it's not."

The concerns raised by the shooting survivors in San Bernardino spotlight what hundreds of California's injured workers and their doctors call a broken workers' compensation system.



## TRENDING STORIES

- 1 **VIDEO** Operator of Ill-Fated Warehouse is Convicted Felon: Records
- 2 **PHOTOS** Inside the 'Oakland Ghost Ship' Warehouse Building
- 3 **VIDEO** Eleven Victims Identified in Deadly Oakland Warehouse Fire
- 4 A Look Inside the 'Oakland Ghost Ship' Warehouse
- 5 **VIDEO** 36 Dead in Ghost Ship Fire, Recovery Efforts Stalled

## WEATHER FORECAST

San Jose, CA

52° Haze  
Feels Like 52°

The NBC Bay Area Investigative Unit first [exposed this summer](#) that the system designed to help get workers better and back on the job can actually make their recoveries more difficult by dragging out medical care or outright denying treatments their doctors say they need.

Many injured workers and doctors have questioned the medical review process mandated by the state. The process called "utilization review" helps guide decisions about which medical treatments are appropriate. Third party companies working on behalf of insurance carriers or self-insured employers review requests for medical treatment and approve or deny care based on a set of guidelines.

San Bernardino leaders said the county is taking steps to speed up the medical review process to get workers the care they need.

"Based on concerns expressed by the Board of Supervisors, the county will hire a firm whose sole function will be to expedite the process for our employees," Chairman James C. Ramos said in a statement. "Moving forward, the board will continue to monitor cases to ensure employees are receiving the care and attention they deserve in a timely manner."

Ramos also said many of the concerns raised by county workers coping with psychological and physical injuries stem from the county "not receiving supporting documentation from employees' providers." He said the county will work with doctors to obtain the proper paperwork needed to approve treatments.

Christine Baker, the director of the Department of Industrial Relations, which oversees California's workers' compensation system, said she is working hand in hand with San Bernardino's risk manager to expedite treatment for the county's injured workers.

Baker called last year's attack an extraordinary event that resulted in serious psychological injuries. While not dismissing the value of treatment guidelines, she said reviewers need to take a "common sense" approach when reviewing requests that involve complex mental health issues.

"We have to look at the situation more holistically instead of just looking at guidelines," Baker said.

The state has continued to tout the effectiveness of evidence-based medicine, which requires the use of medical guidelines to determine if treatments are medically necessary and appropriate. But Baker also said she encourages better communication between doctors requesting care for their patients and claims adjusters handling injury claims for workers.

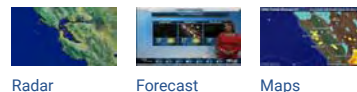
She said she's confident that San Bernardino's leaders are taking necessary steps to address problem areas.

"I am hopeful that appropriate treatment will be provided in a timely fashion," Baker said.

If you have a tip for the Investigative Unit, email [theunit@nbcbayarea.com](mailto:theunit@nbcbayarea.com) or call 888-996-TIPS. Follow Liz Wagner on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Published at 9:13 PM PST on Dec 2, 2016 | Updated at 1:02 PM PST on Dec 3, 2016

Get the latest from NBC Bay Area anywhere, anytime  
[Download the App](#) [Follow NBC Bay Area](#)



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**How often have you researched a product on one online retail site, then purchased it on another site?**

- I've never done this before
- I've done it maybe once or twice
- I've done it a lot

[NEXT](#)

Powered by CivicScience [Privacy policy](#)



### NEWSLETTERS

Receive the latest investigations updates in your inbox

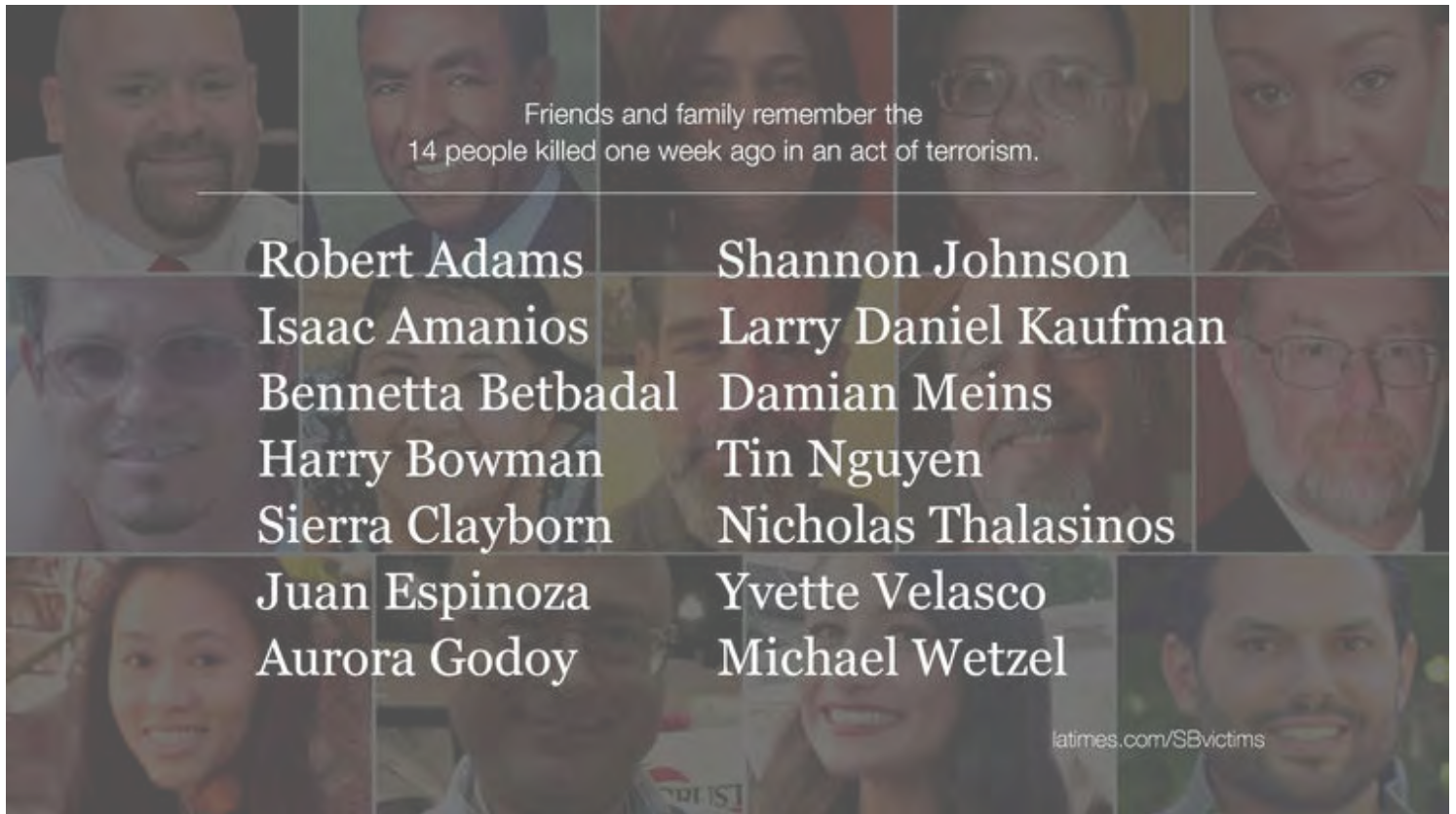
[Sign up](#)

[Privacy policy](#) | [More Newsletters](#)





# They survived the San Bernardino terror attack. Now, they feel betrayed



Family and friends remember the San Bernardino shooting victims. Read their stories: [latimes.com/sbvictims](http://latimes.com/sbvictims)



By **Paloma Esquivel**

NOVEMBER 30, 2016, 4:15 PM

**A**fter a heavily armed San Bernardino County employee and his wife attacked a county holiday event last Dec. 2, killing 14 people and wounding 22, county leaders sounded a clear message of support for their workers.

“The events of that day could have torn us asunder. They have not. They have drawn us closer together and rebounded our commitment to take care of one another,” Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos said at a memorial in January.

ADVERTISING



But a year later, some county employees who were victims of the attack, including witnesses and those who were physically injured, say such pledges ring hollow.

In interviews and at a recent public meeting, employees described struggling to cope with a callous county bureaucracy that provided little comfort as they tried to heal. Instead, they were left scrambling for help and tangling with a county-administered workers' compensation program that has led to delays and denials of needed medication and treatment, the employees said.

"There's a level of secondary trauma that has occurred to all of us," said Ray Britain, who was interim division chief for the county's Division of Environmental Health Services on the day of the attack. "We were abandoned and betrayed by a co-worker, and when we asked our employer for help, a lot of us were abandoned and betrayed by them."

Several employees said they have struggled to cope with constant uncertainty about whether treatment or medication will be approved. In some cases, they said they were made to repeatedly argue and appeal when treatment was denied.

County spokesman David Wert said caring for those affected by the terrorist attack has been a top priority of the county.

"Workers' compensation requires many parties to do their respective parts, and it doesn't always run as smoothly as it should," he said in a written response to questions. "The county has always acted in the best interests of the wounded, improving practices along the way, and will continue to do so."

Some of the problems appear inherent to California's workers' compensation programs, which can be difficult to navigate and often rely on precise guidelines for treatment approval. But the county also has latitude to affect the process.

Christine Baker, director of the California Department of Industrial Relations, said she reminded the county this week that it has "full discretion to provide medical care even after a review of the guidelines."

“We’ve told the county these are unusual circumstances and they’ve got to take extraordinary steps to take on these issues,” she added.

After county workers recently began to air their concerns publicly, county officials said Monday they would hire a firm dedicated solely to helping process paperwork for those affected.

But that has been little comfort to victims who have struggled for the past year.

“I don’t feel like they have had any compassion for us,” Sally Cardinale, 35, a program specialist, said of the county. “We were victims when it was convenient for them.”

Hanan Megalla, 48, was shot four times on Dec. 2, in the head, arm and chest.

She suffered nerve damage and bone fractures. She lost function in one arm, has difficulty sleeping and is frequently in pain.

“Her doctors keep asking for physical therapy. They keep asking for medication,” said her husband, Osama Megalla, 51. “Each time the doctor writes a prescription ... they shoot it down.”

After pushing back, he said, some of her medications have been approved.

But, he added, “they keep telling you it’s only approved for one time only. Which means that every month we have to go through this refill drama again. It’s unbearable.”

Britain, 48, who supervised most of the workers in the room on Dec. 2, was seated at a table when the shooters entered the room.

“I sat at the head of the table and watched it all happen,” he recalled recently. “I froze as he entered, and I think I was just in shock and disbelief at what I was seeing.”

Though he escaped physically uninjured, he soon realized he would need psychological treatment.

When he sought it, he said, county officials “made us feel ashamed that we even needed help if you weren’t physically injured.”

“Everything has been a fight,” Britain said. “I had to fight to get into the workman’s comp process. Once in the workman’s comp process, you realize that’s a flawed system. ... Every month you’re wondering if your medication is going to be approved, what’s going to be denied, what’s going to be delayed.”

The policies and procedures required under workers’ compensation, which was never tailored for victims of terror attacks, can be daunting.

Workers must first submit a request to a county adjuster. If that person cannot approve it, the request is forwarded to “utilization review,” conducted by doctors at a firm hired by the county.

Baker, of the Department of Industrial Relations, said state officials have told the county that some treatments being submitted for higher review could be approved at the county level.

Often, employees and their family members said they have found themselves stymied each step of the process.

But many have been particularly frustrated by decisions made during the review process by faraway doctors who do not treat the patient.

In one case reviewed by The Times, a woman who had been shot asked for authorization to consult with a psychologist.

Five months after the attack, she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and was having crying spells. She was unable to sleep and haunted by nightmares, according to records.

The utilization review doctor denied the request because “psychological evaluation and treatment has already been performed,” according to the records.

The county could change decisions made in utilization review, said county spokesman Wert, but he argued that doing so would be wrong.

“In cases of prescriptions and medical treatment it would be wrong for the county, which is not a doctor, to overrule a decision made by a doctor. It could harm the patient, make the county liable for anything that goes wrong and result in cancellation of the county’s insurance.”

The utilization review decision can also be appealed to the state for independent review.

Attorney Geraldine Ly, who represents nine of the victims, said that in her experience those appeals for treatment are overwhelmingly denied.

Wert said delays have often stemmed from employees’ doctors not submitting proper documentation to approve treatment.

For some patients, a number of treatments and medications recommended by their doctors were submitted with detailed documentation but denied because reviewing doctors determined that the recommended treatments did not meet their guidelines, records show.

Cardinale, the program specialist, was in a bathroom when the shooting started. She and three others hid in a stall, standing on a toilet so their feet would not show under the door.

She has wanted to go back to work — and did so for almost six months — but has suffered from anxiety and panic attacks.

In November, she received notice that her anxiety medication, antidepressants and others would not be approved.

“The claimant should have already been completely weaned from this medication,” the determination read, even though Cardinale’s own doctor had prescribed it.

The same report noted that she suffered from PTSD and that her symptoms had been exacerbated by the anniversary of 9/11.

“My psychiatrist believes that I need to be on the medication. That’s why he wrote the prescription,” Cardinale said.

Cardinale and others said they were reluctant to raise their concerns publicly because talking about the attack and its aftermath is exceedingly painful.

But in recent weeks they decided to come forward, feeling that they were out of options.

On Monday, victims and their supporters spoke out at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

Julie Swann-Paez, who was shot, voiced her frustration at county supervisors for the way employees had been treated over the past year.

“We don’t feel as if we’re being treated as the county family,” she said. “More like the ugly stepkids, who if we were just out of the picture, it would make everything run more smoothly.”

**[paloma.esquivel@latimes.com](mailto:paloma.esquivel@latimes.com)**

**Twitter: @palomaesquivel**

**ALSO**

**A San Bernardino family terrorized by violence was desperate to leave before it was too late**

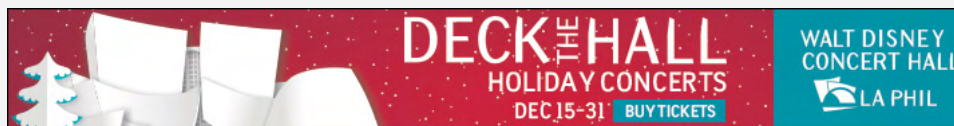
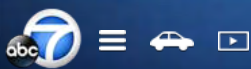
**Lopez: A middle-aged woman with Alzheimer's, no money and no transportation vanished in Los Angeles. Now the search is on**

**Top L.A. city budget official leaves post for County Fair Assn.**

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

**This article is related to:** Mental Health Research, Medical Research, Drugs and Medicines

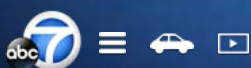




SAN BERNARDINO MASS SHOOTING

# SAN BERNARDINO SURVIVORS FIGHT FOR EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

Share G+1 Tweet Email



By Greg Lee

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 03:44PM

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- Nearly a year after the deadly terrorist attack in San Bernardino, survivors continue to cope with the nightmare and may soon run out of the help they've been receiving.

Survivors, such as Sally Cardinale, pleaded before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to continue benefits to help the victims of the massacre.

"The trauma from them is almost starting to overshadow the trauma of the day," Cardinale said.

Cardinale hid in a bathroom as her co-worker Syed Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik shot and killed 14 people and injured dozens of others at the Inland Regional Center on Dec. 2, 2015.

Days from the one-year mark of the terror attack, Cardinale has been denied the medications that help her cope with her post-traumatic stress disorder.

"None of those three medicines are supposed to be cut off like without any weaning or anything like that and they just cut them off," Cardinale said.

She was one of several survivors of the attack who said they were cut off from therapy and medication they needed from the county's workers' compensation program.

"Hard to fathom when the doctors are sitting down and saying, 'I'm sorry, my hands are tied, I can't give you anything because the county won't let me,'" Anthony Harold, the husband of a survivor, said.

A spokesperson said medical requests are not approved by the county, but by a review board made up of a group of doctors who determine whether the medicine is needed.

Geraldine Ly, a lawyer representing eight of the survivors, said the county should step in to help.

"It's a simple gesture of empathy and sympathy to go ahead and authorize the medication that they need, the physical therapy they need to get better," Ly said.

The board went into closed session to discuss the concerns on Monday, but not before Cardinale made her message clear.

"You want us to beg for help? I'm begging you for help. We need our medications, we need our surgeries, we need our physical therapy," she said.

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos released the following statement on behalf of the board:

*"The recovery of our employees is one of the county's highest priorities. The Board of Supervisors met today and discussed the concerns raised during this afternoon's public comment session. In light of the unique nature of the December 2 cases, the county is committed to continuing to take steps to expedite the process and get our people the care they need.*

*"The workers' compensation system includes review procedures and requires documentation of treatment. Many of the concerns raised today during public comment stem from the county not receiving supporting documentation from employees' providers. The county will increase efforts to work with those providers to obtain the documentation needed to move forward with approving treatments.*

*"Based on concerns expressed by the Board of Supervisors, the county will hire a firm whose sole function will be to expedite the process for our employees. Moving forward, the board will continue to monitor cases to ensure employees are receiving the care and attention they deserve in a timely manner."*

Related Topics:

- news
- san bernardino mass shooting
- shooting
- mass shooting
- terror attack
- terror threat
- terrorism
- isis
- gun violence
- PTSD
- mental health
- San Bernardino

San Bernardino County

- Share
- G+
- Tweet
- Email

(Copyright ©2016 KABC-TV. All Rights Reserved.)

### SPONSORED CONTENT

Lorissa's Kitchen

Billion Industry EverQuote

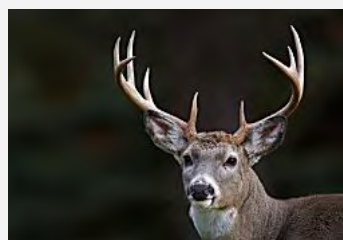
Wearing MeUndies for a Month AskMen.com



20 Real-Life Travel Horror Stories That Will Make Your Blood Curdle dailyjust.com



How Do You Build the Perfect Team? Start With Leadership Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies



Most Will Get No. 14 Wrong! Hunters, Test Your Knowledge With This Quiz HowStuffWorks - Adventure

### FROM AROUND THE WEB

- Harry Dent Warns: "This Is Going To Be Worse Than 1931!" (Economy and Markets)
- How Your Morning Coffee Can Affect Your Heart! (Health Central)
- What is an Ocular Migraine (Excedrin)

### MORE FROM ABC7

- Oakland Ghost Ship warehouse founder disregarded fire hazard warnings, ex-employees say
- Officer Assaulted With Skateboard in Critical Condition

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## **Husband of Dec. 2 attack survivor calls county out on denials of medication, other needs**

### **Caltrans engineer calls the county's denials of survivors' medication, other needs 'un-American' and 'inhumane'**

*By Suzanne Hurt, The Press-Enterprise*

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

Another person has come forward about medication denials for survivors of the Dec. 2 San Bernardino terrorist attack — this time, the husband of a San Bernardino County employee shot in the face.

Osama “Sam” Megalla — whose wife Hanan Megalla was shot four times in the head, chest and arm — called on county officials to cancel victims’ tributes on next week’s one-year anniversary until taking action on survivors’ problems getting treatment.

The Caltrans engineer is demanding to know why his wife’s pain medication was denied again by the county’s workers’ comp program and its utilization-review doctors.

Vowing to appear before county supervisors at their next meeting and report the doctors to the state Medical Board, Sam Megalla sent an email Tuesday asking county CEO Greg Devereaux to direct staff to “stop these un-American and irresponsible and inhumane actions.”

“We, the victims and their families, do not appreciate the way the county is handling these cases,” said Megalla, 60, of Chino Hills, who also faxed the governor.

Wednesday morning, an online notice was posted saying San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos called for a special closed-session meeting at 1 p.m. Monday — four days before the anniversary — with county legal counsel over “existing litigation” with 18 survivors, including Hanan Megalla, 48.

She was among 36 county employees shot at the Inland Regional Center.

Fourteen people died. The 57 survivors have been left with post-traumatic stress disorder or other emotional and/or physical injuries.

Last week, several said they’re being denied anti-depressants, anti-anxiety medication and counseling as the anniversary nears.

Two medications to treat Hanan Megalla’s pain, anxiety and insomnia were denied last week.

Survivors were surprised to learn Wednesday morning about the closed-session meeting at the San Bernardino County Government Center. Public comments will be taken before the closed session.

Cases handled by workers’ comp attorneys are the only agenda item. The online public meeting notice was removed from noon to 4:30 p.m. as officials discussed whether to meet Monday, county spokesman David Wert said.

Devereaux, county counsel and the county board clerk didn’t return phone calls Wednesday. Devereaux’s assistant said he was out. County counsel and the clerk “just choose not to” return reporters’ calls, Wert said.



The board has no other meetings next week, but will lead a video-conferenced “Moment of Remembrance” for county employees at 10:55 a.m. Dec. 2. Megalla said he’ll speak out then and at the board’s Dec. 6 meeting.

Devereaux returned his call Wednesday, asked for the medication names and said he’d see what he could do.

The county resubmitted the prescription refills to utilization review, Wert said. “The county understands that some employees are frustrated with the state workers’ compensation system, but when they contact the county, the county is almost always able to help in some way,” he said in an email.

---

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/health/20161123/husband-of-dec-2-attack-survivor-calls-county-out-on-denials-of-medication-other-needs>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

# San Bernardino Terror Victims Claim Medical Care Frustrations, One Year After Attack

- BY [BRIAN ROSS](#)
- [MEGAN CHRISTIE](#)
- [PAUL BLAKE](#)

Dec 2, 2016, 7:31 AM ET

Exactly one year after 14 people were killed and 22 more injured when ISIS-inspired [terrorists](#) went on a shooting rampage in San Bernardino, California, surviving victims are speaking out, saying that they are going through a second trauma: a betrayal. In interviews with ABC News and affiliate stations, survivors say that the injuries they sustained in one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil are being treated just like any other workers' compensation and that they are regularly denied medical care.

With the shrapnel from two bullets still embedded in her leg, Amanda Gaspard, 32, walks with a cane and says she lives every day with pain -- emotional and physical -- after being shot by Syed Farook and his wife [Tashfeen Malik](#).

While Gaspard was Farook's partner at the San Bernardino County [Health Department](#), leading the program at the gathering that tragic day, he did not spare her from the melee of bullets one year ago.

The attack has left her unable to walk without frequent breaks and suffering from post-traumatic stress so severe that she is incapable of speaking about the attack without breaking down.

But one year since the attack that saw her lose half her blood, Gaspard told ABC News that the county's claims administrator told her that a surgery and other treatment she needs were too expensive and would not be approved under California's workers' compensation guidelines.

"They do not want to pay for it," she told ABC News' Brian Ross in an interview on Wednesday. "I am in pain every single day."

Gaspard is not alone. Other survivors speak of denials for care and medicine.

"My medications got denied -- like just cut off in October," said Sally Cardinale, a program specialist for the county. "I was on anti-depressants, anti-anxiety, and...a [blood pressure](#) medicine to help level me out and help let me sleep without nightmares and things like that."

"None of those three medicines are supposed to be cut off without any weaning or anything like that, and they just cut them off," she said.

Ray Britain, who was the interim Division Chief for the Division of Environmental Health Services, said that "right now, the process is denying everybody medication, therapy and surgeries."

“These are people that were shot. A lot of the things that we're talking about -- we're talking about people having to fight for surgeries, for [physical therapy](#) to try and learn to walk again,” he said.

Asked about these allegations by ABC News, David Wert, a spokesman for San Bernardino County, said, “our county has not denied care to anyone,” and “denials are rare. When they occur, the county shares in the employees’ frustration.”

Noting the availability of an appeals process, he said, “so far, of the many hundreds of treatments submitted for review in connection with December 2, only two denials have been appealed.”

On Monday, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors said that it is now going to bring in a new outside set of claims adjusters to review the cases of those employees involved in the attack.

Gaspard says her frustrations with the bureaucracy and denials had added to her suffering over the past year.

Shortly after telling the county that ABC news was investigating, Gaspard says good news arrived.

On Thursday, she got word that the county had agreed to a deal with her hospital for her surgery to go ahead.

*ABC News’ Rhonda Schwartz and Alex Hosenball contributed to this report.*

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/san-bernardino-terror-victims-claim-medical-care-frustrations/story?id=43924590>



Duane's Prime Steaks & Seafood Restaurant

★★★★★ (661)

Find a Table



Bella Trattoria Restaurant

★★★★★ (176)

Find a Table



CBS NEWS / December 2, 2016, 2:05 PM

# San Bernardino attack survivor: "Every day is a struggle"



41 Photos >

Kevin Ortiz speaks to CBS Los Angeles in an interview broadcast on Dec. 1, 2016. / CBS LOS ANGELES

3 Comments / Share / Tweet / Stumble / Email

**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.** -- He was shot seven times during the San Bernardino terror attack and lived to tell.

But it's a story he hasn't wanted to or been able to tell before now.

CBS Los Angeles spoke to Kevin Ortiz, 24, about his ordeal. Ortiz said that speaking now about the massacre is still difficult but it was one more challenge he needed to face.



Sponsored by Salvation Army

Help turn "no place to go" into "safe and sound."

Last year, The Salvation Army provided over 10 million nights of shelter to those in need. Your donations will help us provide even more in 2017.

### From 60 Minutes



Ryan plans to lower corporate tax rate



How far Joe will go for jobs



Avoiding the Boehner problem



A show and tell on Paul Ryan's

## San Bernardino mass shooting

Latest Highlights More



One year later, San Bernardino attack survivor breaks his silence



One year after San Bernardino attack, unity prevails



FBI faces new fight over Bernardino terrorist's

**WATCH FULL SEASONS**  
**CBS ALL ACCESS**  
 NOW COMMERCIAL FREE  
 Learn More  
 HAWAII FIVE-0 | SCORPION  
 MADAM SECRETARY

He was a newlywed at the time of the shooting.

The happiest day of his life was Nov. 14, 2015. Two weeks later, Dec. 2, would be the worst.

Now, the once-active, extroverted, carefree guy is cautious about everything.

“Everything’s different, you know? Every day is a struggle,” said Ortiz.

But he wanted to finally sit down and break his silence one year after his workplace became a war zone.

play VIDEO  
**Oakland fire battalion chief**

66 PHOTOS  
**The Rolling Stones through the ages**



Yvette Velasco, 27, of Fontana, California, was one of the youngest victims of the San Bernardino shooting. / COURTESY OF YVETTE VELASCO'S FAMILY

“It was almost a year ago, but it feels like it was honestly yesterday, so I try really hard to just block that out to get through my day,” he said.

His attorney also helped him with some of the more painful questions: How he was shot seven times, how he played dead, how the shooter came back.

Ortiz was hit in both thighs, his shoulder, wrist and back. Two of the bullets hit the two cellphones in his pockets, possibly saving his life.

Most Discussed

- Trump talks to Taiwanese leader, in break with precedent  
1920 COMMENTS
- Donald Trump chooses Steven Mnuchin as treasury secretary  
1108 COMMENTS
- Trump announces Carrier deal in Indiana  
1113 COMMENTS
- Trump says he'll leave

San Bernardino mass shooting

Latest Highlights More

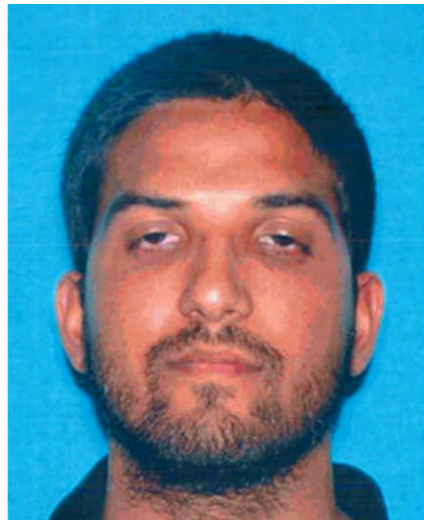
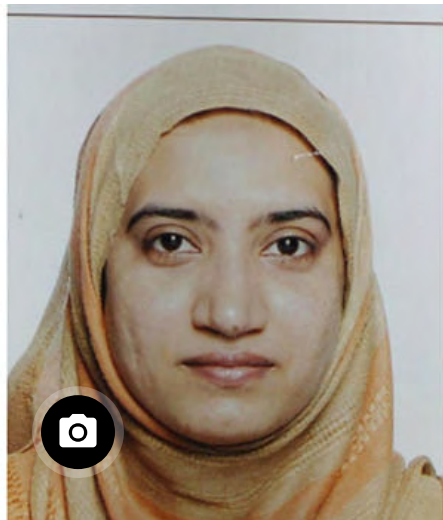
One year later, San Bernardino attack survivor breaks his silence

One year after San Bernardino attack, unity prevails

FBI faces new fight over Bernardino terrorist's i



“And his co-worker who he’d known for over a year turned into his enemy,” Odjaghian said.



This undated combination of photos provided by the FBI, left, and the California Department of Motor Vehicles shows Tashfeen Malik, left, and Syed Rizwan Farook. / **FBI, LEFT, AND CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES VIA AP**

“Everyone was really close, and we had really close bonds, and it really hurt, it hurts a lot still,” Ortiz said about the betrayal.

Ortiz now struggles to get out of bed in the morning or to leave his house or to talk to strangers.

Still, he’s come a long way in a year.

It took him months just to walk again. He still has hundreds of pieces of shrapnel in his back.

He credits his wife, his family and his church for getting him through it.

“I think them being by my side through this whole journey, it’s been a true blessing. I don’t think I could have did it without them.” Ortiz said.

Ortiz has hope, but he knows the future he once dreamed of has changed forever.

“I just do my best to make it through the day,” he said.

Ortiz said he wants to move on with his life and maintain his privacy.

© 2016 CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved.

3 Comments / f Share / Tweet / Stumble / @ Email

### Recommended

Sponsored Links by Taboola

This Sleeping Bag Could Save Your Life

Bivvy Survival Sleeping Bag

What John Boy From “The Waltons” Looks Like Now is Crazy

Definition



PEACE OF MIND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

**\$60 OFF**  
**NORTON™**  
**SECURITY**

LIMITED TIME  
HOLIDAY OFFER

**BUY NOW**

### New Fire TV App



**CBSNEWS**  
— ON —  
**amazon fireTV**

Install the **new free app** to stream live 24/7 news with CBSN

**GET IT NOW**

## San Bernardino mass shooting

Latest

Highlights

More



One year later, San Bernardino attack survivor breaks his silence



One year after San Bernardino attack, unity prevails



FBI faces new fight over Bernardino terrorist's i



---

## Supervisor Lovingood: Dec. 2 attack has 'changed all of us'

### Thursday

Posted Dec 1, 2016 at 10:17 AM

Updated Dec 2, 2016 at 10:25 AM

Lovingood spoke to the Daily Press this week, days before the first anniversary of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack that stole the lives of 14 - many of whom were county employees - and injured another 22 people, recalling how the event unfolded from his perspective at a conference occurring in the state's Central Coast about 6 hours or 375 driving miles northwest of San Bernardino, the ground zero.

By **Shea Johnson**

Staff Writer



On the second day of a four-day conference in Monterey, Robert Lovingood sat in on a presentation. The San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor was at the 121st annual meeting of the California State Association of Counties with other representatives from across the state. Accompanying him: Two other county supervisors and a half-dozen senior officials.

At some point before noon as he listened to a presenter, Lovingood received a text from the county's Office of Emergency Services: "And I just remember, really, just shock. You're looking at an emergency text being dispatched tell you about an attack.

"Your initial reaction is, 'No, this isn't right.'"

Lovingood spoke to the Daily Press this week, days before the first anniversary of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack that stole the lives of 14 — many of whom were county employees — and injured another 22 people, recalling how the event unfolded from his perspective at a conference occurring in the state's Central Coast about 6 hours or 375 driving miles northwest of San Bernardino, the ground zero.

In the hotel conference room with him at the moment were another four county colleagues, who presumably each received the same message.

"I quietly got the attention of one of the executive managers ... and said, 'Hey, look, we have have a serious issue,'" Lovingood remembered. "And so we were able to quickly get to a small conference area with complete help of the hotel staff. They brought in telephones, TV and we all gathered.

"It's just mind-numbing."

The images on screen played out as they did for everyone watching: At about 11 a.m., the 911 calls came in of shots fired at the Inland Regional Center, where a county holiday party was in progress and attended by Department of Public Health workers. Shortly after, emergency crews and law enforcement began arriving on scene.

"We quickly decided and determined to get back as soon as we can," Lovingood said about the talks with colleagues in Monterey that included Supervisors James Ramos and Josie Gonzales. "It's an experience I wish on no one. When you start to try to determine who's accounted for, who's not, whose family are you going to have to contact, from a simple day at work and a Christmas party, (and tell them) family members are not coming home."

Lovingood said he first arrived in the evening to the San Bernardino County Government Center's fifth floor, the home base, before shifting to Sheriff's headquarters where he and other top officials engaged in a series of briefings and stayed for the better part of the night. By then, the scope of the attack had become clearer and the numbers of dead and injured were reported. In the mid-afternoon, around 3:30 p.m., the two suspects were killed in a shootout with authorities.



"It's a nightmare," he said, "and the only difference is you're living a part of it."

What followed was sleep "for a couple of hours," an early morning briefing the next day and then more by each hour.

"You're looking at your peers and you're really trying to take in and understand the full impact of what people suffered in (the) terrorist attack," he said.

"Are there other locations?" officials wondered.

Looking back, Lovingood lauds the efforts by multiple agencies involved on the local, state and federal levels, with respect to allocating resources. The bureaucracy and red tape that some complain about with government was nowhere to be found that day and in the period that followed, he said.

The renewed mission became: "How are we going to make sure each day moving forward that people are protected?"

Lovingood later championed a proposal to strategically store a cache of weapons at county facilities and arm county workers, and while that tentative plan never took off, security has since been bolstered at county properties. In fact, the Board of Supervisors approved \$10.2 million in June for heightened security and immediate upgrades to county facilities, including expanded guard services, improved security cameras and key card access installations.

As the community and country prepare to remember Friday the victims, their families and others scarred by the attack, Lovingood suggested that the reminder is more persistent.

"It is, really, life changing. At some point every day, you still think about it," he said, adding that recent attacks such as at Ohio State University and in France have kept the threat of terrorism in the public consciousness. "It's just a reality of something we have to think about."

He further described it as similar to the impacts of 9/11.

"It does change the way you think when you're out with your family. The world's changed and we have to be more alert at any time and understand we live in a different place and time," he said, still bothered and cognizant of the "what-ifs."

"It changed history, it changed the history of San Bernardino forever, the city and the county," he concluded. "No doubt, it has changed all of us."

*Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com.*

*Follow him on Twitter at @DP\_Shea.*

# San Bernardino massacre memorial: Victims, responders honored with moment of silence



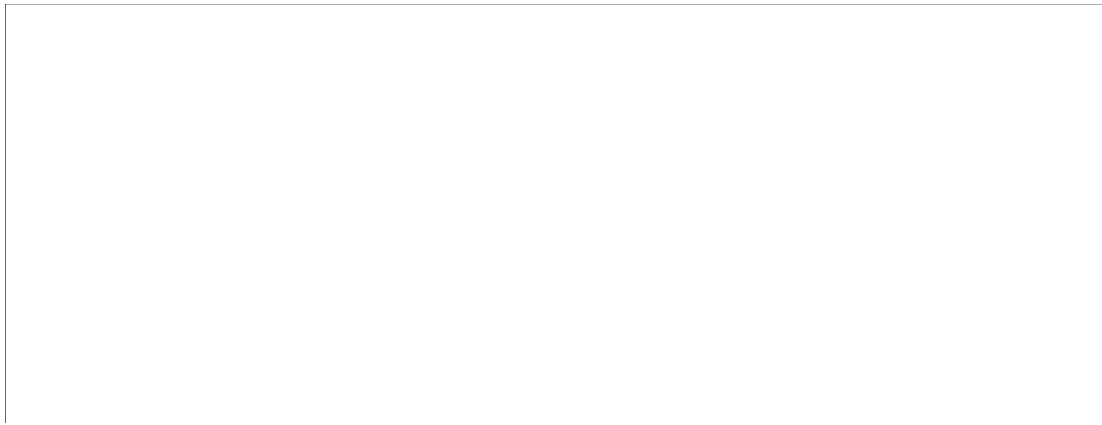
By **Paloma Esquivel and Soumya Karlamangla**

DECEMBER 2, 2016, 8:45 PM

**J**ulie Swann-Paez got only a few words out before she began crying.

“When I was asked to speak tonight my first response was no,” Swann-Paez said. But she changed her mind because she wanted to tell audience about the 14 people who died exactly a year ago in a terror attack.

ADVERTISING



Hundreds gathered Friday night to remember the people killed on Dec. 2, 2015, when a San Bernardino County employee and his wife entered an office holiday gathering and opened fire.

Swann-Paez, one of 22 wounded that day, said she missed her friends' funerals because she was in the hospital, but now wakes up in the middle of the night thinking about them.

A smile that lit up a room. A sarcastic sense of humor. A tequila aficionado. A laugh that could be heard across the office.

"Kindness, compassion, love and gratitude. To me those are the basic threads of humanity. All of my friends, who I just spoke about, embodied these traits," she said.

The memorial at Cal State San Bernardino on Friday night began with a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" and prayer. Those attending held paper cranes and electric candles.

"The lives lost and the blood that was shed shall never be forgotten," San Bernardino Mayor R. Carey Davis said. "We have only to look to those who died and survived Dec. 2 to find strength and encouragement as we work together to rebuild."

The evening ceremony marked the end of a long day of events in San Bernardino meant to honor the victims of the attack and those who offered their help in a moment of terror.

In the morning, members of law enforcement and their supporters met at San Bernardino Police Department headquarters for a 14-mile bike ride — each mile representing a victim of the attack.

The ride concluded at Inland Regional Center, the site of the attack and where employees and others had gathered Friday in front of the conference center for a moment of silence and a remembrance ceremony.

"We're here to remember those who lost their lives and remember those who were injured," said San Bernardino Police Sgt. Emil Kokesh, who helped organize the bike ride and was among the first responders on Dec. 2, 2015.

“It was one of the most tragic things our department has ever had to respond to,” he said. “It’s something that the first responders who were there ... are never going to forget.”

Several county probation officers also attended the ride.

More than 100 probation officers responded to the attack, helping to evacuate victims and provide logistical support. Some of those employees are still struggling to recover, said Julie Francis, deputy chief for county probation.

“They’re very proud of the role and opportunity to assist,” she said. “At the same time, their lives are touched forever by what they saw.”

At Inland Regional Center, dozens of employees were among those who participated in the moment of silence, which began just before 10:58 a.m. — the time dispatchers received the first 911 call.

A bell rang 14 times, one for each victim.

“A year has passed, and we continue to heal,” said Lavinia Johnson, executive director of the regional center, which coordinates services for more than 30,000 people with developmental disabilities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

One year later, the conference center remains closed for repairs, but there are plans to reopen it sometime next year, officials said.

County employees Paula Garcia and Zen Martinsen said they took time off work to attend the ceremony.

They were working at a county office in Yucaipa when the attack took place.

Garcia remembered listening to broadcast coverage and feeling helpless.

“You can’t do anything to help but pray,” she said.

One year later, the attack continues to have a deep impact on county employees, both women said.

“The thoughts never stop,” Garcia said.

They made a point of attending Friday morning’s memorial, she said, “to show support, and to grieve for our family.”

At the evening remembrance, San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan, said the city shouldn’t be defined by the tragedy.

“There’s two evil people that started the narrative of that day, a story about San Bernardino, a chapter in our lives,” he said. “They do not get to finish that story. We do. This is our city. This is our story.”

Some locals who attended the evening memorial said they had been deeply affected by [the attack](#) and its aftermath.

“You hear of these things happening elsewhere, in other countries, and here it hit home, where you thought you would be safe,” said Eva Flores Mermilliod, who was born and raised in San Bernardino. “A year has passed and these families have suffered so much and our community has suffered so much.”

Irene Carrasco, 56, of San Bernardino said she had felt sadness through the day.

It’s “still sad,” she said. “Sad about the families of the ones killed and also the ones that survived.”

But she was proud, she said, of the way the city united after the attack, with residents donating blood, gathering at memorials and offering whatever help they could.

“I think the community came together on that day and since that day,” she said.

Three hours before the evening memorial began, a smaller group, including several family members of victims, gathered on the opposite end of campus to inaugurate a peace garden in memory of the five victims of the attack who were Cal State alumni.

“A year ago, the unimaginable happened in our very own city,” said Alex Gutierrez, president of the school’s associated students group. “Today we convene for comfort and healing.”

A bell with the names of the five alumni stood at the center of the garden, with a quote attributed to Albert Einstein, etched on a wall: “Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.”

An official rang the bell 14 times at the start of the ceremony and 14 times at its end. It will remain silent until next year, when it will again ring 14 times, officials said.

[soumya.karlamangla@latimes.com](mailto:soumya.karlamangla@latimes.com)

**Twitter:** [@skarlamangla](https://twitter.com/skarlamangla)

[paloma.esquivel@latimes.com](mailto:paloma.esquivel@latimes.com)

**Twitter:** [@palomaesquivel](https://twitter.com/palomaesquivel)

**ALSO**

[Student suspect arrested in fatal stabbing of USC professor on campus](#)

[Suspect in slaying of 4 in L.A. caught day after name is added to FBI Ten Most Wanted list](#)

# In a dark year of terrorism and record homicides, San Bernardino also showing signs of hope



By **Joe Mozingo**

DECEMBER 2, 2016, 4:45 PM

**Y**ear after year the homes fell around her. Abandoned to squatters, stripped bare, gutted by fire.

On her side of the block, only two of five houses remained, side-by-side, un-charred. Diane Hayes wanted to sell and move out, but couldn't afford to. Her next-door neighbor died this year. Workers boarded the windows with big carriage bolts, but people managed to get into the crawl space and cut their way in through the floor.

Now Hayes, 58, waits behind her steel security screen for what comes next, her home a lone island whose fate sinks or stands with the city.



FROM OUR  
PARTNERS:

## Suspicious package found at San Bernardino UPS center



Her situation is neither the norm nor abnormal in San Bernardino.

A year after the [terrorist attack](#) put the beleaguered city on an international stage, San Bernardino is stagnating and suffering and moving forward all at once.

Five blocks away, Ernie Garcia opened an art center last year after retiring as Cal State San Bernardino dean of the college of education. The Depression-era Works Progress Administration building was a work of art in itself, a hacienda layout of 18-inch-thick adobe walls, wrapping around a courtyard.

When he moved in last year, it had been vacant for seven years. Mattresses filled the hallway; the wire had been stripped. On one wall, someone spray-painted, “I am the copper monster.”

Now it is clean and renovated, alive with artists of all types — painters, sculptors, poets, print-makers — learning, teaching, simply gathering and conspiring to bring the city back.

While every city has its divides and pockets, in San Bernardino, population 216,000, one island can feel strangely alien to another, a [product of the economic forces](#) that have battered the city for decades.

There are points of pride and hope — Cal State San Bernardino, Garcia’s art center, the downtown symphony, a new state-of-art affordable housing complex, a soon-to-open transit center. And there are pockets of suburban quiet and even economic growth, with massive distribution centers rising from dusty old ranch plots in the southeast.



When Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik opened fire in the Inland Regional Center and killed 14 county workers last year, the city grieved. But the attack, at a glass and tile professional building on the south end of town, felt distant, at the far end of the archipelago, removed from the everyday struggle and violence of many neighborhoods, where more than 60 people have been killed this year.

More than half the city is on public assistance, and only 46% of working-age people have jobs. The most populated parts of the city are [desperately poor](#) — places where median family income is \$15,000 a year.

But in the vacant lots and buildings, many see opportunity.

Garcia's vision is to build an isthmus of art galleries and businesses between his center and a cultural landmark three blocks north — the original McDonald's restaurant.

“We have people come from all over the world to see where McDonald's started,” he said.

Visitors check the museum out and — seeing the vacant lots and empty storefronts on Baseline Street, the prostitutes hustling the street in the middle of the day, the meth addicts and schizophrenics nodding, lurching, talking to themselves — they get out of town.

The conundrum for a city in its fourth year of municipal bankruptcy is how to build the isthmuses to the point there are more than just scattered bits of optimism, but signs of a collective recovery.

City Manager Mark Scott says the state government needs to help, because much of the collapse stemmed from a statewide shortage of housing. Prices soared in places like Los Angeles and Orange counties, and low-income residents moved inland, looking for cheap rent.

Scott, who has been city manager of Beverly Hills, Burbank, Culver City and Fresno, said it's unfair for the city alone to shoulder the burden.

“Poverty migrated here, just like it migrated to the Central Valley,” Scott said. “And crime chases poverty.”

Scott said the city is still righting itself, [despite the surge in homicides](#). It's finally on track to exit bankruptcy, and voters passed a charter reform measure to streamline the structure of city government. And Scott expects San Bernardino will both benefit and learn from improvements made in the school district.

Under a new superintendent, graduation rates rose from 73.5% to 79.9% between 2012 and 2014, closing in on the state average of 80.8%.

Last year, it surpassed it, climbing to 85%, school officials say.

Miriam Nieto, 29, a behavioral therapist and UC Riverside graduate, dreams of raising a family here, and opening up a coffee shop downtown.

She is part of a movement called Generation Now, which works to get young people politically engaged and to volunteer on projects to improve the city. They walked precincts to get charter reform passed. They clean parks, paint murals, register voters.

But even she wonders if she'll witness a transformation in her lifetime.

"Sometimes I think about do I even want to stay in this city," she says, sitting at a Starbucks by the university. "Why do I want people to come in, when I'm not even sure this is the right place where I would raise a family?"

As she speaks, a homeless man erupts at a barista, saying he threw out his tea, and demanding people to call the police. "You're going to jail!" he says.

"Like this," she says, sighing.

Nieto lives on the west side of town with her parents, younger brother and sister.

Her brother Jonathan, 23, has his own dream in the city. He is trying to get a \$20,000 loan to buy the body shop he works at on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. From that, he hopes to make enough to enroll at the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena and become a car designer.

He worries there are already too many body shops in San Bernardino, but he can't afford the rent anywhere else.

"There's not much money to be spent around here," he said.

Like his sister, he wants the city to rise, but not by gentrifying and driving the poor people out. "I'd like to see the change happen with the people who are here," he said.

Dave Deardorff, 69, grew up in San Bernardino and fled the poverty and crime of his neighborhood in 1991.

He landed in another San Bernardino.

On Dover Drive, Deardorff walks his dogs in the crisp morning air on Thursday, admiring the fresh snow atop Mt. San Gorgonio. The red liquidambar rustle. Boats rest in driveways.

The neighborhood is quiet and landscaped — cookie-cutter homes against the foothills, for a fraction of the cost they would be elsewhere. He bought his for \$150,000 and figures it's worth \$250,000 now.

"No loud parties, low crime," he says. "We kind of enjoy our isolation up here."

Despite the different island, he still feels part of the city. He watches movies at the Regal Cinemas downtown and visits his friend who owns a pawn shop on E Street.

About as far as you can get from Dover Drive in San Bernardino, Herb Sims, 80, sits in the sun, reading the Bible and listening to [Rush Limbaugh](#) on a portable radio, even though he thinks he twists facts and lies.

Sims has lived here since the 1959, on 1.25 acres his father first bought. Sims was a plumber who became a manager in the city's public works department.

After his retirement, his house caught fire. The city code enforcement said it was in danger of collapse and condemned it, but he wouldn't move. They cut off his water, electricity and gas, he said. He still wouldn't move. Finally, police came and handcuffed him, as work crews tore it down.

Now he lives in a trailer, with no power or water, under a mulberry tree he planted many years ago. He tends his orchard — oranges, lemons, peaches, avocados, loquats, kumquats, tangerines, grapes — and sits in an old office chair in the dirt. The city keeps telling him he can't live in a trailer there — the property isn't zoned for it. But he refuses to sell and leave, even as the behemoth white warehouses approach.

"I'm not angry," he says. "Everything's in God's hands. I'm living the life of Job."

[joe.mozingo@latimes.com](mailto:joe.mozingo@latimes.com)

[@joemozingo](#)

## **ALSO**

[We may never know why the San Bernardino terrorists targeted a Christmas party. Here's what we do know](#)

[First Times photographer at San Bernardino mass shooting recalls a mad dash with police](#)

[A year after the San Bernardino terror attack, the FBI is still struggling to answer key questions](#)

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

**This article is related to:** [Poverty](#), [San Bernardino Terror Attack](#), [Rush Limbaugh](#)



AROUND THE NATION

# San Bernardino Shooting's Signs Have Faded, But Memories Remain Piercing

Listen · 4:04

Queue

Download

Transcript

December 2, 2016 · 4:47 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition

NATHAN ROTT



A memorial to the victims killed in San Bernardino, Calif., on Dec. 2, 2015.

*Nathan Rott/NPR*

It's been a year since Ray Britain lay on the floor of the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Calif., feeling the vibrations of the gun shots.

He remembers that "constant tremble," he says, the ringing in his ears, the shell casings — "a rainbow of shell casings" — flying from the gun, and the looks of shock on his coworkers' faces.



#### THE TWO-WAY

Authorities Release Names Of The 14 People Killed In San Bernardino Shooting

It's been a year since Britain survived what was then considered the deadliest terrorist attack in the United States since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks: Fourteen people killed and 22 wounded. But he can remember all of it like it was yesterday.

"The dreams keep a lot of it real," Britain says. "There're certain things I wish I could just forget, but unfortunately, they just keep popping up."

For some people in San Bernardino and the greater Inland Empire, Dec. 2 will always be the day that established a new normal. For others, the change is less acute.

## San Bernardino Police Chief Remembers The Attack 1 Year Later

Listen · 3:23

Queue



The FBI hasn't released any new information about their investigation into the deceased shooters, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, in months. The trial against Enrique Marquez Jr. — a friend of Farook's who is charged with buying some of the weapons that were used in the attack, among other things — doesn't start until September.

Around town, signs of the shooting have faded too. The police tape is gone outside of the Inland Regional Center, and on workdays the parking lot is full. Commuters drive by a makeshift memorial of fresh flowers and drooping signs, first put up in the hours



and days after the shooting when people were still coming to terms with what had happened.



#### POLITICS

Here's Where Gun Laws Stand In Your State

In nearby Redlands at the apartment the two shooters left that December morning — armed with pipe bombs, handguns, rifles and more than a thousand rounds of ammunition — there's a decorative flag by a new front door that reads "Happy Holidays." The two neighboring units fly American flags.



There are now American flags on either side of the home where Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik lived in San Bernardino, Calif.

*Nathan Rott/NPR*

"We haven't forgotten it," says Casey Pace, pushing her kids in a stroller by the house. "But we have to move on, I guess."

### **'I hear his voice all of the time'**

That has proven difficult for a lot of people more closely connected to the shooting.

"I hear his voice all of the time," says Mandy Pifer, whose fiancée, Shannon Johnson, was killed while shielding a coworker with his body. "Most of the time, it's telling me to stop being so ridiculous."

Pifer is a volunteer crisis counselor for the city of Los Angeles and says she's been working more and more since the tragedy. Helping others in their own moments of tragedy, she says, "is really helping me heal."

For Sally Cardinale, healing has come in fits and spurts. She hid in a bathroom stall with three other women during the attack on the holiday party, and says she still has trouble sleeping.

"Everything I was thinking about when I was in that bathroom was 'I'm going to die and my kids are going to get separated because they have separate fathers,' " she says. "I don't know what to do with that."

### **Related NPR Stories**

**Crisis Counselor Recalls Losing Fiancé In San Bernardino Attack**

Some days she feels good; other days, she can't get out of bed. "It's an up-and-down all of the time," she says.

### **Some survivors feel betrayed, abandoned**

It's made more difficult by the fact that she feels like it's out of her control. Cardinale is part of a group of survivors accusing San Bernardino County of cutting off much-needed support for the survivors of the attack, including refusing to approve counseling or antidepressant medication. Others, who were physically wounded, Cardinale says, are fighting to get surgeries approved and physical therapy covered.



Cardinale says that the fight to get help has felt like a second trauma.

At a closed meeting with the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors earlier this week, survivors said they felt betrayed and abandoned, left to deal with California's complicated workers' compensation program without guidance or help. Their health insurers won't cover their injuries because they occurred in a workplace attack.



Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik killed 14 people at the Inland Regional Center on Dec. 2, 2015 in San Bernardino, Calif.  
*Nathan Rott/NPR*

A county spokesman, David Wert, says in an email that workers' comp can be a tedious process, but insists that the county has been as responsive as possible.

"The county is, and always has been, committed to ensuring our employees get all the care they need," Wert wrote.

### **A city in search of an identity**



That's just one aspect of the challenge facing the city of San Bernardino and its leadership.

"I used to tell people that my district was halfway between Los Angeles and Palm Springs," says Pete Aguilar, the U.S. representative for the district that includes San Bernardino.

Now he says, his hometown had been added to a list of cities that people just know for a terrible reason, like Littleton, Colo., or Newtown, Conn. But Aguilar is defiant: "We will not be defined by this tragedy."

San Bernardino, by Aguilar's admission, is a work in progress. The city of 216,000 filed for bankruptcy in 2012 and still is facing steep economic problems. Murder and other crimes have spiked in the past year.

Down a pot-holed street from the Inland Regional Center, resident Akia Ingram says people are leaving the city because there are few good jobs.

"This used to be the place people would move to from L.A. or other places," she says. "But now it's just really, really bad."

Ingram watched as the hordes of television crews and police officers came and went last December following the attack, and says she couldn't help but feel angry that few thought to report on or address the city's other problems.

"It don't get no attention," she says. "Only thing that get attention is something big like that terrorist attack."

### **'We're a better community now'**

Some have hope, though, that the attack still could help the city find its footing to address those issues.

"We're a better community now, even though we're hurt," says Brian Levin, a criminal justice professor at California State University, San Bernardino, who studies hate crimes.

**CODE SWITCH**

Muslim 'Twoness': Fearful Of Some, Feared By Others

In the days and weeks that followed the tragedy, Levin met with faith leaders, law enforcement and families of the victims, and he says he noticed a unity of shock and shared pain.

While other parts of the country were arguing about gun laws and immigration, and as hate crimes against Muslims rose, San Bernardino "didn't have the luxury to be divisive," he says — something he still sees today.

"[The attack] will always be a part of our history," Levin says. "But here's the thing: so will the heroics of those police officers and first responders and medical staff, and so will the grace of the families. We're writing the rest of the history. The bastards lost."

san bernardino terrorism

## Get The Stories That Grabbed Us This Week

Delivered to your inbox every Sunday, these are the NPR stories that keep us scrolling.

**SUBSCRIBE**

By subscribing, you agree to NPR's terms of use and privacy policy.

## More Stories From NPR

# The Heroes of San Bernardino: 1 Year After the Attacks

- BY BRIAN ROSS
- MEGAN CHRISTIE
- JOSH MARGOLIN
- RHONDA SCHWARTZ
- PAUL BLAKE

Dec 5, 2016, 9:07 AM ET

*One year after the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California, the ABC News Investigative Unit and “Nightline” are looking back, revealing never-before-seen photos and videos and hearing from the first responders, the victims and the everyday people who prevented a terrifying day from getting any worse.*

## Part 1: The Attack

On a sunny December morning as the temperature pushed to 75 degrees, Lt. Mike Madden was sitting in an unmarked police car in a Target parking lot taking a phone call.

As he sat there chatting, a flurry of radio traffic was building and sounding increasingly urgent.

“Subject is still inside the business, 1365 South Waterman, it’s in building No. 3,” a female dispatcher squawked, grabbing Madden’s attention. “Possible active shooter.”

Clicking off the phone call, Madden roared his car’s engine to life.

“Lincoln Three. I will be going 97 on the south side. I need three more units, 97 on my location,” he replied, using his call sign.

Callouts about shootings are not uncommon in the area, but this was different.

The day was Dec. 2. The city was San Bernardino, California.

Two miles away, dispatchers were fielding frantic [911](#) calls.

“They opened the door and just started shooting inside the room,” said a female caller, in recordings obtained by ABC News.

Another caller shrieked, “We have an active shooter here.”

Madden, an administrative officer who says that he had never in his 25-year career responded to an active shooter, was racing to the scene.

“I noticed that I was driving faster and faster as I was getting closer,” Madden told ABC News’ Brian Ross. “Actually coming up on the location, I realized – I looked around – I don’t see any other cops here.”

“I think I’m the first one here.”

Pulling up, Madden saw people fleeing the complex, known as the Inland Regional Center. He jumped out of his car and took position behind the trunk to shield himself from possible incoming fire while he radioed dispatch.

“Lincoln Three.”

“Go ahead,” said the dispatcher.

“Now we have two suspects all dressed in black on the inside of the business on the south side is what we’re being told,” Madden reported.

“Copy on that. South side of the business, on the interior ... Lincoln Three, do you have anybody with you?” was the response from headquarters.

“Negative. I need two more units with me for an entry team... We have an active shooter. We need an entry team now.”

Meanwhile, 911 calls said the shooters were using heavy weapons, possibly AR-15s.

## **The Entry Team**

Within two minutes, Madden and three other officers were preparing to make entry. Madden was equipped with only a handgun and had left his bulletproof vest in the car.

“I don’t have a hero or a God-like complex, but we are the police. Our job is to go in and handle situations,” he later said.

Madden – alongside Officers Shaun Sandoval and Brett Murphy, as well as Detective Brian Lewis – made their way around to the east side of the building, where there were two “obviously deceased bodies.”

Pushing closer to the building, Madden noticed a man sitting on a bench holding a cellphone.

“My initial impression was that that subject must have just been in shock,” he said. “I was yelling at him to flee, trying to get his attention.”

But as he and the others pushed closer, Madden said his initial assessment was wrong.

“He had been shot in the head, and he was obviously deceased.”

The entry team then made its way to the double glass doors on the south side of the complex, which had been shot out by the suspects.

Armed with a shotgun, Sandoval took point while the other officers opened the doorway.

With fire alarms going off, strobe lights flashing and water sprinklers spraying the room, the officers said that they could smell gunpowder.

More than 50 people were dead, injured or sheltering in the conference room.

The group had been taking part in a mandatory training session with a planned holiday-themed office party to follow.

[Read More: Christmas Party May Have Triggered San Bernardino Terror Attack: Police](#)

“I don’t recall seeing anybody standing when we made entry,” he said. “There was a very heavy presence of smoke and gunpowder in the air. Fire alarms were extremely loud at that time, and the fire sprinklers were actually going off.”

The gunfire had apparently hit the building’s sprinkler line, causing the entire the system to go off, adding to the chaos.

“There was a Christmas tree directly across the room from where I entered and there were people there at the Christmas tree that were down,” Sandoval recalled.

As the first cops on scene rushed in, they heard victims begging for help. But, training dictates that they needed to push past the injured and hunt the shooters.

“We had to walk over them, around them, pass them as they reached for us,” Sandoval said. “As they called for us to help, we had to walk past them.”

It was the “most difficult thing I’ve ever done in my life,” he said. “Knowing that some were alive when you entered and when you came back they were no longer living, that’s what made it hard.”

Sandoval continued pushing deeper into the building, trying to find the shooters.

Quickly, a second wave of first responders was arriving on the scene, including Nathan Scarano, a county probation officer.

“As we approached, there was this river of blood coming out of the conference room onto the sidewalk onto the parking pavement area,” he said. “As we advanced on the front door, I noticed bodies that had been executed.”

“With all the noise including the fire alarm going off, I heard a faint voice say, ‘Help me. I’m gonna die.’”

Looking down, Scarano recalled, he noticed a young woman who was severely wounded.

That woman was Amanda Gaspard, then 31. She had been hit twice in the leg.

### [Read Amanda's Story: San Bernardino Terror Victims Claim Medical Care Frustrations, One Year After Attack](#)

“People were moaning all around me. And I said, ‘Please come here and help me,’” Gaspard recalled to ABC News. “Dead bodies all around.”

Scarano lost his air.

“I looked at her, I looked up at the conference room, I looked down at her and I said, ‘You’re not going to die today,’” Scarano said.

“At that point in time, for me, it turned into a rescue mission.”

As those first on the scene pushed through the building in pursuit of the shooters, Scarano and cops in the second wave began removing victims, placing them in probation vehicles and sending them off to the hospital.

They were unaware that three pipe bombs had been planted with the intent to kill or maim first responders and surviving victims. They also didn’t know the perpetrators were now on the run.

## **Part 2: The Big Break**

“We got a couple bleeding out,” squawked a male voice on never-before-heard radio recordings from the probation department, which ABC News obtained. “We need to get them out of here right now.”

As the rescue operation began in earnest, officers were questioning victims about what they may know.

“We had one person who was in the room who was actually a county employee that had recognized that our suspect had left this training holiday get together for county employees,” recalled San Bernardino Police Department Chief Jarrod Burguan.

“That one person, when he was being extracted out of the room – had given the officer a name,” the chief said. “He gave us the name Syed Farook.”

Farook had left minutes before the rampage appearing irritated, after spending time that morning with his coworkers – including his partner, Amanda Gaspard.



## [Read More: Christmas Party May Have Triggered San Bernardino Terror Attack: Police](#)



In a photo obtained by ABC News, Syed Farook is seen posing with his coworkers in front of a Christmas tree inside the Inland Regional Center shortly before launching into a rampage that left 14 people dead on December 2, 2015. [more +](#)  
Back at the police station, veteran analyst Daani-Ruth Svonkin began searching databases for any information on Farook.

Initially, the databases returned a confusing array of addresses. Svonkin dispatched officers to each location.

As fears mounted that the perpetrators might preparing to mount another attack, 911 dispatchers received a call that would be the turning point.

Computer programmer Stewart Boden had been on his way home when a black SUV made an abrupt lane change in front of him.

“There was such a sudden abrupt move that I was thinking, ‘hmm this is a little unusual for a vehicle coming from Utah,’” he told ABC News.

“I think I need to commit that license plate to memory,” he thought.

Upon arriving home, Boden flicked on his television where news programs were reporting that police were searching for a black SUV.

Previously unaware that a search was on for the vehicle, he immediately dialed 911.

“About 20, 25 minutes ago, and I didn’t know anything about any SUV at that time,” he is heard in 911 recordings obtained by ABC News.

“And it was a black SUV?” the dispatcher is heard saying.

“Yeah, and uh I do have a good memory—“

“Ok.”

“Utah license plate. X523RY.”

Little did he know, Boden had just provided the crucial evidence that would crack the case.

“You talk about getting a break in an investigation,” Burguan said. “That’s about as big as it gets right there.”

Back at police headquarters, Svonkin took the new data and set to work.

Running it through a database, she realized it was a rental car from Enterprise.

She immediately phoned a contact she had developed at the company’s corporate headquarters, who said he would skip the standard procedures and get her as much information as he could.

The call “seriously cut through some red tape,” she said.

The normal process would have taken more time than they had.

When the contact phoned back, he had a name: Syed Farook.

“My hands started to shake at that point, and I thought ‘We really don’t have just a person of interest. We actually now have a suspect.’”

The new information allowed her to use a different database which provided her with a “singularly different and unique address that I did not locate anywhere else,” she said.

She also began the process of pinging Farook’s cellphone – available from his employment contract – in an attempt to locate his last known location.

With the new information in hand, she dispatched undercover officers.

“I’m sending them to some place that could potentially be very, very dangerous for them. It was a very scary moment,” she recalled fighting back tears almost one year later, explaining her anxiety over that dispatch. “To know that, yes I found a legitimate address, a good address – but what was next? What was around the corner?”

Within 35 seconds of arriving at the scene, Svonkin said, a black SUV pulled in front of one of the officers.

Could those be the shooters they were hunting?

### **Part 3: The Shootout**

“Had we been several seconds later, we probably would have missed him,” said Sgt. Gary Shuelke, who lead the team of undercover officers in unmarked cars.

Falling into formation, Undercover Officer Nick Koahou tailed Shuelke’s vehicle in an unmarked van.

After a few moments the officers realized they appeared to be heading to the Inland Regional Center – the site of the shooting.

Officials now believe the pair wanted to get close enough to remotely detonate the pipe bombs they had left behind.

Before they could get there, two marked squad cars pulled into the convoy, and began “rolling code” – or chasing with lights and sirens.

Previously on non-scannable frequencies, the officers went live on the regular police radio channels.

## **The Commanders’ Anxiety**

At the command post, Burguan was sitting at a table with San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon and David Bowdich, then the FBI’s top agent in southern California.

The trio had been dividing up the workload for the investigation when the radio traffic roared to life.

“It looks like they’re putting vests on inside,” radioed Sgt. Andy Capps, of the Redlands Police Department, who was just behind the black SUV.

“Copy, copy, passing things around inside the vehicle,” replied the dispatcher, in the 911 calls ABC News obtained.

Then the gunfire rang out.

“Shots fired. Shots fired.”

“I copy. Shots fired.”

“They’re firing at, uh, law enforcement.”

“Copy, suspects firing at law enforcement.”

“Sitting in that command post and listening to that, and the hearing – knowing that you’ve got your guys that are engaged in a gunbattle like that – I will tell you – it’s heart wrenching,” Burguan recalled.

“They’re keying up on the mic, and they’re putting information out over the radio,” he said. “And you’re hearing gunshots – bam, bam, bam, bam, bam - going off in the background.”

Those bullets were directed at Shaun Wallen, a deputy with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, whose patrol car was a mere 25 yards behind the black SUV.

Steering with his knee, accelerating with his right foot, talking on his radio with his left hand and pulling his rifle out with his right, Wallen was preparing to fight back.

The black SUV then slammed on the brakes.

“11 call 24,” said an anxious voice on the radio. “They’re shooting at us from an SUV.”

Wallen then exited his vehicle, rifle in hand, and began returning fire over his car.

Farook had opened the left, rear door of the SUV, from where Malik was also firing at Wallen.

To take some of the heat off of Wallen, Sgt. Capps and another officer began engaging Malik, leaving Wallen and Farook in a one-on-one shootout.

Koahu, the undercover officer, saw Wallen pinned down, but couldn’t get a clear shot without risking hitting Wallen.

After a short period, Farook dashed away from the car toward a residential area.

“The prevailing theory is either he was trying to get on the houses, or he was trying to flank me,” Wallen told ABC News.

Regardless, it provided Koahu with the opportunity he needed.

“As soon as [Farook] was in a position where he had cleared Deputy Wallen’s car, I proned down so I was on my stomach,” Koahu said. “I engaged him some more and he went down.”

But with one suspect down, the officers were still under fire from Malik.

Wallen radioed his dispatcher to report that Farook was down, but that they were still taking fire from his wife.

Koahu, meanwhile, realized that he was laying in the highway and exposed to Malik’s bullets.

He began running toward Wallen, yelling at him to retreat to cover, when a bullet struck his leg.

At the station, Burguan was taking in all the radio traffic, trying to get a sense of the scene.

“Then you hear what you just absolutely don’t wanna hear. Somebody puts out, ‘We’ve got an officer down,’” the chief recalled.

As officers continued the gunfight with Malik, a helicopter circling overhead began preparing to come down to extract Koahu.

Stumbling into a nearby yard, Koahu pulled up his shorts up and saw the hole.

“I didn’t see blood pouring out of my leg like there was going to be...a femoral hit. And I said, okay I got to keep fighting, I’m not going down like this,” he said.

“Some of the folks that were on the radio had the wherewithal to say, ‘the officer’s okay, we don’t need the airship,’” the chief recalled, noting the relief he felt.

Wallen was still pinned down and Koahu was bleeding and exposed, and it wasn’t clear if Malik was still alive and firing at officers.

Eventually, a group of officers dared to drive a patrol car up to Koahu, to remove him from the scene.

He refused to leave and joined the group in pushing closer to Wallen – who at this point had used all of his rifle and shotgun ammunition, leaving only his pistol.

Wallen recalled the group getting within about 30 feet of his location. With those officers providing covering fire, Wallen made a run for the friendly vehicle.

The group was able to safely pull back to a safer location, and at that point, Wallen said, SWAT teams were en route.

Eventually, the gunfire subsided. Not sure if Malik was dead, or if the car was rigged to explode, police sent in a special bomb squad vehicle to pull her body out.

That was when they realized the second suspect was a woman – the mother of an infant child, now in foster care.

Four hours and 17 minutes after the first shots were fired both Farook and Malik were dead.

Fourteen innocent people were dead or would later die from their injuries in the initial shooting. Twenty-two others were injured, and permanent scars are left in lives of hundreds more.

The commanders – Burguan, McMahon and the FBI’s Bowdich – have been praised for their collaboration and ability to put aside the typical interdepartmental differences.

Svonkin, the computer analyst, now teaches other law enforcement agencies how to best track down suspects using computer databases.

Boden, the man who memorized the license plate, has been honored as a hero.

In the end, the firefight saw the officers and perpetrators exchange some 500 rounds. The gunbattle lasted about five minutes – an eternity in law enforcement.

Wallen, Capps, Schuelke and Koahu are back on the job. The worst injury sustained by law enforcement was the bullet that Koahu took.

The bullet is still buried in his leg.

---

*ABC News' Randy Kreider, Cho Park, Alex Hosenball, Lee Ferran, Tom Marcyes, Kalyn Wilson and Elizabeth Yang contributed to this report.*

[Follow the ABC Investigative Unit on Twitter.](#)

[Follow the ABC Investigative Unit on Facebook.](#)

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/heroes-san-bernardino-year-attacks/story?id=43951518>



San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## They're lighting the Arrowhead above San Bernardino to send message of hope one year after terror attack

### ARROWHEAD LIT IN MEMORY OF VICTIMS OF DEC. 2 TERROR ATTACK

*By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts*

Thursday, December 1, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> The Arrowhead, a historic geographical landmark in the city's foothills, will be illuminated starting tonight as part of a tribute to the victims of the [Dec. 2, 2015 terrorist attack](#) at the Inland Regional Center.

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is behind the project, a message of support and hope for healing in a community still reeling from the tragedy, said Jacob Coin, director of public affairs for the tribe.

“The San Manuel community has enjoyed strong neighbor relations with the surrounding communities and surrounding jurisdictions for many, many years,” he said. “When the events of Dec. 2 of last year happened, the tribal community was as deeply affected as anyone else in the region. We are part of the community and they are a part of us.”

• **Dec. 2 anniversary:** [San Bernardino terror attack victim families grieve while community tries to heal](#)

San Manuel plans to light The Arrowhead from 5:30 to 10 p.m. for 14 nights in memory of those killed in the attack, according to a news release. The landmark is located in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains above the historic Arrowhead Springs Hotel, and is visible from many areas of San Bernardino and Highland, particularly near the 40th Street wash between Valencia Avenue and Harrison Street.

Residents are encouraged to light their porches for 14 nights to show their support for San Bernardino as well, the release said.

“Even as we struggle to make sense of those events from a year ago, we remain strong in our commitment to the values that make us a strong community,” Lynn Valbuena, chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, said in the release. “We are proud to join with San Bernardino and our community partners to shine a new light in memory of those lost.”

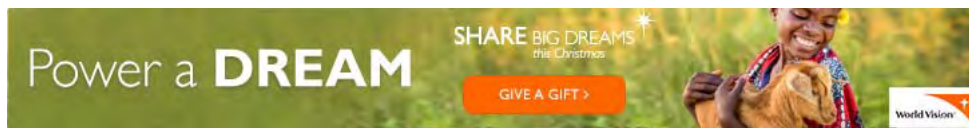
Fourteen strawberry spotlights and other speciality equipment, including laser lights, will light The Arrowhead. The lighting design also includes the “SB Strong” motto, adopted by the community in the days following the attack.

Coin called the project a “worthwhile endeavor” but declined to discuss costs. “We are really enthusiastic and optimistic moving forward in helping the community to heal from the events a year ago,” he said.

---

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/20161201/theyre-lighting-the-arrowhead-above-san-bernardino-to-send-message-of-hope-one-year-after-terror-attack>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)



THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AFTER SAN BERNARDINO'S DEADLY MASSACRE

# Husband of San Bernardino Terror Victim Describes Raising Son Ahead of Anniversary

"I think when you've been through something like that, it changes the way you think."

By Tony Shin



## TRENDING STORIES

- 1 **PHOTOS** Inside the 'Oakland Ghost Ship' Warehouse Building
- 2 Man Arrested After Hateful Rant at Muslim NYC Cop, Son
- 3 Arrest in Murder of Huntington Beach Mother
- 4 **VIDEO** 33 Killed, Death Toll Expected to Climb After Oakland Fire

Ahead of the one year anniversary of the deadly terror attacks in San Bernardino that claimed the lives of 14, the husband of one of the victims described raising their son as a single parent. Tony Shin reports for the NBC4 News at 5 Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016. (Published Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016)

2 Injured in Koreatown House Fire

CHP Pursuit Ends in Arrest

Santa Monica Man Among Those Killed in Oakland Warehouse Fire

Nonprofit Gives Teens 'A Sense of Home'

Ahead of the one year anniversary of the deadly terror attacks in San Bernardino that claimed the lives of 14, the husband of one of the victims described raising their son as a single parent.

James Godoy's son Alexander goes by the nickname Xander, and he looks almost exactly like his mom Aurora.

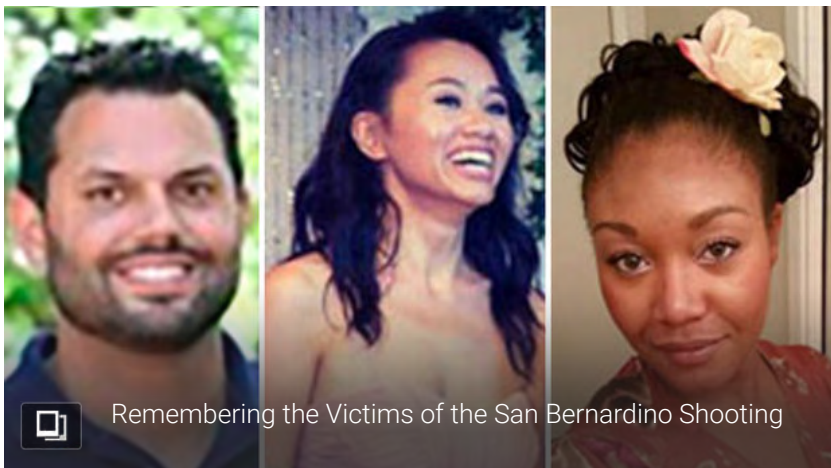
**SPONSORED** 10 Ways to Treat Yourself This Holiday Season

## WEATHER FORECAST

• [Supervisors Pledge to 'Expedite' Care for Terror Survivors](#)

James said this makes many days difficult. It's the reason why James often can't look at his son without thinking of her.

Aurora Godoy was an office assistant for the San Bernardino County Department of Health. On December 2, 2015, she was killed along with 13 coworkers in the terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center.



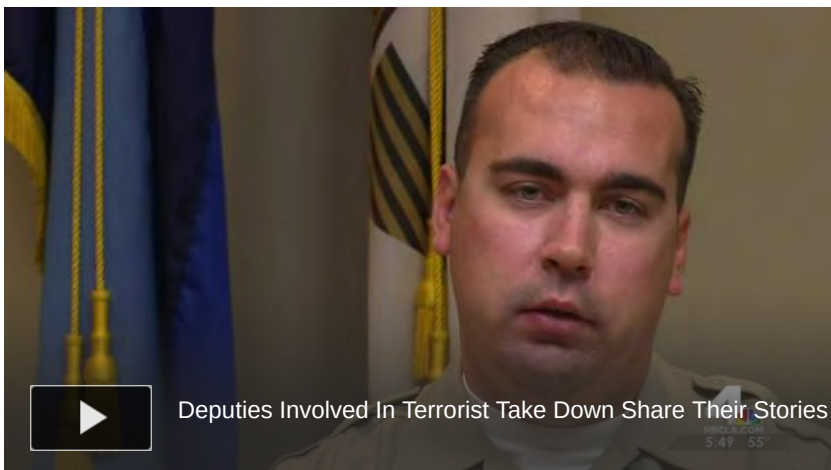
This Friday marks one year since the massacre, and James and other victims and their family members will that day attend a private luncheon to remember the 14 innocent lives that were taken.

Aurora, 26, was the most caring person James has ever known.

• [Wife of San Bernardino Terror Attack Victim Speaks](#)

"When we were in school, she would go above what was probably expected," James said.

Yet, despite losing his wife, James said he can't live with a negative attitude.



Deputies involved in the shootout with San Bernardino attackers recount the harrowing moments. Tony Shin reports for the NBC4 News at 5 and 6 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2016. (Published Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016)

"I think when you've been through something like that, it changes the way you think," James said. "I'm more of a positive person so I try to be as positive as possible."

[WEATHER ALERTS](#) [View all](#)

Los Angeles, CA

51° Clear Feels Like 51°



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does an apple a day keep the doctor away?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

NEXT

Powered by CivicScience

[Privacy policy](#)

**KPCC 89.3**  
89.1KUOR | 90.3KVLA

A PROUD PARTNER OF NBCLA.com

NEWSLETTERS

Receive the latest local updates in your inbox

[Sign up](#)

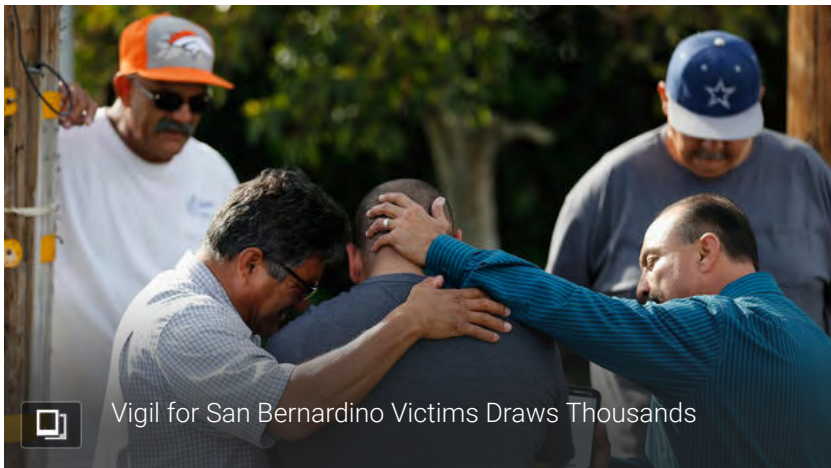
[Privacy policy](#) | [More Newsletters](#)

Alexander turns 3 in January. When the time comes, he will find the inner strength to tell Xander what happened to his mom.

• **Hate Crimes Against Muslims Up 67 Percent in 2015: FBI**

He even feels some compassion and concern for the orphaned daughter of the shooter, who is just a little younger than his son Xander.

"Because when you go to school someone is going to be like, 'Oh, you're so-and-so?' And I'm sure that could be bad as far as bullying for that kid when they get older," James said.



James is hoping that doesn't happen. He's also hoping a positive attitude will help guide his son toward a good life.

"I think he's going to be a good person and I want him to be a good person," James said. "I think he's going to be successful at whatever he does."

**UPDATED** **Trump Taps Former Rival Carson as Housing Secretary**

Published at 4:24 PM PST on Nov 29, 2016 | Updated at 8:43 PM PST on Dec 1, 2016

Get the latest from NBC4 anywhere, anytime



Download the App  
Available for **IOS** and **Android**

Follow NBC4



YOU MAY LIKE

Promoted Links by Taboola

Simple, Affordable Oral Health Products To Your Doorstep

Molr Dental Club

You Won't Believe Who Gene Wilder's Daughter Is

Your Daily Dish

7 Steps to Earthquake Safety

California Earthquake Authority

9 Killed, Dozens More Feared Dead in Oakland Warehouse Fire

Missing Man's Family Seeking 'Little Bit of Hope' After Grisly Oakland Warehouse Fire





AROUND THE NATION

# Crisis Counselor Recalls Losing Fiancé In San Bernardino Attack

Listen · 8:17

Queue

Download

Transcript

December 2, 2016 · 4:12 PM ET

Heard on All Things Considered

NPR's Kelly McEvers talks to Mandy Pifer, program manager of Los Angeles Crisis Response Team. Pifer is the former fiancé of Shannon Johnson, one of the victims of the December 2015 shooting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Calif.

AUDIE CORNISH, HOST:

Now from our colleague Kelly McEvers, a story about a man and a woman.

KELLY MCEVERS, BYLINE: They met a few years ago online.

MANDY PIFER: I was in my late 30s. He was in his early 40s when we met. So it was a very kind of mature relationship. We didn't jump into anything. We shared stories. We went to concerts. We were best friends. And then kind of really turned it up a notch the last six months of his life.

MCEVERS: That's Mandy Pifer talking about her fiance Shannon Johnson. She was a marriage therapist working here in Los Angeles. He was a county health inspector who worked about an hour away in San Bernardino. One year ago today, Mandy was at work.

PIFER: I was giving a therapy session.

MCEVERS: Right.

PIFER: And I was probably on my third client of the day. And as we were leaving the room, that's when I checked my - I just looked at my phone. And a friend had sent a text. It just said, you know, mass shooting out in San Bernardino. I hope you're OK. And my first thought was I don't work in San Bernardino, you know, I'm fine. So I thought, well, Shannon's out there. But it's a large county, and that's just kind of when it all started.

MCEVERS: It was around 11 a.m. A husband and wife wearing ski masks had walked into the holiday party for the county Public Health Department and started shooting people. The Public Health Department is where Shannon worked. Mandy started calling his phone. Because she had worked as a crisis counselor helping witnesses and survivors of traumatic events, Mandy knew from her training that something wasn't right.

PIFER: I knew when I called Shannon's phone and it went straight to voicemail. And this is after calling it dozens of times. And I just knew first responders turn off cellphones so they don't hear them ringing after an event like this. So I kind of knew he was dead. I mean, that really confirmed for me that he was one of the victims.

MCEVERS: Oh, you mean first responders will turn off the victim's cellphones.

PIFER: Right, so they don't hear all the cellphones ringing.

MCEVERS: Oh, yeah, right.

PIFER: So...

MCEVERS: So you knew when he didn't pick up?

PIFER: Yeah - well, I had a feeling when he didn't pick up. But when it went straight to voicemail...

MCEVERS: Uh-huh.

PIFER: ...I thought, well, this is weird.



MCEVERS: Oh, wow. What did you come to learn about what happened, you know, that day and what he did?

PIFER: I always knew - we talked about his response - what his response would be during a situation like this. I always had a feeling that you wouldn't run or hide. So he just did what came natural to him and covered the person closest to him and shielded her from a lot of bullets. You know, when they got down in his low Southern drawl he just said, you know, I got you. It was just natural. The shot that killed him was to his right thigh. But I wasn't surprised that he shielded somebody.

MCEVERS: Her name is Denise Peraza, is that right?

PIFER: Denise Peraza, yeah. So...

MCEVERS: And she survived?

PIFER: She survived. She's going to be having a baby girl after the first of the year - Olivia Shannon (crying), so...

MCEVERS: After that day, Mandy stopped working as a therapist. She transferred all her clients to other counselors.

PIFER: Every note in my client's file says, due to catastrophic events in the therapist's life, this case has been transferred. I'm not able to hold another's pain right now in such an intense setting, week after week after week. So...

MCEVERS: Mandy says even though she was trained in how to treat trauma, she had no idea how she was going to react to Shannon's death. She says she was in la-la land (ph) for the first month or so, planning all kinds of events and memorials and going to meet the president, which she says was just surreal. After that, the way she got through it was to keep working as a caregiver for her friend.

PIFER: My friend still needed care. And so I just kind of upped the hours I worked with her. She's a person living with Alzheimer's who experienced the loss of her best friend. So together, I mean, we were just a bunch of Debbie Downers (ph).

MCEVERS: (Laughter).

PIFER: But, you know, we have a garden together. We have a dog together. So I just spend a lot of time in flip-flops and sweatpants gardening. My landlord still wanted his rent check. So as much as I wanted to stay in bed and not ever get out, luckily, I had this friend to get me out because she still needed help. And she helped me.

MCEVERS: Yeah, what do you do for work now?

PIFER: So now, as of October, I'm a program manager working out of Los Angeles City Hall, managing the Crisis Response Team. And now I have some insight into what surviving victims go through.

MCEVERS: You coordinate crisis responders.

PIFER: Correct.

MCEVERS: Do you yourself go out sometimes...

PIFER: I have, sometimes...

MCEVERS: ...And do some crisis response work? - yeah.

PIFER: Yeah, you know, sometimes I have gone out. And you know what? It's - it was - the first time wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be because I'm not going to hijack their experience with my own experience. I just know that they have a long road ahead of them, the people we respond to. And keeping them safe in the moments after the horrible accident is really helping me heal, to an extent. It's giving back. And it's a huge word, people were dropping it. I didn't agree at first. But I think it's destiny now.

MCEVERS: I guess when you talk about destiny, do you think about him when you're out there doing this work?

PIFER: Oh, (crying) I think about it every day. Yeah, I hear his voice all the time. He wasn't - listen, he wasn't the softest...

MCEVERS: (Laughter).

PIFER: (Laughter) You know, like, sometimes he was so blunt. And I hear that often - you know, like, good lord, Mandy. Just - this is your job, just do it. And I hear that, and it helps. I hear his voice all the time. Most of the time it's telling me to stop being ridiculous.

MCEVERS: (Laughter) Sounds like a good voice. Can I borrow it?

(LAUGHTER)

PIFER: (Laughter) Yeah, you can have it - yeah. Yeah, he was always very encouraging. But he made it clear that he couldn't be the one encouraging me. I had to find my own voice encouraging. I'm blessed to have been left with that. If I talked back to the number of times I hear him talk to me...

MCEVERS: (Laughter).

PIFER: ...(Laughter) I would - I would probably be asked to have an evaluation of sorts. But...

MCEVERS: Mandy Pifer, thank you so much.

PIFER: You're welcome, thank you.

MCEVERS: That's Mandy Pifer, who now manages crisis response teams in Los Angeles, remembering her fiance, Shannon Johnson, who was killed one year ago in San Bernardino.

*Copyright © 2016 NPR. All rights reserved. Visit our website terms of use and permissions pages at [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) for further information.*

*NPR transcripts are created on a rush deadline by Verb8tm, Inc., an NPR contractor, and produced using a proprietary transcription process developed with NPR. This text may not be in its final form and may be updated or revised in the future. Accuracy and availability may vary. The authoritative record of NPR's programming is the audio record.*

## Heightened security in a post-Dec. 2 world

**Thursday**

Posted Dec 1, 2016 at 5:07 PM

Updated Dec 1, 2016 at 5:07 PM

By **Shea Johnson**

Staff Writer

[Follow](#)

A year after the San Bernardino terrorist attack, local officials say that heightened security hasn't necessarily been a reactionary maneuver as the safety of employees and the public has long remained an uninterrupted priority.

While the municipalities in the region are quick to not overshare the protective plans they have in place, it's clear that, at least, a different level of awareness exists in the 12 months since two suspects ambushed mostly county workers at a holiday party, killing 14 and wounding 22.

"Although mass shootings are all too common these days, there was no playbook to assist us in dealing with an attack that targeted a group of co-workers for a public organization," county spokesman David Wert said. "Handling mass grief and trauma, making workers' comp a friendlier and more responsive process, understanding and controlling things that might trigger horrific memories are examples of things the county is doing today that it never imagined having to do prior to December 2."

It was a neighboring traumatic experience — the 1998 shooting at Riverside City Hall that injured several officials — which began San Bernardino County's regular reviews of security at county facilities. In fact, officials were "engaged in a security reassessment" when the Dec. 2 attack happened and immediately stepped up the reassessment following the attack, Wert said.

Because the terrorist shooting occurred at the Inland Regional Center, a non-county building, it didn't necessarily raise questions about security at county facilities, Wert said, although county departments were authorized to increase security at facilities as they deemed necessary.

"... (A)nd some did increase the number and level of security guards at their facilities and installed card-key access," Wert said.

In June, the Board of Supervisors passed a budget that included \$10.2 million for immediate upgrades to county facilities, including improved security cameras, expanded guard services and the key card installations.

Wert suggested that meaningful security enhancements at facilities require physical and expensive changes. In response, and to avoid proceeding "willy nilly," the county has hired two security consulting firms to assess, recommend and execute upgrades likely to involve "re-configuring facilities to better control access to public areas and employee work areas."

Additionally, there's a committee of county employees and law enforcement officials tasked with evaluating consultant recommendations and carrying out safety programs, he said.

In the town of Apple Valley and the cities of Victorville and Hesperia, extra precautions have been undertaken.

More security cameras were added inside and outside Apple Valley facilities, more panic buttons were installed in strategic locations and police presence increased to two deputies at Town Council meetings, town spokeswoman Kathie Martin said.

Victorville has worked with its Sheriff's station to bolster safety, particularly at special events, according to city spokeswoman Sue Jones, who added that city officials feel "extremely fortunate" to have the full breadth of law enforcement resources available to protect citizens year-round.

Victorville officials also have encouraged residents to "take practical precautions and become actively engaged with our Police Department to promote safety in our community while exercising the everyday freedoms we enjoy as Americans," she said.

In Hesperia, where the City Hall is situated across the street from the Sheriff's station, officials have expended effort to hone internal safety measures over the past year, city spokeswoman Rachel Molina said.

"The city held two Workplace Violence Awareness workshops for employees this year," Molina said. "The workshops used a prevention approach to addressing workplace violence. This includes instructing staff on how to recognize behavioral issues in the workplace."

Follow-up workshops are planned for 2017, she said.

Adelanto employees also participated in a workplace violence workshop. In June, the Sheriff's Department conducted the special training session. In this year's budget, the City Council approved carving out finances for tempered glass at City Hall to reduce the vulnerability of staff at front counters, according to city spokesman Michael Stevens.

City Manager Cindy Herrera maintains the discretion to authorize temporarily hiring an armed security guard at City Hall in the wake of heightened threats, as she did following the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando in June. A deputy is always present at council meetings and animal control officers can carry guns on the job, while one officer is typically situated at any given time inside City Hall.

Many of the city's initiatives have been in place beyond merely a response to Dec. 2, and with a heavy emphasis on disaster preparedness, according to Community Safety Manager Steve Peltier.

A Safety Committee meets quarterly to constantly review procedures and recommend updates as necessary, Stevens said. The committee is responsible for coordinating disaster drills to gauge staff's response to situations spanning from earthquakes to hostile customers. "Active shooter" drills will be introduced in the future.

"I think we all understand that we live in a different world," said Mayor Rich Kerr, who added that disaster planning has had to be adjusted to account for an increase in workplace violence across the U.S. "We're not paranoid but we believe we have an obligation and a responsibility to keep our staff and customers safe — and that's what we're doing."

The task of continually assessing and reinforcing security measures comes at a time when the year-old terrorist attack still feels fresh to many.

"... (A)ll of us at the City of Victorville extend our support to our neighbors in San Bernardino," Jones said, "and our wishes of hope, healing and resiliency to the survivors and victims' families."

For Wert, the county spokesman, the signs of trauma, in varying degrees, remain prevalent among employees a year later.

"Many of us still spend portions of most days dealing with the many aspects of the aftermath. Most of us either knew people who were killed or work with their close friends or relatives," he said. "Nothing can compare to the deep trauma still being experienced by many of those who were wounded or those who witnessed the attack."

While employees may seem "more sad, more solemn, and more cautious than we used to be," and "maybe a little more on edge," Wert believed there was also a greater appreciation for life and each other, and a better likeliness of treating each other with "more respect, patience and kindness."

*— Staff Writers Matthew Cabe and Rene Ray De La Cruz contributed to this report.*

*Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or [SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com](mailto:SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com). Follow him on Twitter at [@DP\\_Shea](https://twitter.com/DP_Shea).*



**THERE ARE MORE HOMES FOR SALE  
THAN ZILLOW'S SHOWING YOU.**



Police & Fire (</california/banning-beaumont/police-fire>)

# SB Strong: A First Responder's Look Back at the San Bernardino Terror Attack One Year Later

"Just the chaos, just the bloodshed; the horror of seeing all that. It is hard to talk about."

By Renee Schiavone (Patch Staff) - (<http://patch.com/users/renee-schiavone>) December 2, 2016 2:11 pm ET  
(<http://my.patch.com/article/26811263/edit>)

Like 1K Share



It was Dec. 2, 2015, and Isabel Jaramillo decided she'd get to work a little early. It was a big day, after all. There was an important meeting with the bosses, so she'd better be prepared. She took note not to forget her full gear, especially her helmet.

But nothing could have fully prepared her for just how terribly big that day would become.

Her important meeting wasn't scheduled until 11:30 a.m., but Jaramillo was at the San Bernardino County Probation headquarters about an hour early. In time to learn of the first 911 call — which went out at 10:59 a.m. — within a matter of moments. In time to hop in her Dodge Charger with her partner and speed over to the Inland Regional Center, which was less than 3 miles away and be among the first dozen emergency responders to arrive at ground zero.



“I run to my desk, I throw my gear on, listening to the radio, and I hear a couple of my old partners saying ‘Hey, we need help, we have bodies down,’” she recalled while talking to Patch just two-tenths of a mile from the IRC, 364 days after that tragic day. It’s the first time she’s been this close to the Center since the infamous terrorist attack took place.

“Once I heard that, I knew it was real,” she said. “So I got over here as fast as I could, took me maybe about four minutes to get here.”

**SB Strong: A First Responder Looks Back**

“Just the chaos, just the bloodshed; the horror of seeing all that. It is hard to talk about.”



Jaramillo knew exactly where to go after hearing that the shooting was at the conference center, which we would later learn happened at a holiday party attended by San Bernardino County Health Department workers. She had recently attended a training and graduation ceremony at the same location and knew the entrance well, which was at the back end of the facility.



*Image: U.S. Department of Justice's Critical Incident Review of the San Bernardino Public Safety Response to the December 2015 Terrorist Shooting Incident*

## "PURE EVIL"

"The first thing when I got out of my car and I ran towards the conference room — I remember saying out loud 'Oh my God,'" she tells Patch while describing the scene upon first look. "Because it's just something that you can't prepare yourself to see."

The glass doors to the room had been shattered and blown to bits during the spray of 100 bullets fired from assault weapons by Syed Rizwan Farook, a county environmental health specialist, and his wife Tashfeen Malik. Farook had been at the gathering with his coworkers but left briefly to return with Malik and carry out the attack the FBI says they had been planning together.



Department of Justice officials say the duo, clad in black tactical gear, opened fire on anyone who moved or made a sound. Three men who tried to rush at them and stop the terror were also shot. The terrorists then fled.

36

When Jaramillo arrived on the scene with her fellow probation officers, they were the first to start attending to the 36 shooting victims. The handful of others to arrive before them had moved on to searching the massive building complex for a possible shooter, uncertain what their status was.

Injured people and bodies were everywhere, Jaramillo said. Many had made their way to the outside of the conference center, crawling, walking, dragging each other out of hell.

“Just showing up to that initial scene, it’s is just something that I can’t even describe in words,” she said. “Just the chaos, just the bloodshed; the horror of seeing all that. It is hard to talk about.”

Her group got to work right away, getting the victims out of the IRC — no matter what it took.

“I can’t tell you how many people I helped out,” she said. “Maybe 10, 15. It was basically, ‘Hey, this person needs to go, let’s pick them up and take them’ ... ‘Hey, you grab a leg, you grab an arm, let’s get this person to safety.’”

One of the first women she came across had been shot in the leg and was bleeding profusely. Jaramillo helped load that victim into her own vehicle, which would become so saturated in blood that it was eventually taken out of service.

“I threw the keys at my partner and said, ‘Get her out of here.’”

That woman was taken directly to the hospital and survived. In fact, every victim that was ultimately transported to an area hospital — which all happened within a matter of 55 minutes of the shooting — survived.

But 14 people would not be so lucky and died at the hands of the terrorists in what’s now the third deadliest attack on U.S. soil since 9/11, according to the DOJ.

Robert Adams, Isaac Amanios, Bennetta Bet-Badal, Harry Bowman, Sierra Clayborn, Juan Espinoza, Aurora Godoy, Shannon Johnson, Larry Daniel Kaufman, Damian Meins, Tin Nguyen, Nicholas Thalasinis, Yvette Velasco and Michael Wetzal were all killed on Dec. 2, 2015.



Image: U.S. Department of Justice's Critical Incident Review of the San Bernardino Public Safety Response to the December 2015 Terrorist Shooting Incident

"It's still very fresh and raw in my mind," Jaramillo said. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about it. The emotions are still very real. I still get vivid images of first arriving on scene. It's something that I can never forget. That day, it was just horrific. There's no other way I can describe it. It was just evil."



**Morning Briefing: Trump Picks Carson, Oakland Fire Latest, Fake News Turns Violent** (<http://patch.com/california/banning-beaumont/s/fyqc4/morning-briefing-trump-picks-carson-oakland-fire-latest-fake-news-turns-violent>)

Here are the biggest stories from around the U.S. to start your day.

## CLEARING THE CHAOS

The next step for Jaramillo was helping to clear out the adjacent buildings at the IRC, where hundreds of workers were huddled in fear for their lives, unsure of what was going on at their workplace.

Authorities, too, were still unsure where the shooters were and if they were waiting to attack again. But Jaramillo knew she had a job to do and committed herself to helping everyone else and not letting her own fear consume her.

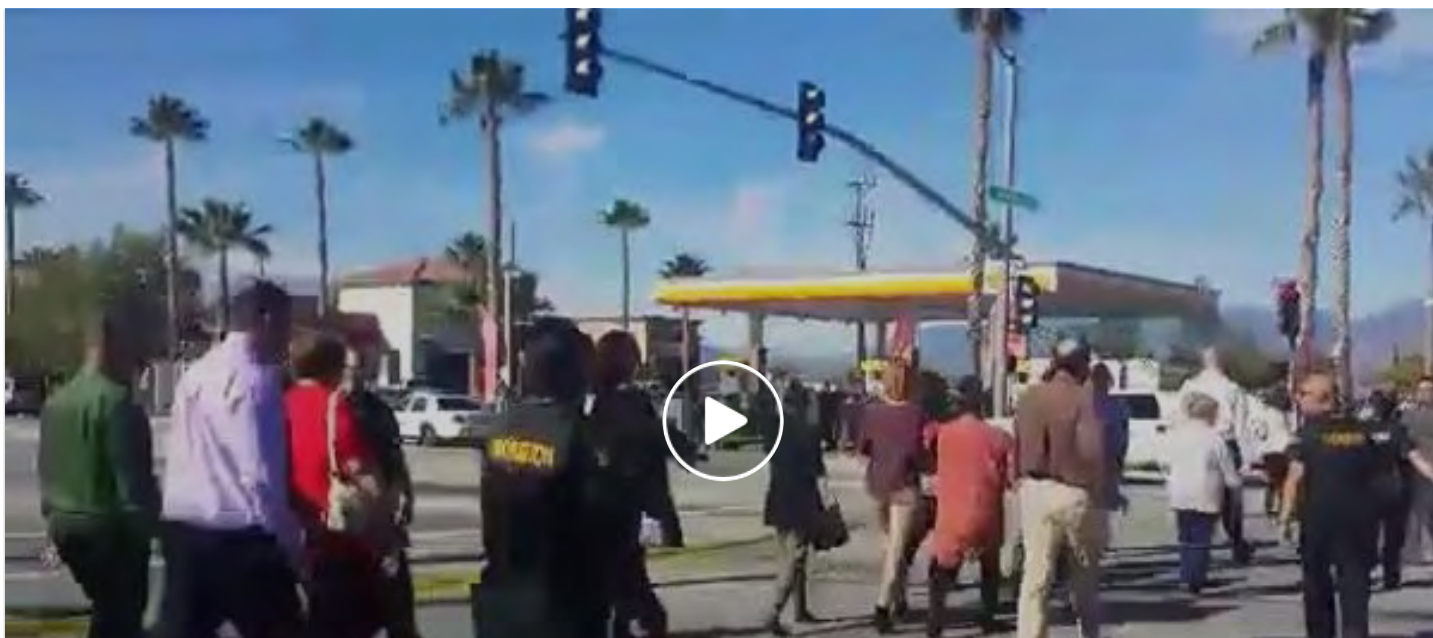
"First thing [I thought upon entering the building] was that I'm glad that I brought my helmet today," she said. "I had my helmet with me so it made me feel a little bit safe. I was scared. It's not something you've ever been prepared for. We train for events like this, but once it actually happens, it's scary.

"So, I was thinking, I might not come home today. But once I enter that building, it's go time. There's no turning back at that point."

The probation officer, then 28, didn't turn back and stayed at the IRC for about four hours helping however she could. The looks on the faces of those at the Center is something she'll not soon forget.

“The fear and panic on their faces, it was unbelievable.”

The groups were eventually all escorted out of the buildings and away from the scene on nearby school buses.



### A DEADLY SHOOTOUT

At 3:10 p.m., the day took another turn for all involved. Farook had been flagged in the case, and a surveillance team spotted him and Malik in a rented SUV near their Redlands home, about 15 minutes away from the IRC.

As a Redlands Police patrol sergeant approached in his vehicle, Malik fired shots from the back of the SUV. The ensuing gunfight between the suspects and law enforcement would end in their deaths on a neighborhood street.





## FOREVER BOUND — SB STRONG

The coming days, weeks and months would by no means be easy for any of those involved, Jaramillo included. Authorities worked to piece the case together, at first hesitant to label the attack a terrorist incident. We would learn much more about the attackers as the investigation continued and the incident was studied. Critical Incident Reviews, such as this one from the Department of Justice (<http://incidentreview.wpengine.com/san-bernardino/>), were put together to help “bring calm to the chaos.”

“...[I]f you would have asked us a little over a year ago if we believed there would be a terrorist attack in San Bernardino, I bet you that the majority of folks would [have said] that ‘No, there is no information to suggest one would occur here,’” San Bernardino Sheriff John McMahon told Patch in a phone interview this week.

“It’s not one of those high-valued or high-profile targets that you think of when you look at the big cities and large concentrations of people. But what it does show you is that these terrorists will and can attack in Middle America in a location that you would not expect, and it’s incumbent upon law enforcement to be prepared to deal with those types of attacks.

“We may not ever be able to solve or prevent all of them from occurring, but our primary responsibility is when they do occur, to be prepared and trained to respond to them. And I think what we saw on Dec. 2 was an incredible response, very professional, from the men and women of law enforcement and the first responders of San Bernardino.”

As for Jaramillo, she agrees that her training and preparation were key to helping her and her colleagues navigate the horrific scene. It’s an experience she said will forever bind them in a way that’s indescribable.

But most of all, she’s happy that she was able to help how she could.

“It was an awesome feeling knowing that we helped people, especially on a day like that where it was just pure chaos and evil that day,” she said.

She’s also happy she remembered her helmet.



San Bernardino County Probation Officer Isabel Jaramillo / Patch photo by Renee Schiavone

### More from Banning-Beaumont Patch (/california/banning-beaumont)



**12 Of America's 100 Best Restaurants Are In California, Survey Says**  
 (<http://patch.com/california/banning-beaumont/s/fypw6/12-of-americas-100-best-restaurants-are-in-california-survey-says>)



**Monday's Best Holiday Deals**  
 (<http://patch.com/california/banning-beaumont/s/fyqdt/mondays-best-holiday-deals>)

### From The Web

Ads by Revcontent

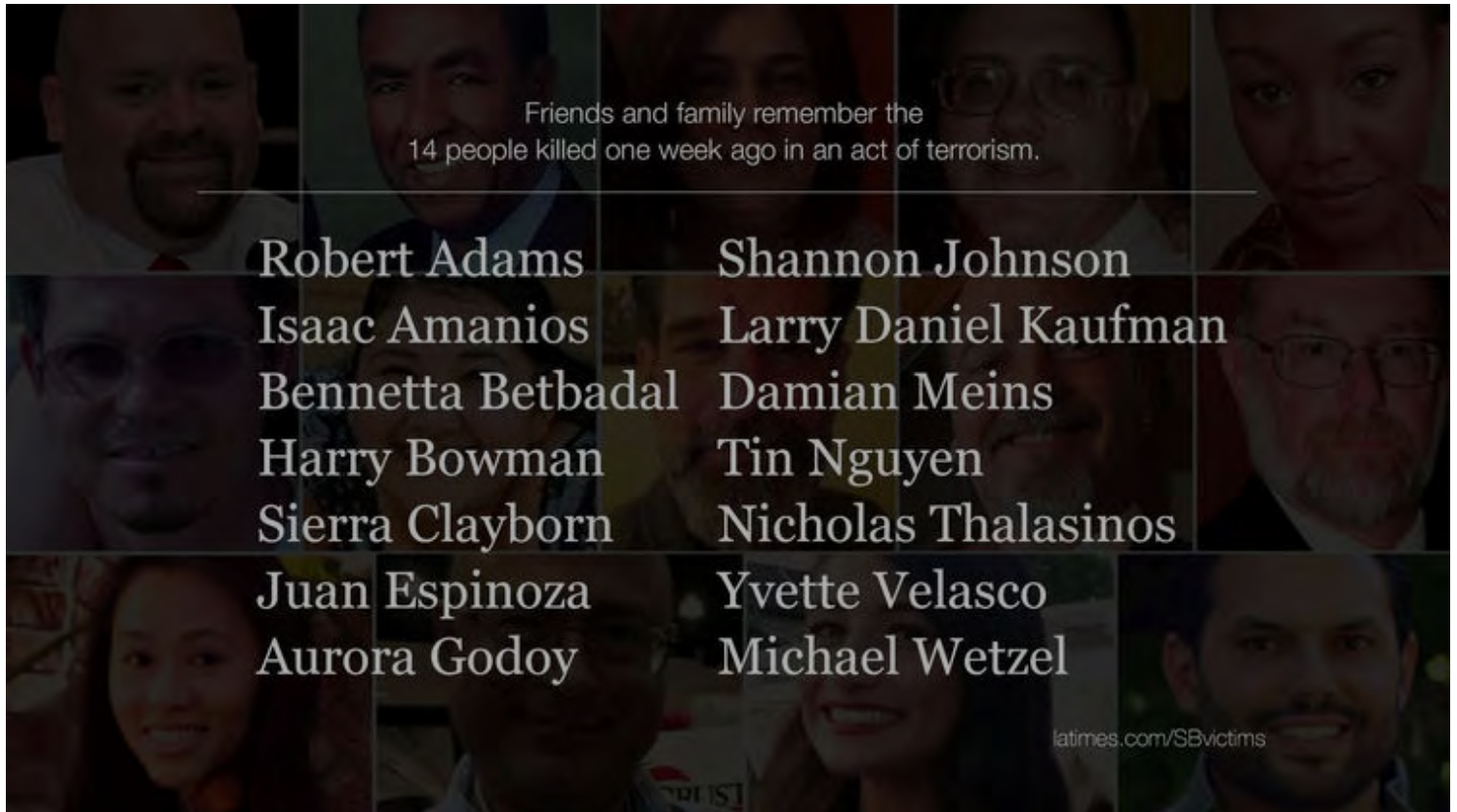
**Here's How Spoiled Barron Actually Is And He's Only 10**  
 WorldLifestyle

**Paul Ryan: "CA Homeowners Must Claim \$4,000 Mortgage Rebate by Dec 31"**  
 Easy Loan

**How To Remove Aging Eye Bags & Wrinkles In 2 Minutes (No Surgery!)**  
 Fit Mom Daily

(//trends.revcontent.com/click.php?d=nTxC5%2BULz0Une%2BxDBYFIaamfw6LejolUEnrCQ%2F8BorpeniAbr65KCCAppuHE346JShQTOA2BfaZfWFFHUBgbZWT0ajydXp%2Ed=4UzxfEuxl%2Bn7hdvk%2FonOvtCWbowE9gxGjTDuZeYGhnV5Qe%2FNESC3Bj3xcPVCEzLixRtAAW0r

# We may never know why the San Bernardino terrorists targeted a Christmas party. Here's what we do know



Family and friends remember the San Bernardino shooting victims. Read their stories: [latimes.com/sbvictims](http://latimes.com/sbvictims)



By **Richard Winton**

DECEMBER 2, 2016, 7:55 AM

**A** year ago today, [Syed Rizwan Farook](#) and [Tashfeen Malik](#) killed 14 people in a [terrorist attack](#) at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

Since then, federal authorities have said the couple was “self-radicalized” in part by reading radical Islamic literature online.

But why did they pick the Christmas gathering held by colleagues of Farook, who worked as a health inspector for San Bernardino County?

FROM OUR  
PARTNERS:

San Bernardino mourns shooting victims



Here is we know:

### **Why was the IRC targeted?**

Officials said they don't know for sure.

San Bernardino Police Lt. Mike Madden noted that in 2014, Farook attended another work event in that room, which was decorated for Christmas. Malik later stated in an online account that she felt Muslims should not have to attend Christian events, Madden said.

Madden added that she did not specifically mention the event in her posting and that it's far from clear that it played any role in last year's attack.

"It is open to speculation why they chose the party," he said. "I don't know if we can say with any certainty why the party was chosen apart from it was a soft target."

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan agreed.

"There are a lot of questions, and we don't have all the answers," he said Thursday. "We never established the motive. The best we can do is theorize."

### **What was the timeline of events?**

Farook left his Redlands home at 8:37 a.m. Dec. 2 and arrived at the Inland Regional Center 10 minutes later. His co-workers were gathered for a holiday event and training session there. He carried with him a bag containing a bomb, authorities say.

He stuck around the center for about two hours before leaving. He returned to the event at 10:56 a.m. with his wife. They were armed with AR-15s, and their faces were covered. They sprayed the room with bullets before fleeing. They left behind an explosive device made of several pipe bombs.

They later were killed by police at the end of a high-speed chase.

### **How extensively did they plan an attack?**

Officials believe they planned for months, gathering weapons and building bombs in their garage.

Farook traveled to the Middle East before the attack and came back with his wife. Farook was born in Illinois, but Malik was raised in Pakistan and lived in Saudi Arabia before marrying him. From the beginning, one of the biggest questions was whether the attack was part of a larger international plot hatched by Islamic State or some other Islamic terror group. Malik posted a note on Facebook pledging allegiance to Islamic State shortly after the attack, authorities said.

The FBI concluded fairly quickly that the two were “self-radicalized.” They were inspired by terrorist groups, officials said, but did not receive financial support from any foreign or domestic organizations.

A year later, the investigation continues.

### **What are memorial plans today?**

San Bernardino will sponsor a “Night of Remembrance” Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Cal State San Bernardino’s Coussoulis Arena.

“Our community continues to stand together united in solidarity and support for the victims, survivors, and families of those affected by the December 2nd terrorist attack,” Mayor R. Carey Davis said in a statement.

A memorial bicycle ride is planned to the IRC Friday morning.

A special lighting formation [in the hills above](#) San Bernardino to memorialize the victims is also planned.

### **ALSO**

[They survived the San Bernardino terror attack. Now, they feel betrayed](#)

[For survivors of San Bernardino terrorist attack, it's a daily struggle against memory](#)





**all tech** considered

PRIVACY & SECURITY

# A Year After San Bernardino And Apple-FBI, Where Are We On Encryption?

December 3, 2016 · 1:00 PM ET



ALINA SELYUKH



*Jaap Arriens/NurPhoto/Getty Images*

The debate over encryption and government access to secured communications dates decades back. But for many Americans, it grabbed their attention in the early months

of this year, in the aftermath of the Dec. 2, 2015, mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif.

It was a saga that unraveled over weeks. Looking for leads on the terrorist's iPhone, the FBI wanted to crack the PIN code on the device. The bureau got a court order and demanded that Apple write special software to thwart security measures that otherwise threatened to erase its content if muscled through. Apple refused to help and took its case public.

The two sides battled it out in court, in Congress and in the media. Apple argued such software amounted to a master key and would encourage other countries, like China or Russia, to make similar demands for other iPhones. The law enforcement community said that increasingly secure encryption was making devices "warrant-proof."

#### **FULL COVERAGE: The Apple-FBI Debate Over Encryption**

The conversation about encrypted devices quickly merged with that about encrypted communications.

Ultimately, the FBI paid a mysterious third party and unlocked the phone without Apple's help. Over the following months, several bills appeared and faded in the outgoing Congress. The heat has subsided. The conversation moved on. Or so you might think.

A few weeks ago, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. — a vocal opponent of insurmountable encryption — renewed his call for new laws to make sure that law enforcement has a way to extract the content of locked iPhones.

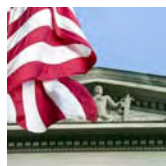
"In (Manhattan) alone, 423 Apple iPhones and iPads lawfully seized since October 2014 remain inaccessible due to default device encryption," the report from Vance's office says, arguing later:

"There is an urgent need for federal legislation that would compel software and hardware companies that design or build mobile devices or operating systems to make



such devices amenable to appropriate searches."

From a technical perspective, it's essentially a plea to turn back time.



#### THE TWO-WAY

Judges Have More Power In Granting Warrants To Hack Digital Devices

During and since the Apple-FBI standoff, the push for stronger encryption has been marching on. On the newer devices, Apple says it's just not technically feasible for the company to unlock passcodes or otherwise extract data, warrant or no warrant.

Google, despite its struggle to push updated software to the fragmented market of various Android devices, is also promoting default encryption. WhatsApp, the most popular messaging platform, has doubled-down on encryption and has even introduced secured video chat. The list goes on.

"I don't see a situation where the government ... is going to force Apple to roll back encryption of the iPhone. I think that ship's sailed," says Christopher Soghoian, principal technologist at the American Civil Liberties Union. "Law enforcement has to deal with the fact that we live in the world of encryption. And the way the feds are dealing with it is embracing the hacking."

Soghoian explains that encryption doesn't completely shut down surveillance but pushes it further out from the networks that deliver the communications — where they are scrambled — to the devices where it gets unscrambled for the user.



#### ALL TECH CONSIDERED

Internet Freedom Wanes As Governments Target Messaging, Social Apps

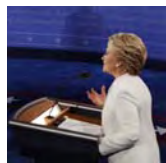
That's one of the reasons why internationally instant messaging apps and communications platforms have, for the first time, emerged as "the most routinely targeted tools" by governments. That's according to this year's Freedom of the Net

report by the Freedom House, which found WhatsApp being the most restricted app around the world.

Earlier this week, judges in the U.S. gained wider power to authorize government hacking of digital devices well beyond their districts.

Reuters has reported that the newly re-elected Republican Sen. Richard Burr, who chairs the Intelligence Committee, is likely to reintroduce his encryption legislation requiring companies to build "back doors" into their products for the government — but this time, with the support of the incoming Trump administration.

So far, none of Donald Trump's picks for security posts are experts on cyber, and details of his stance are relatively hard to surmise. During the Apple-FBI debate, Trump called for a boycott of Apple to pressure its compliance with the FBI's demand. But he hasn't voiced a specific position on encryption.



#### ALL TECH CONSIDERED

Cyber Aggression Takes A Back Seat To Other Presidential Campaign Issues

Also unclear is Trump's plan for the post of FBI director, occupied now by James Comey, who led the bureau's fight against Apple but also played a prominent role during the campaign-season controversy about Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

One likely possibility, Soghoian says, is a behind-the-scenes push for the right of government authorities to compel app or device makers to deliver specially created software to particular phones.

Also possible is an effort to make companies retain more data they collect about their users — including, for instance, unencrypted metadata, such as time and length of a conversation, rather than its content. This becomes even more relevant in the era when more and more *things* get connected to the Internet without being particularly secure.

---



**ALL TECH CONSIDERED**

Encryption May Hurt Surveillance, But Internet Of Things Could Open New Doors

And finally, there's the matter of state and local law enforcement. Investigations across the country have struggled with the lack of technical expertise and budget to tackle crimes involving tech devices.

Soghoian worries that when the surveillance or hacking tools begin to trickle down, abuses will be particularly visible. For now, he expects prominent voices like Manhattan's Cyrus Vance to continue making their case.

encryption   san bernardino   fbi   apple

## Get The Stories That Grabbed Us This Week

Delivered to your inbox every Sunday, these are the NPR stories that keep us scrolling.

**SUBSCRIBE**

By subscribing, you agree to NPR's terms of use and privacy policy.

## More Stories From NPR

# Mourning and memories one year after San Bernardino terrorist attack

DEC. 2, 2016, 8:15 P.M.

San Bernardino on Friday marked the first anniversary of a terrorist attack that left 14 dead with a variety of services and remembrances.

The city is sponsoring a "Night of Remembrance" at 6:30 p.m. at Cal State San Bernardino's Coussoulis Arena.

"Our community continues to stand together united in solidarity and support for the victims, survivors, and families of those affected by the December 2nd terrorist attack," Mayor R. Carey Davis said in a statement.

A memorial bicycle ride is planned to the IRC Friday morning.

A special lighting formation in the hills above San Bernardino to memorialize the victims is also planned.

---

DEC. 2, 2016, 8:15 P.M.

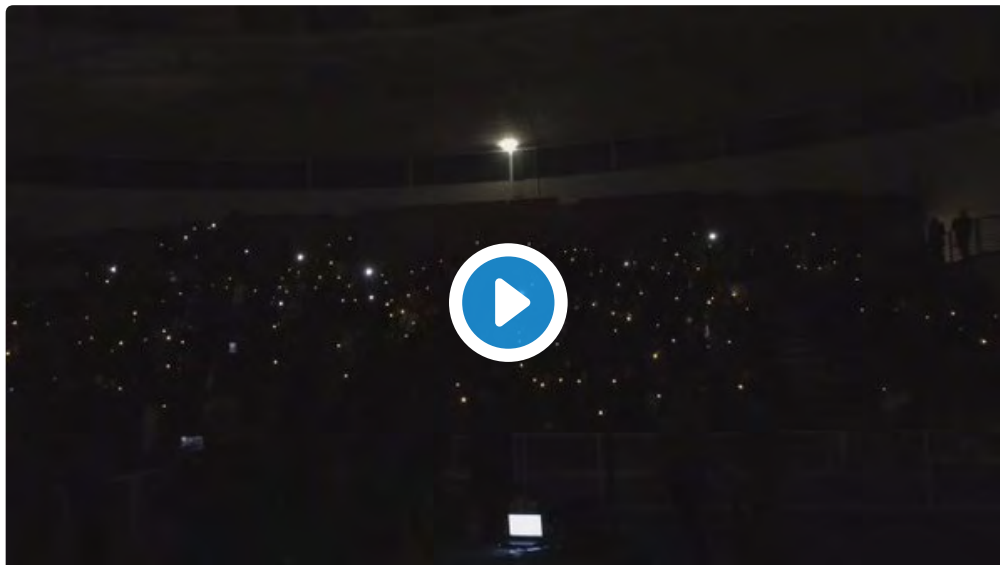
## 'God Bless America' concludes San Bernardino memorial



Soumya Karlamangla



A night of remembrance Friday at Cal State San Bernardino for the 14 people killed on Dec. 2, 2015, concludes with "God Bless America."





**Soumya Karlamangla** ✓  
@skarlamangla

Follow

The final song of the memorial. #SanBernardino

8:11 PM - 2 Dec 2016

3 2

DEC. 2, 2016, 8:00 P.M.

## Survivor talks of her friends killed in terrorist attack as San Bernardino remembers

Paloma Esquivel and Richard Winton



Speakers at a night of remembrance at Cal State San Bernardino on Friday evening expressed a profound sense of loss for the 14 people killed on Dec. 2, 2015 and offered their thanks to the community that rallied together after the attack to do whatever they could to help.

Pastor Sandy Tice, of First Presbyterian Church in San Bernardino, opened the ceremony with an invocation.

“In this moment we say thank you for those who came running to help,” she said, “for those who remembered us, who reached out in love, who prayed. Thank you.”

Julie Swann-Paez, who was shot in the attack and spent a month in the hospital, paid tribute to each of the victims, all but one of whom were her co-workers in San Bernardino County’s Department of Public Health.

Of Aurora Godoy, 26, the mother of a young son, she said “She was a mom who loved being a mommy.”

Bennetta Betbadal, 46, Swann-Paez said, “radiated warmth and a loving spirit.” Isaac Amanios, 60, “always had a warm smile for everyone. He was always kind.” And Shannon Johnson ended his life “as a hero, when he protected my friend Denise and told her ‘I got you,’” she said.

“Kindness, compassion, love and gratitude. To me those are the basic threads of humanity. All of my friends, who I just spoke about, embodied these traits,” she said.

Swann-Paez was followed by San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan, who urged those gathered not “to let the evil of that day define us.”

“There’s two evil people that started the narrative of that day, a story about San Bernardino, a chapter in our lives,” he said. “They do not get to finish that story. We do. This is our city. This is our story.”

Speaking to victims and their families, U.S. Atty. Eileen Decker said: "Your strength, your courage and your heart has been inspiring."

---

DEC. 2, 2016, 7:30 P.M.

## San Bernardino police chief says city won't let two 'evil people' finish the story



Richard Winton



San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan told people gathered at a memorial that the city will write its story and not the terrorists.

“Two evil people started the narrative of Dec. 2, but we can finish the story,” the chief said.

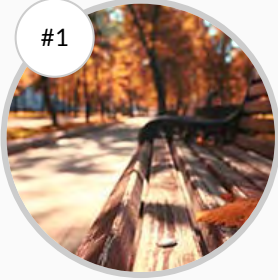
"Let love win the day. Let’s show the world – the world that is still watching us that terror will not win,” Burguan said.

"We can be stronger than ever and we can win... this is our city. This city is our story," he said.

DEMOGRAPHICS

### US Cities With the Oldest Residents

#1



**Leisure World,**

Population 8,826

77

Average Resident Age

[See The List](#)

**PLAY YOUR FAVORITE CASINO GAMES FOR FREE!**

DOWNLOAD OUR APP!



**FANTASY SPRINGS RESORT CASINO**

Available on the Google play and App Store

ADVERTISEMENT

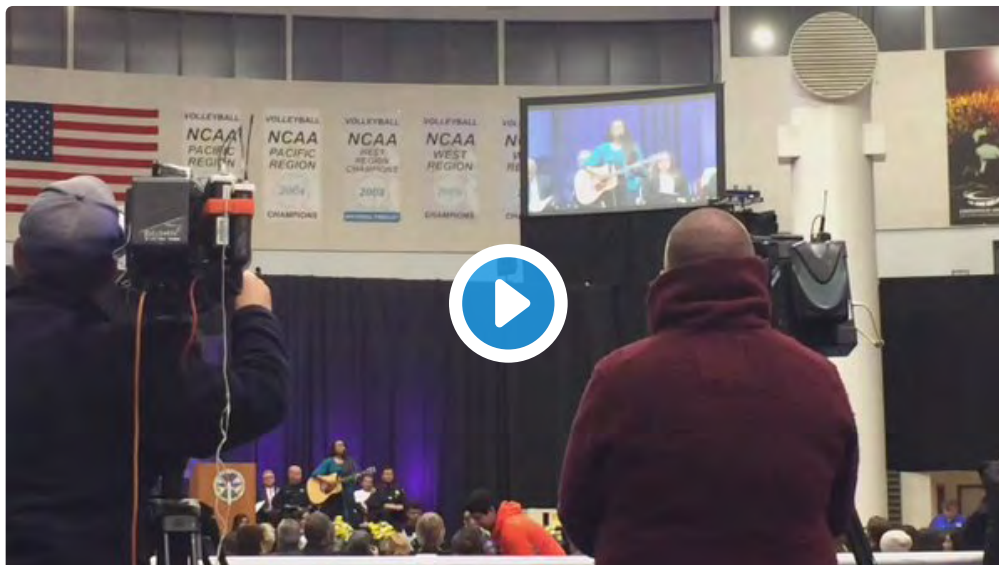
DEC. 2, 2016, 7:15 P.M.

# 'Imagine' echoes through the auditorium as San Bernardino remembers its loss

Soumya Karlamangla and Paloma Esquivel



The memorial service at Cal State San Bernardino began Friday with a rendition of "Imagine" by John Lennon with thousands on hand to remember the 14 shot to death by terrorists a year ago.



**Soumya Karlamangla**   
@skarlamangla

 **Follow**



San Bernardino memorial ceremony begins with woman singing "Imagine."

6:41 PM - 2 Dec 2016 · Coussoulis Arena



DEC. 2, 2016, 6:57 P.M.

## 'You hear of these things happening elsewhere, in other countries, and here it hit home'



Paloma Esquivel



On Friday evening, hundreds of people gathered under heavy security at Cal State San Bernardino for the largest memorial gathering of the day.

City residents, local politicians, school representatives and many others filled the seats of the school's basketball arena.

The service began with John Lennon's Imagine.

A number of locals said they had been deeply affected by the attack and its aftermath.

"You hear of these things happening elsewhere, in other countries, and here it hit home, where you thought you would be safe," said Eva Flores Mermilliod, who was born and raised in San Bernardino. "A year has passed and these families have suffered so much and our community has suffered so much."

Irene Carrasco, 56, of San Bernardino said she had felt sadness through the day.

It's "still sad," she said. "Sad about the families of the ones killed and also the ones that survived."

But she was proud, she said, of the way the city united after the attack, with residents donating blood, gathering at memorials and offering whatever help they could.

"I think the community came together on that day and since that day," she said.

DEC. 2, 2016, 6:28 P.M.

# San Bernardino memorial getting underway soon; candles bear victims' names



Soumya Karlamangla



Hundreds of people are beginning to filter into the arena at Cal State San Bernardino, where a memorial event for those killed in the 2015 terrorist attack is set to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Guests are being handed electric candles with the names of the 14 victims of last year's attack, as well as paper cranes. A middle school class in Florida made 1,000 origami cranes after the attack and mailed them to the city of San Bernardino, which is distributing them Friday.

There's also a heavy security presence. All guests had to go through metal detectors, and officers were stationed throughout the arena.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Cities in California With the Highest % of Residents th

#1

**Fort Irwin, CA**  
Population 9,581

23.5%  
of Residents Walk

See The List

ADVERTISEMENT

DEC. 2, 2016, 5:31 P.M.

# First Times photographer at San Bernardino mass shooting recalls a mad dash with police



Howard Blume



Because Times photographer Gina Ferazzi likes golf, she captured an important moment during last year's [terrorist attack](#) in San Bernardino.

The site of the bloodshed, the Inland Regional Center, is across the street from San Bernardino Golf Club, where Ferazzi has played, and which she thought could allow

her closer access to the crime scene.

She navigated stealthily through familiar greens and traps — and came upon employees from the IRC. They were huddled together, praying, on the fairway of the second hole.

That image was among the first of several memorable ones Ferazzi caught on Dec. 2, 2015, the Wednesday that [Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik](#), a married couple, [killed 14](#) and wounded 22.

Ferazzi had been scheduled for the night shift, and, in the late morning, was gradually getting into gear. Then she saw the message from photo editor Robert St. John: mass shooting, San Bernardino.

She was on her way.

[READ MORE >](#)



DEC. 2, 2016, 5:09 P.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

## Peace garden honors CSUSB alums killed in terror attack

Paloma Esquivel



Three hours before a community memorial for the Dec. 2 attack was expected to bring thousands to Cal State San Bernardino, a smaller group, including several family members of the victims, gathered on the opposite end of campus to inaugurate a peace garden in memory of the five victims of the attack who were Cal State alumni.

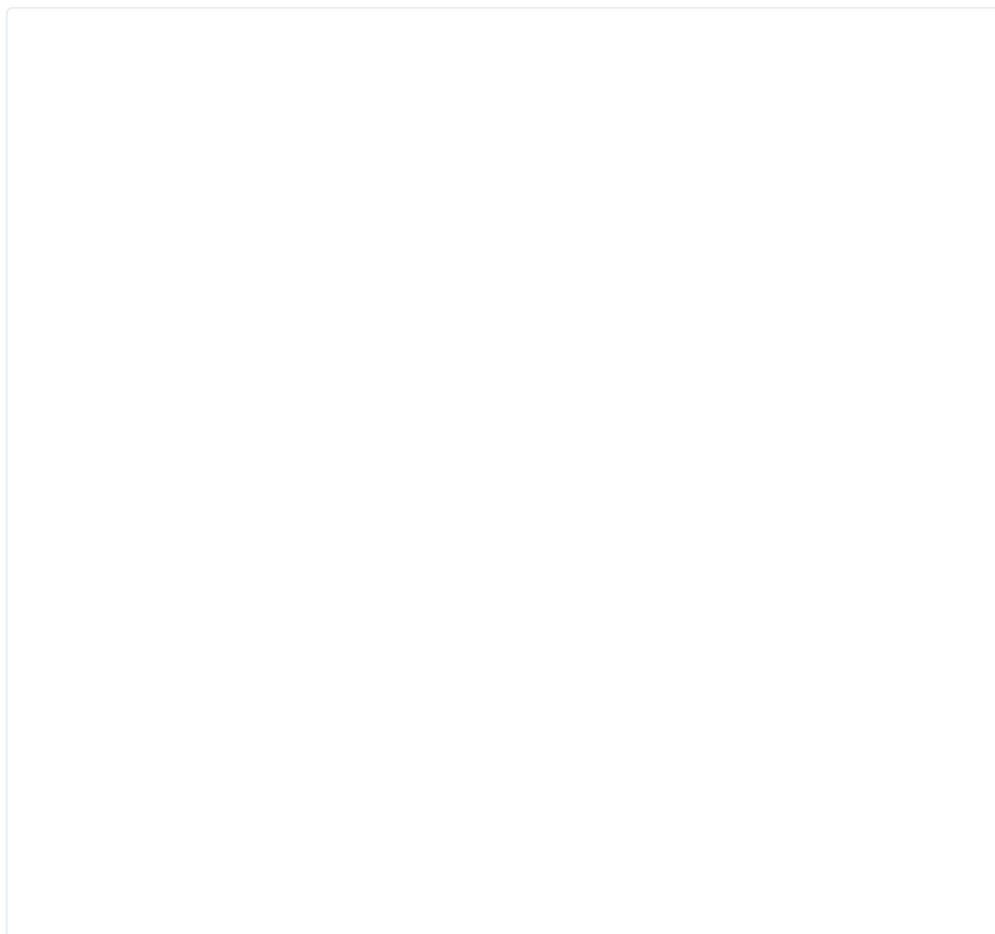
"A year ago the unimaginable happened in our very own city," said Alex Gutierrez, president of the school's Associated Students group. "Today we convene for comfort and healing."

A bell with the names of the five alumni stood at the center of the garden, and a quote attributed to Albert Einstein was etched on a wall:

"Peace cannot be kept by force," it said. "It can only be achieved by understanding."

An official rang the bell 14 times at the start of the ceremony and 14 times at its end.

It will remain silent until next year when it will again ring 14 times, officials said.





**Paloma Esquivel**

@palomaesquivel

A memorial for CSUSB alumni Yvette Velasco, Juan Espinoza, Michael Wetzel, Robert Adams and Shannon Johnson

4:17 PM - 2 Dec 2016

4 12

DEC. 2, 2016, 3:41 P.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

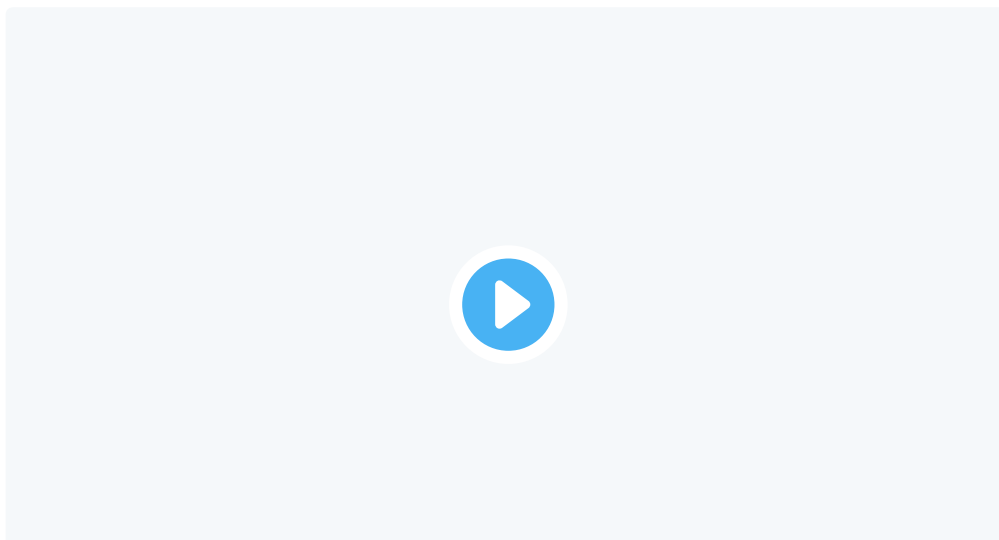
# Pain, pride and memories as San Bernardino remembers 14 lives lost



Francine Orr



The Inland Regional Center, where 14 people lost their lives in a terrorist attack one year ago, is the focal point of daytime prayers, flowers and tears. Times photographer Francine Orr documents a tough day for the Inland Empire city.







**Francine Orr/LATimes** ✓

@francineorr

Follow

An angel sways in the wind on the corner of Waterman and Orange Show in San Bernardino in memory of the IRC shooting victims. [@latimesphotos](#)

1:01 PM - 2 Dec 2016

1 1



**Francine Orr/LATimes** ✓

@francineorr

Follow

Zen Martinsen, and Paula Garcia, cry as the Inland Regional Center (IRC), holds a brief memorial for the shooting victims.

[@latimesphotos](#)

11:27 AM - 2 Dec 2016





DEMOGRAPHICS

Cities in California With the Most Expensive Homes

#1

**Orinda, CA**

Population 17,868

\$983.6K  
Median Home Value

[See The List](#)

California Lutheran  
UNIVERSITY

YOU DON'T NEED TO GO FAR  
TO GO FARTHER.

TRANSFER NOW

ADVERTISEMENT

DEC. 2, 2016, 2:24 P.M.

# San Bernardino pastor reflects on a year of change in Inland Empire city



Richard Winton



Pastor Joshua Beckley of the Ecclesia Christian Fellowship Church spoke at a candlelight vigil the day after a terrorist attack killed 14 people and 22 were seriously injured in 2015. One year later, he reflects on the city and how it has changed.

A year ago, he told a massive gathering that San Bernardino was a "city full of hopeful optimists." In those days and months since, he has become a symbolic leader of the community dealing with the best of days and the worst of days.

---

DEC. 2, 2016, 1:13 P.M.

## Hugs and signs of remembrance in San Bernardino

Paloma Esquivel and Soumya Karlamangla



From the earliest hours Friday, people touched by the attack one year ago in San Bernardino began gathering to remember the victims and honor those who offered their help in a moment of terror.

Several gatherings were set to take place in the city throughout the day, each one reflecting the profound impact of the violence on the lives of victims' families, first responders, county employees and many others throughout the region.

Fourteen people were killed and 22 wounded on Dec. 2, 2015, when a county employee and his wife entered an office holiday celebration in a conference center at the Inland Regional Center and opened fire.

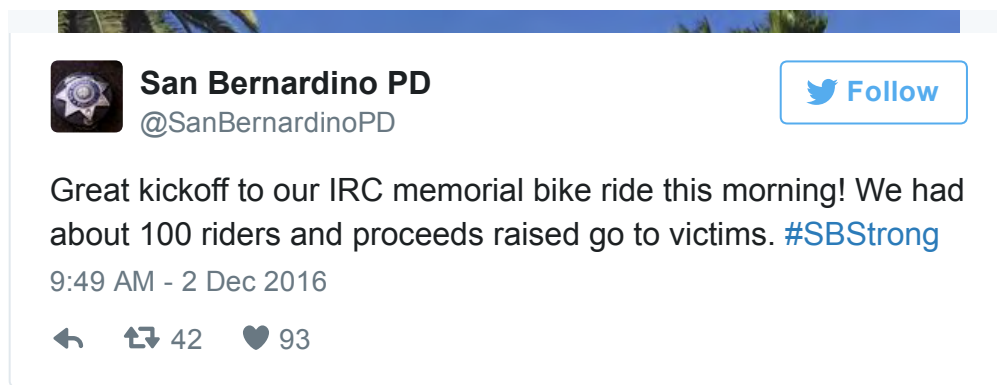
Friday morning, members of law enforcement and their supporters met at San Bernardino Police Department headquarters for a 14-mile bike ride — each mile

representing a victim of the attack.

The ride concluded at the Inland Regional Center, where employees and others had gathered in front of the conference center for a moment of silence and memorial ceremony.

A large memorial gathering for the community is scheduled Friday evening at Cal State San Bernardino.





“We’re here to remember those who lost their lives and remember those who were injured,” said San Bernardino police Sgt. Emil Kokesh, who helped organize the bike ride and was among the first responders on Dec. 2.

“It was one of the most tragic things our department has ever had to respond to,” he said. “It’s something that the first responders who were there ... are never going to forget.”

At the Inland Regional Center, dozens of employees were among those who participated in a moment of silence, which began just before 10:58 a.m. — the time dispatchers received the first 911 call.

A bell rang 14 times for each of the victims.

“A year has passed and we continue to heal,” said Lavinia Johnson, executive director of the regional center, which coordinates services for more than 30,000 people with developmental disabilities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Larry Daniel Kaufman, 42, who ran a coffee shop at the regional center, was killed in the attack. One year later, the conference center remains closed for repairs but there are plans to reopen it sometime next year, officials said.

County employees Paula Garcia and Zen Martinsen, said they took time off work to attend the ceremony.

They were working at a county office in Yucaipa when the attack took place.

Garcia remembered listening to broadcast coverage and feeling helpless.

“You can’t do anything to help but pray,” she said.

One year on, the attack continues to have a deep impact on county employees, both women said.

“The thoughts never stop,” Garcia said.

They made a point of attending Friday morning's memorial, she said, "to show support, and to grieve for our family."



**Paloma Esquivel**

@palomaesquivel

 Follow

Two county employees share an embrace during a moment of silence for victims of the Dec. 2 attack at IRC.

11:19 AM - 2 Dec 2016

  1  1

---

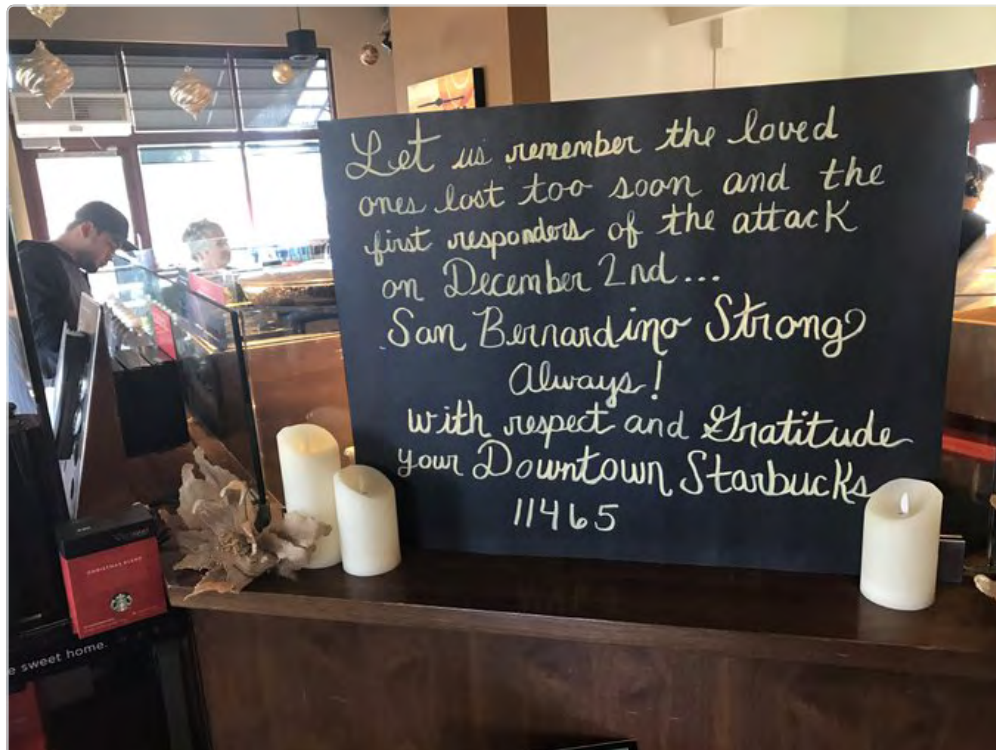
DEC. 2, 2016, 12:49 P.M.



# Starbucks that became a hub of activity after terror attack marks anniversary



Richard Winton



Chief Jarrod Burguan

@SBPDChief



Thanks to [@Starbucks](#) on 2nd Street in [@sbcitygov](#) for you kinda words today.

9:58 AM - 2 Dec 2016

↩️ ↻️ 31 ❤️ 76

In the wake of last year's terror attack, a San Bernardino Starbucks near the Inland Regional Center became a central meeting place.

Police and first responders took breaks there, and many journalists wrote stories and transmitted photos and information from there.

Employees had a special message for the first responders on Friday, written on a board at the coffee house.

"Let us remember the loved ones lost too soon and the first responders of the attack," the message said. "San Bernardino Strong, Always."

DEMOGRAPHICS

★ Crime

### Cities in California With the Highest Annual Income

#1

Atherton, CA

Population 6,972

\$135.84K  
per Capita Income

See The List

### US Cities With the Most Violent Crimes

#1

New York, NY

Population 8,336,697  
52,384 Violent Crimes

See the List

Next List

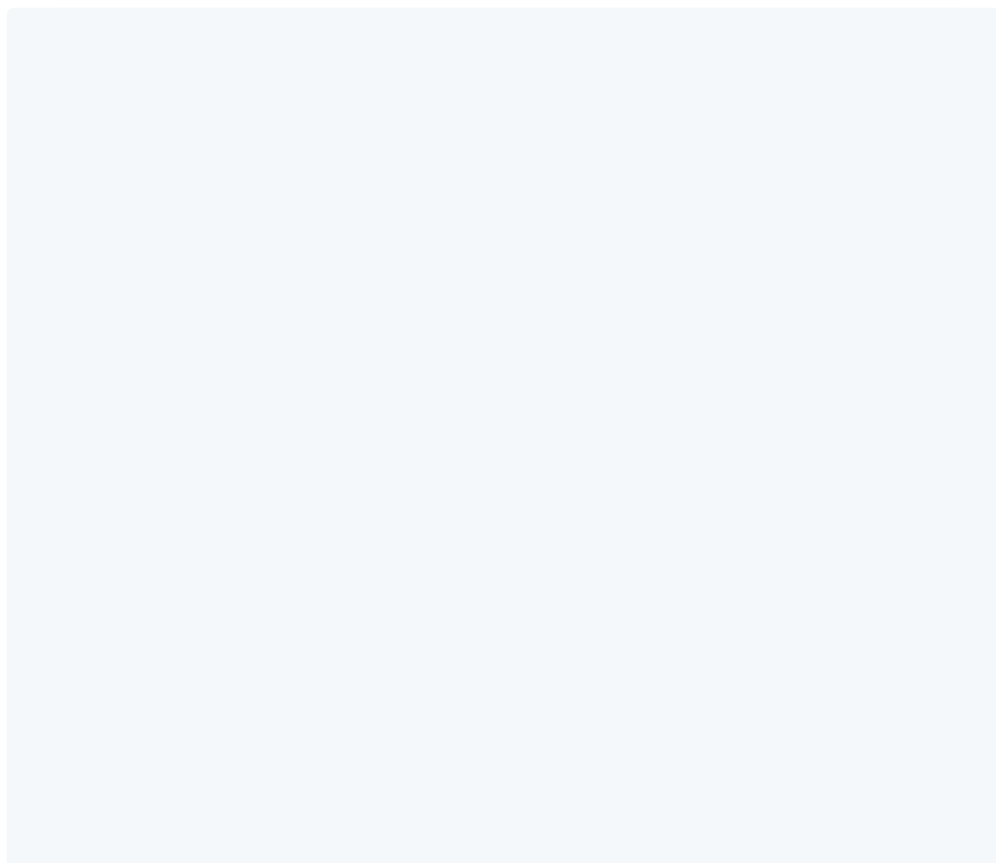
ADVERTISEMENT

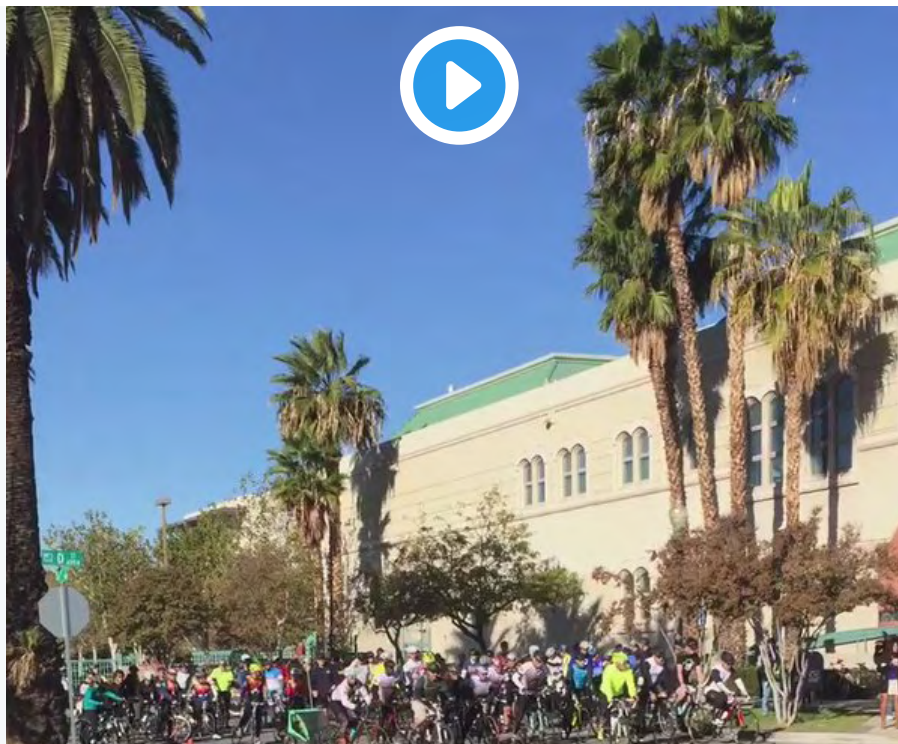
DEC. 2, 2016, 12:44 P.M.

# Cyclists mark San Bernardino terror anniversary with bike ride



Richard Winton





**San Bernardino PD**

@SanBernardinoPD

 Follow

Great kickoff to our IRC memorial bike ride this morning! We had about 100 riders and proceeds raised go to victims. [#SBStrong](#)

9:49 AM - 2 Dec 2016

  42  93

One of the memorials to the one-year anniversary of the San Bernardino shootings involved hundreds of people riding their bicycles to the Inland Regional Center, the site of the terror attack.

Here's a dispatch from the Associated Press:

*Since the attack, San Bernardino Police Sgt. Emil Kokesh said he also has been reminded of the need to stay fit. Kokesh arrived at the scene of the onslaught minutes after the shooting and was there for more than a day. He said he was sore for two weeks, which prompted him to take up cycling to get in shape with some fellow officers.*

*That led to the memorial bike ride held Friday.*

*"On that day, it pushed a lot of us to our limits — physically, mentally, and emotionally," he said. Now, Kokesh said he often reminds his fellow officers: "You may work in an office, you may do investigations, and not do much field work*

*anymore, but you are going to be the ones who respond to something like this, so stay fit, stay prepared."*

DEC. 2, 2016, 12:40 P.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

## 'We will never forget this day'

Associated Press



At the moment when shooters unleashed terror on San Bernardino a year ago, county employees remembered their fallen colleagues with a moment of silence late Friday morning.

A bell rang 14 times in memory of each person slain in the terror attack that also wounded 22 others at the Inland Regional Center.

"We will never forget that day or the victims of this senseless act of violence. We strive to move forward and search for the good that is in us all," said Lavinia Johnson, executive director of the center.

Earlier, cyclists conducted a 14-mile bike ride -- one mile for each person who was killed.

DEC. 2, 2016, 12:06 P.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

## Remembering victims of terror



Francine Orr





**Francine Orr/LATimes** @francineorr

Remembering the victims of the IRC shooting, their families, and San Bernardino today the one year anniversary #SanBernardino @latimesphotos


12:15 PM - 2 Dec 2016

23 Retweets 39 Likes

DEMOGRAPHICS

**US Cities With the Highest % of Male Residents**

#1



**Sumner, IL**  
Population 5,073  
92.4% of Residents are M

See The List

mention obtained

**50% Less Churn**

YOU CAN TOO

ADVERTISEMENT

DEC. 2, 2016, 12:05 P.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

# Crowds gather to remember terror attack victims



Francine Orr



A memorial ceremony to honor the victims of the San Bernardino terror attack is underway.

It was being held at the Inland Regional Center, where a year ago a couple opened fire, killing 14 people in what was at the time the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil since 9/11.



More memorials are planned during the day, including one this evening at Cal State San Bernardino.



L.A. Times Photos

@latimesphotos

Follow

Event to honor the victims of the San Bernardino terror attack underway at Inland Regional Center. @francineorr on scene

10:52 AM - 2 Dec 2016

Retweet 5 Like 10

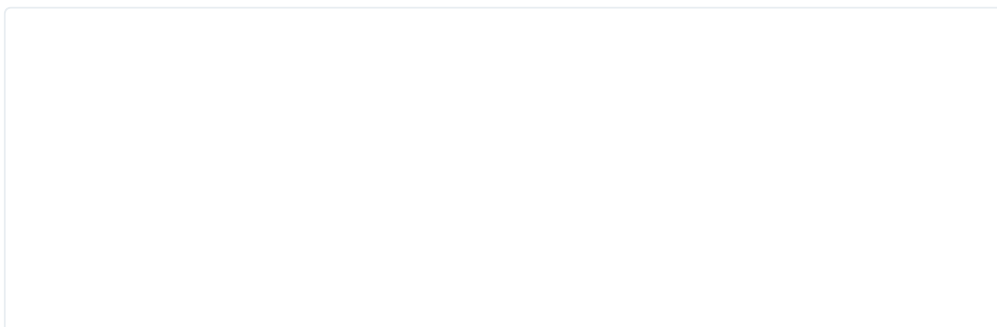
DEC. 2, 2016, 12:01 P.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

## Paying their respects to San Bernardino terror victims



Schoolgirls place flowers at a memorial to the victims of the San Bernardino terror attack. Photo by the Press-Enterprise.







**Neil Nisperos** 

@ReporterNeil

 Follow

Students place white roses by Sacred Heart Catholic Church memorial in [#RanchoCucamonga](#) for Dec 2 victims

[#RememberSB](#)

11:34 AM - 2 Dec 2016

  14  19

DEC. 2, 2016, 11:56 A.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

## Some San Bernardino victims feel left alone



Paloma Esquivel




A year after the terror attacks, some county employees who were victims, including witnesses and those who were physically injured, say pledges of support promised by government officials have not come true.

In interviews and at a recent public meeting, employees described struggling to cope with a callous county bureaucracy that provided little comfort as they tried to heal. Instead, they were left scrambling for help and tangling with a county-administered workers' compensation program that has led to delays and denials of needed medication and treatment, the employees said.

[READ MORE >](#)

DEMOGRAPHICS

### US Cities With the Highest % of Female Residents



**St. Joseph, MN**  
Population 6,503

69.9%  
of Residents are Female

See The List



EARN YOUR  
M.S. IN NURSING  
ONLINE

GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY

LEARN MORE >

ADVERTISEMENT

DEC. 2, 2016, 11:53 A.M.

SAN BERNARDINO

# Preparing for memorial



Paloma Esquivel



**Paloma Esquivel**  
@palomaesquivel

 Follow

Outside the Inland Regional Center conference center where a memorial ceremony for the Dec. 2 attack will soon start

10:17 AM - 2 Dec 2016



Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

# **UPDATE: Give BIG San Bernardino County raises a total of \$271,044 for nonprofit groups, including some in Fontana**

**Posted: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:09 am**

Give BIG San Bernardino County, a 24-hour web-a-thon, raised a total of \$271,044 for local nonprofits on Nov. 29, surpassing last year's total of \$241,217, organizers said.

Benefiting organizations with a range of missions including providing education to young parents, cultivating young philanthropists, connecting veterans to vital resources, caring for homeless animals, to name just a few, Give BIG San Bernardino County has raised more than \$1 million since it began in 2014.

The Boys and Girls Club of Fontana was one of 101 nonprofit groups participating in the online giving campaign and received \$1,240 from 83 donors.

The Etiwanda Excellence in Education Foundation, which helps several schools in Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga, raised \$740 from 55 donors during the event.

Veterans Partnering With Communities, an organization based in Fontana, gained \$300 from five donors.

"Once again I'm so proud our community gave BIG and demonstrated their generosity and compassion by supporting the causes and charities closest to their hearts," said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos. "I'm also proud of our local nonprofits for participating in Give BIG and finding new, exciting ways to attract donors and promote a culture of philanthropy throughout this county."

"San Bernardino County came together, in one day, to raise funds and awareness of our local nonprofits," said Dr. Jonathan Lorenzo Yorba, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. "Through the support of the County of San Bernardino and all of our other wonderful sponsors, community partners, and volunteers, Give BIG San Bernardino County was a success."

Both the number of donations made (4,195) and number of unique donors giving to the campaign (3,332) increased about 13 percent over last year.

In addition to raising funds, other goals of the campaign included increasing awareness of our nonprofit sector, strengthening nonprofits with training in social media, and engaging new and younger donors.

In-person training sessions and webinars were provided to participating nonprofits in the months leading up to Give BIG. The webinars were taped and now reside in a library accessible to the nonprofits' staff and board. Sessions focused on training in social media and marketing, and also included more advanced training, such as donor cultivation.