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## **LAPD seeks state probe of police shooting suspect's parole status**

The man, who was killed after he opened fire on officers, had gained early release from prison and was classified as a low-level offender, which meant parole officials did not monitor him.

By Andrew Blankstein, Los Angeles Times

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The Los Angeles Police Department has asked the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to investigate how a parolee who fired nearly a dozen gunshots at two LAPD officers in the San Fernando Valley was able to gain early release and classification as a low-level offender.

Javier Joseph Rueda, 28, of Panorama City was placed on "non-revocable parole" in May after serving two years of a 10-year prison sentence. On July 10, police said, he opened fire on two officers who had been pursuing him on suspicion of drunk driving. The officers — including one who was shot in the lower arm — returned fire, fatally wounding Rueda.

State records show that Rueda, who police described as a Vineland Boyz gang member, was classified as a "low-level, non-violent" parolee" and therefore was not being monitored by parole agents with the corrections department.

"If you determine that there were issues regarding Mr. Rueda's status, we would appreciate your feedback on how we can work with you to ensure that incidents of a similar nature do not occur," LAPD Chief Charlie Beck wrote.

Paul M. Weber, head of the union that represents almost 10,000 LAPD officers, was far more critical.

"We have repeatedly warned for months that it's only a matter of time before the Department of Corrections' 'non-revocable' parole policy — which pushes prisoners back onto the streets and prevents their return to prison — enables a parolee to kill a police officer or an innocent member of our community," Weber said. "It was only by the sheer grace of God that these officers were not killed by this parolee, who still should have been in prison."

State corrections spokesman Oscar Hidalgo said that that even if Rueda had been on supervised parole, it might not have prevented the incident.

"Supervised parole is not incarceration," Hidalgo said.