

Thousand Oaks, California: Former Marine Is Suspect in Mass Shooting that Killed 13 People, Including a Sheriff's Deputy

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Thousand Oaks, California: A mass shooting that left 13 people dead, including a sheriff's deputy and the suspected shooter, took place at Borderline Bar and Grill, a country music venue. Ian David Long, 29, a former Marine, was identified as the shooter; he reportedly fired off 30 rounds from a Glock handgun that had an extended magazine and was purchased legally. Police reported that they had several contacts over the years with Mr. Long, including a report that he was a victim of assault and battery in a bar in 2015. In April 2018, officers were called to Long's house as he was irate and acting somewhat irrationally. Mental health specialists met with him and cleared him, but did not feel he was qualified to be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric unit.

In a bizarre coincidence, a witness reported survivors of the Las Vegas mass shooting event at the Harvest Music Festival last year had gathered at the Borderline Bar, and as many as 60 of them were also present during this shooting event.

Update 3: More details have emerged about the shooter, 28-year-old Ian David Long, who opened fire at let off at least 30 shots from a Glock with an extended magazine.

Long, a former-marine, was dressed in all black during the shooting and eventually turned the gun on himself after police officers arrived.

Police say they have “had several contacts with Mr. Long over the years for minor offenses.”

He was a victim of assault and battery in a bar in 2015. The police then confirmed that in April of this year, officers were called to Long’s house: “officers went to his house, he was somewhat irate, acting a little irrationally.”

The officers then called out their Crisis Intervention Team, “and mental health specialists who met with him, talked to him, and cleared him, didn’t feel he was qualified to be taken under 5150.”

As a reminder, 5150 refers to the California law code for the temporary, involuntary psychiatric commitment of individuals who present a danger to themselves or others due to signs of mental illness. It has been more generally applied to people who are considered threateningly unstable or “crazy.”

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Update 2: A man interviewed by the local ABC station said that multiple friends inside Borderline had survived the Route 91 country music festival shooting at the Mandalay Bay casino in Las Vegas just over a year ago.

“A lot of my friends survived Route 91,” he said. “If they survived that, they will survive this.”

The Las Vegas massacre was the deadliest shooting in US history after gunman Stephen Paddock opened fire on a crowd, killing 58.

Ron Helus, the Ventura County Sheriff’s Sgt. killed in the gunfire was set to retire next year. He is survived by his wife and son.

“Ron was a hardworking, dedicated sheriff’s sergeant. He was totally committed, he gave his all and tonight, as I told his wife, he died a hero. He went in to save lives, to save other people,” said Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean.

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