



Nasa Spaceflight

Astra had to abort its rocket launch before lift off from Space Launch Complex 46 in Cape Canaveral, Fl. On Monday, Feb. 7.

Astra Aborts NASA Launch Mission

Ekene Ikeme

Alameda-based Astra Space Inc. aborted its scheduled rocket launch attempt right as it was supposed to lift off Monday, Feb. 7.

The rocket, Rocket 3.3, was scheduled to launch from Space Launch Complex 46 in Cape Canaveral, Fl. at 10:50 a.m. PST. However, as the launch vehicle, LV0008's engines fired up, the rocket shut the launch attempt almost immediately.

"Unfortunately, the abort that was around our T-0 time was a minor telemetry issue that the team needs to work to resolve," said Carolina Grossman, Astra's director of product management, during the webcast of launch attempt.

Astra announced they had "scrubbed" the mission around 12:16 p.m. PT.

"Standing down today," wrote Astra founder and CEO, Chris Kemp, on Twitter. "We are giving the team time to complete a thorough review and will provide an update on the next launch opportunity."

Astra announced they are targeting today, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m. PT, as their next launch date.

The launch mission, Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa

41), was supposed to be Astra's first launch mission for NASA and their first to deploy a payload into orbit. The payload was to be four NASA satellites, called CubeSats. The CubeSats, each the size of a shoebox, were developed by three universities and NASA's Johnson Space Center.

The BAMA-1, developed at the University of Alameda-Tuscaloosa, is a technology demonstration mission that will conduct a flight demonstration of a drag sail module by rapidly de-orbiting the satellite.

The INCA (Ionospheric Neutron Content Analyzer), developed at University of New Mexico-Las Cruces, is a scientific investigation mission that will study the latitude and time dependencies of the neutron spectrum in low-Earth orbit for the first time to improve current space weather models and mitigate threats to space and airborne assets.

The QubeSat, developed at the University of California-Berkeley, is a technology demonstration mission that will test and characterize the effects of space conditions on quantum gyroscopes using nitrogen-vacancy centers in diamond.

The R5-S1, developed at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, is intended to demonstrate a fast and cost-effective way to build

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Second Gonzalez Lawsuit Filed Against City, Officers

Ekene Ikeme

The mother of Mario Gonzalez filed a federal civil lawsuit against City of Alameda and the three Alameda police officers who he had an altercation with before his death last April.

Gonzalez's mother, Edith Arenales, filed the lawsuit Wednesday, Feb. 2, in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The lawsuit is seeking expenses for coroner's fees, funeral and burial costs, and punitive damages.

Her lawsuit is almost identical to the federal civil suit that was filed on behalf of Gonzalez's son, Mario Jr., on Dec. 17, 2021 ("Gonzalez Family File Lawsuit Against City," Dec. 21). Arenales' suit was filed by a different law firm. Arenales' lawsuit was filed by Adanté D. Pointer and Patrick Buelna for the law firm, Pointer & Buelna, LLP, in Oakland. Mario Jr.'s suit was filed by Michael J. Haddad and Julia Sherwin for Haddad & Sherwin, LLP.

In the 21-page lawsuit, Arenales and her lawyers allege Alameda police officers Eric McKinley, James Fisher and Cameron Leahy, "unlawfully seized Mario Gonzalez, used excessive force against him, and unjustified deadly force that included a suffocating restraint," which led Gonzalez, 26, to die from restraint asphyxia.

The lawsuit states the officers had no reason to believe that Gonzalez was a threat.

"Both service calls provided information that Gonzalez was likely intoxicated but had not posed any danger. Furthermore, Gonzalez provided answers that made it apparent that he was a bit confused and disoriented," the suit reads. "Unfortunately, the defendants failed to make any reasonable efforts to properly handle the situation and de-escalate. Rather than rendering aid to Gonzalez, the defendants decided to escalate the situation into a one-sided physical altercation."

The City of Alameda, McKinley, Fisher, Leahy and former Alameda Police Department (APD) Interim Police Chief Randy Fenn are listed

"Rather than rendering aid to Gonzalez, the defendants decided to escalate the situation into a one-sided physical altercation."

— Edith Arenales, Mother of Mario Gonzalez



Youtube

Mario Arenales Gonzalez was killed, at just 26 years old, after an altercation with Alameda police officers on April 19, 2021.

as defendants in Arenales' lawsuit. Also, included as defendants are Does 1 through 50. Similar to Mario Jr.'s lawsuit, plaintiffs will add more defendants who they deem responsible for the training and employment of the three officers. According to the suit, their names will be included when they are ascertained.

Gonzalez died on April 19, 2021.

APD dispatch received a call early that morning of a man, Gonzalez, talking to himself outside the front gate of a home on the corner of Oak and Powell streets. Another caller reported seeing a Gonzalez with what appeared to be stolen bottles of alcohol.

McKinley was the first to approach Gonzalez at Scout Park on Oak Street near the home. Around 10:42 a.m., McKinley began questioning Gonzalez, asking him his name, what he was doing in the park, and other questions. Gonzalez was calm but could not coherently answer his questions.

Fisher arrived minutes later. After Gonzalez did not answer any of their questions, the two officers began to apprehend him. After failing to place him in handcuffs, McKinley and Fisher took Gonzalez to the ground.

Bodycam footage shows Fisher and McKinley using their body weight to pin Gonzalez down in the prone position. Gonzalez struggled to breathe. Leahy arrived minutes later, and he used his body weight to control Gonzalez's legs. After about five minutes Gonzalez became unresponsive. He was rushed to a local hospital where he died.

In the Alameda County Coroner Bureau's autopsy report, released on Dec. 10, 2021, Chief Forensic Pathologist Vivian Snyder ruled Gonzalez's death a homicide ("Coroner's Reports Released" Dec. 14). However, the report also states "the toxic effects of methamphetamine" was the leading cause in Gonzalez's death.

"It is apparent Mr. Gonzalez experienced cardiopulmonary arrest because of multiple factors," Snyder wrote in the report. "The stress of the altercation and restraint combined with prone positioning in the setting of morbid obesity and recent use of methamphetamine placed further strain on Mr. Gonzalez Arenales' heart," according to the report.

The Alameda County District Attorney is still determining whether to file criminal charges against the officers for their use of force. The City of Alameda has also opened an independent investigation into the incident.

The officers have been on leave since Gonzalez's death.

Alameda To Expand License Plate Readers to Island Entry, Exit Points

Ekene Ikeme

City Council voted to expand its automated license plate readers (ALPR) program at its Feb. 1 meeting.

The plan was approved with a narrow 3-2 vote. Vice Mayor Malia Vella and Councilmember John Knox-White voted against the measure.

The approval gives city staff and Alameda Police Department officials (APD) the direction to form a Request for Proposal (RFP) to vendors seeking fixed, or stationary, ALPRs. The proposal initially sought to include mobile ALPRs for up to 30 APD vehicles, according to APD Chief Nishant Joshi. However, the council decided to not include mobile ALPRs.

The city plans to mount the fixed ALPRs at all Alameda entry

and exit points. There are six routes to access the Island. Joshi said APD wants to plant cameras at up to 13 or 14 different locations at these entry points — there will be more than one camera location at an entry/exit point.

Joshi said fixed ALPRs cost around \$3,000 per camera per year. If two cameras are needed at each location that's \$77,000 per year.

Initially, the plan was for the ALPRs to capture vehicles' front and rear license plates. But several councilmembers were opposed to potentially capturing faces of drivers. So, council decided to approve the use of ALPRs to capture just rear license plates.

At the meeting, Joshi told councilmembers that ALPRs will help APD be more effective and

efficient.

"APD recommends a tool that can help solve crimes," said Joshi in the Zoom meeting. "Additionally, this is a tool that can help reduce antiquated policing strategies that rely on reasonable suspicion."

The use of ALPRs has been a concern of many Alameda residents for different reasons. Some residents believe ALPRs is an intrusion on the privacy of Alameda residents.

"I have never before had my privacy threatened," said resident Marilyn Rothman. "I am so alarmed and upset that this draconian measure is even being considered."

Joshi tried to assure the council and those watching that data

READERS: Page 9

Juvenile Armed Robbery Suspect Arrested

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda police arrested a juvenile teenager Wednesday, Feb. 2, for an alleged armed robbery that took place last month.

According to an Alameda Police Department (APD) report, the incident took place on Jan. 12 on the 2900 block of Adams Street. The suspect, whose name is being withheld due to his minor status, along with another suspect, are accused of brandishing a handgun in the direction of two adult males and demanding property. Investigators believe the second suspect is also a juvenile. The report did not say which suspect brandished the handgun.

APD investigators were able to locate some of the victims' stolen

property using technology.

"The property was soon recovered, but both suspects remained outstanding," the APD report stated. "As APD detectives continued with its investigation, one of the suspects was identified."

The teen is believed to be connected to additional armed robberies in Oakland and Hayward.

APD's Violent Crimes Unit assisted the Hayward and Oakland police departments with a search warrant at a Bay Area residence. During the search, more than a dozen items of stolen property and ammunition were recovered, and the juvenile was taken into custody.

APD is still searching for the second suspect as of Friday, Feb. 4.

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Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:05	17:42
Feb. 11	7:04	17:43
Feb. 12	7:03	17:44
Feb. 13	7:02	17:45
Feb. 14	7:00	17:46
Feb. 15	6:59	17:47
Feb. 16	6:58	17:48



Sun Staff Reports
2nd Friday Art Talk is back as an online event. The event is scheduled for Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. The physical 2nd Friday Art Walk was stopped due to COVID-19 as it forced many locations to close or to change their business. Many locations were unable to participate in Second Friday. But that has not stopped the organization from moving it online and changing it to an art talk from an art walk. Dan McGarragh is the featured artist for the month of February. Dan's work featured in the East Bay Artists 2021 Art Book, EXHILIRATING. Learn more about McGarragh at www.danmcgarrah.com. Visit www.fridayartwalk.com for more information. You must RSVP to attend the online event. To RSVP, visit fb.me/e/2n2Ck0bLK.

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