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Contact: Maxine Doogan [info@esplerp.org](mailto:info@esplerp.org)



## **Sex Workers Outraged After Police Kill Trans Sex Worker Who Called 911 For Help**

*Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Take Two Weeks To Release Carefully Edited Video Of Killing - But [Trigger Warning] Even That Is Very Distressing.*

San Francisco, California — The Erotic Service Providers Legal Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) expressed great sadness today at the recent killing of a trans sex worker by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Linda Becerra Moran, age 30, called 911 on February 7, 2025 asking for help - saying that she was being held hostage and sex trafficked at a motel. But when LAPD arrived the situation rapidly deteriorated, she was shot by the responding officers and taken to the ICU in grave condition. After weeks on life support, she died on February 27, leaving her friends and community advocates shaken. Her family is yet to be located and officially notified.

Immediately after the shooting, the LAPD was quick to issue a press release which named and blamed the victim, and focused on the knife found at the scene. But they were very slow to release details - such as 911 tapes or officer-worn footage. This felt like they were buying time to get their story straight.

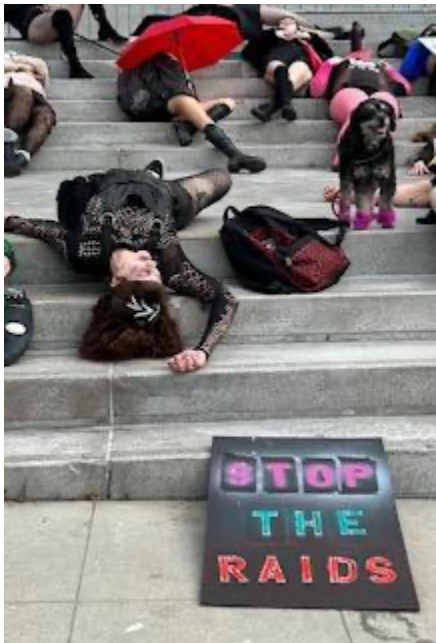
“It’s taken ten days since her death, until March 9th, for the LAPD to release a carefully curated ‘Community Briefing’ with selectively edited officer-worn footage”, said Maxine Doogan of ESPLERP. “But even that is highly distressing. It shows officers speaking in English, and some Spanish, with a distraught Linda Berecca Moran, keeping their guns drawn as she paces inside a motel room and they stood in the doorway, and then opening fire as she moved slowly toward them. She was never a threat to them - but they still shot her. And then they put her in handcuffs after they shot her - when she was certainly not a threat to them!”

“We’re just devastated that a sex worker called police for help and was then shot and killed by the very folks she thought was going to help her”, said Claire Alwyne of ESPLERP, and also a trans sex worker. “We worked so hard to get Senate Bill 233 passed in 2019, so that victims or witnesses to serious crime could report without the threat of being arrested for prostitution. Our hope was that cops responding to such calls could discern a victim from an actual perpetrator. But it is clear from the video that is not the case. It’s terrifying to see the cops escalate the situation. That escalation resulted in the unnecessary loss of her life.”

Many questions remain for the LAPD. Why were there so many cops in her room? Why were the cops trying to assess her for medical aid when it was clear having their hands on her was so distressing for her? Why were the cops not addressing the reason for her call - that she was being held against her will? Why weren't the cops looking for the man concerned? Why did the cops turn a fragile situation into one where they killed a woman who called for help?

Will Linda Berreca Moran's family and friends, and her community in Los Angeles get answers? Past experience with police killings suggest they will not.

Sex workers activists have long demanded a complete repeal of California's anti prostitution legislation because of the confusion it causes law enforcement personnel.



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