

## **Incident Summaries**

### **2018 Use of Force Incidents Involving African-American Individuals**

#### **How did the incidents begin? Did officers initiate contact?**

There were 15 use of force incidents involving African-American individuals in 2018. Most of the time, officers did not initiate contact, but were summoned to the situation because of a 911 call. 11 (73%) incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 calls. In four cases, the officer initiated contact with the individual.

- F18-035: An officer noticed a man urinating in public and approached him. The man refused to take his hands out of his pockets and get on the ground.
- F18-071: An officer attempted to stop a bicyclist for a traffic infraction and the man ran from the scene and fought with officers.
- K18-010: An officer located a stolen vehicle and maintained surveillance on the vehicle until a person got in the vehicle. A K9 officer assisted officers with apprehending the suspect after he fled on foot.
- K18-012: An officer was working with the Hot Auto list of stolen vehicles. He contacted the car company to see if they could track the stolen car. Officers then approached the vehicle at the location and the suspects fled. A K9 officer assisted in locating the suspect.

#### **What was the severity of the crime or need for community caretaking in each situation?**

The majority of the incidents ended with felony arrests. In one incident, officers transported the suicidal individual to the hospital for an involuntary mental health hold.

#### **Are the same officers repeatedly using force on African-American individuals and are their contacts officer-initiated?**

Involved officers were involved in one use of force incident with an African-American individual, except one officer who was involved in two incidents: one responding to a fight, and one that was officer-initiated. One K9 handler was involved with two use of force incidents. In both cases, the K9 handler did not initiate contact, but responded to a request to come to the scene for assistance after a suspect had fled the scene.

#### **Call for Service Incidents:**

##### **F18-002 / 2017-20256941**

Officers responded to a Domestic Violence (DV) call. The caller reported an assault and threats to kill. Officers interviewed the victim outside the residence and then went inside to speak to the suspect. Officers told the male he was under arrest. He refused to follow commands and physically resisted, yelling at officers to shoot him. He was a large man and it was unknown if he had any weapons. One officer attempted a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint. During the struggle, body positioning changed and the officer was no longer in a position to gain control with that particular tactic. The male continued to grapple with officers. Another officer deployed his TASER™ device. The deployment was effective and allowed officers to gain control and place him in handcuffs. Medics attended to the male and cleared him for jail. Officers booked the man into jail for Assault, Harassment- Threats to Kill, Resisting Arrest, and Obstructing.

##### **F18-008 / 2018-20019722**

Officers responded to an Assault call. The caller reported that a male had assaulted another subject with bear spray. Officers spotted the suspect and attempted to detain him, but he brandished a large knife and

began running down a busy downtown street. An officer attempted to use his TASER™ but the probes missed the suspect. The male then sat down on the ground, placed the knife against his neck and began cutting himself. The officer, who had previous interactions with the male, attempted negotiations and motivational interviewing with him. After a few minutes, the man surrendered to officers. He received medical treatment on-scene for his self-inflicted lacerations. The male explained he had been up for two weeks on meth and admitted he had “snapped” and committed the assault with bear spray. Officers transported him to the hospital for treatment, but advised him of future Assault and Resisting Arrest charges. At jail, the officer’s supervisor alerted the booking sergeant about the male’s mental health issues and suicidal behavior. He also contacted the Designated Mental Health Professionals at Frontier Behavioral Health and requested that they place a mental health hold on the male when he arrived at jail.

**F18-009 / 2018-20013815**

Officers responded to an Assault call at the STA plaza. The caller reported that a male had punched him in the face and brandished a knife. After talking to witnesses and viewing security video, officers developed probable cause to arrest the suspect, who had also made threats to beat and rape a woman at the scene. They advised the male he was under arrest and tried to place him in handcuffs, but he actively resisted. Officers struggled with the male, who appeared intoxicated. An officer applied a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint and used his body weight to take the male to the ground. Once officers gained arm control of the suspect, officers were able to place him in handcuffs. The subject was booked into jail for Assault, Harassment, Obstructing, and Minor in Possession of Alcohol (he was 19 years old).

**F18-028 / 2018-20027136**

Officers responded to a DV call. The caller reported that her boyfriend had smashed her face into the wall. Officers identified the male as described; he had a confirmed warrant for DV-Assault. Officers entered the residence and found the male hiding inside. Officers tried to place him in handcuffs but he resisted by tensing his arms, pulling free, and saying, “You can’t arrest me.” An officer placed a Level I Neck Restraint control hold on the male for a few seconds. The officer did not render the male unconscious, but the technique was successful as the man relaxed his arms and officers were able to place him in handcuffs. He was uninjured. The girlfriend had left the scene so officers were unable to investigate the current DV allegation at that time. The male was booked into jail for his DV warrant.

**F18-037 / 2018-20101795**

Officers responded to an Argument call. The caller reported they could hear the threat, “I’m going to kill you” amongst the commotion. Officers talked to the people outside the residence. The male provided false information about his identity, but officers were able to confirm his name. Officers decided to arrest him for providing false information, and then they could investigate the other potential crimes. Officers instructed the male to put his hands behind his back. As an officer attempted to grab his arm, the male pushed him down and tried to flee. Officers tried to gain control, but the suspect swung his arms. Another officer ran up and pushed the male to the ground on his stomach, but the male continued to resist. One officer placed him in a Level I Neck Restraint and told him to take his hands out from under him. The backup officer applied three knee strikes to his back. The male pulled his hand out and officers were then able to handcuff him. The male said he was uninjured. Due to the struggle, there was probable cause to arrest him for Resisting Arrest and Assault on a Law Enforcement officer. At the end of the call, the male was booked into jail for those charges plus Residential Burglary, Providing False Information, a DOC warrant and a federal probation warrant (a U.S. Marshal’s hold).

**F18-039 / 2018-20127699**

Officers responded to a silent hold-up Alarm call at a coffee stand. Officers contacted the three individuals at the scene. The male attempted to flee on foot. Officers chased him and caught up to him. The male became combative upon contact and punched one of the officers. An officer grabbed the male in a bear hug and took him to the ground. He applied a Level I LNR to gain control, directing the male to comply. Officers were then able to handcuff him. The male stated that while being pursued, he fell and injured himself; officers did not inflict the abrasions and cut to his chin. He received stitches for the cut on his chin and then was booked into jail for Burglary, Assault, and Resisting Arrest.

**F18-041 / 2018-20125156**

Officers responded to a Fight call, involving a large crowd with several participants fighting. Officers requested that everyone leave the area. The altercation seemed to be over, but they observed a male fighting with a female. Officers tried to detain the male, but he refused to follow verbal commands. Officers attempted arm control, but the male began actively resisting and became combative. He ended up on top of one of the officers. The other officer placed the male in a Level II Lateral Neck Restraint, rendering him unconscious. They placed him in handcuffs. Medics evaluated him, and he was booked into jail for Assault, Resisting Arrest, and Disorderly Conduct.

**F18-048 / 2018-20149447**

Officers responded to a Suicidal call where a man was threatening to jump from the top floor of a parking garage. When officers arrived, security officers had talked him down to the ground floor. After interviewing people, officers decided to detain the male for an involuntary mental health evaluation. He was agitated and resisted detention. He became assaultive, trying to push and kick officers as they placed him in a patrol car. An officer applied a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint, which allowed officers to take him into custody. Officers transported him to the hospital for a mental evaluation.

**F18-069 / 2018-20205673**

An officer responded to a Domestic Violence No Contact Order violation call. The caller said her ex-boyfriend had violated the protection order and was following her in his car. The officer located and followed the vehicles. He approached the male suspect as he exited the car. The male appeared to be intoxicated and ran when the officer told him to stop. The officer pursued him on foot and grabbed onto him when he stumbled. The male fought with the officer, elbowing him in the face and breaking his glasses. During the struggle, the male tried to grab the officer's TASER™ device. The officer applied a closed-fist strike to the man's face. The male wrenched free and began running to the vehicle. The officer then deployed his TASER™ device. The application worked as intended, and the officer held him down on the ground as another officer arrived and helped place him in handcuffs. Officers transported him to the hospital for a medical clearance. At the end of the investigation, officers charged the male with Assault, DUI, Violation of Order, Malicious Mischief, Obstructing, Operating a Vehicle without the Ignition Interlock, Driving with a Suspended License, and a being a felony Fugitive out of another state.

**K18-027 / 2018-20214586**

Patrol officers responded to a Domestic Violence Order Violation call. The first caller had reported an argument between a male and female. The female that was part of the argument also called in, and stated there was a no contact order in place between her and a male. Dispatch confirmed there was a valid DV no contact order that the male listed on the order had a warrant for human trafficking out of Spokane. An officer contacted the female on scene. She said that the male was potentially still inside her apartment. The officer requested K9 assistance. Officers made several announcements for the male to exit the apartment. The K9 provided a positive alert that the male was hiding in the residence. Officers

commanded him to show his hands, but he did not comply. After the K9 contacted the suspect, officers took him into custody. Officers transported the male to the hospital for treatment and then booked him for Residential Burglary-DV, Felony Order Violation, Assault-DV, and his warrants.

#### **K18-028 / 2018-20214676**

Officers responded to an Assault call. Several callers reported an argument, and then reported that the male was dragging the female down the street. Several witnesses told 911 operators that the people were inside a residence. As officers arrived at the residence, the female came outside. After speaking with the female and several witnesses, officers developed probable cause to arrest the suspect. Dispatch advised officers that the man also had two confirmed DV Assault warrants. Officers made multiple announcements that the suspect was under arrest and needed to surrender, but the male hid in the basement of the residence. Officers discovered that the suspect had barricaded the door with a steel bed frame and had crawled through a small window that led into a narrow crawl space. The K9 officer deployed his K9 to capture the male. Officers took him into custody and transported him to the hospital for treatment. He was booked into jail for Assault and Unlawful Imprisonment and for his warrants.

#### **Officer-Initiated Incidents:**

#### **F18-035 / 2018-20118572**

An officer observed a male urinating in public. After the male put his genitals back in his pants, he put his hands in his pockets, feeling for something. The officer directed the man to show his hands, several times. The male finally pulled two small baggies out of his pocket and dropped them on the ground. He began to step on the baggies to destroy the contents. The officer advised the male he was under arrest and directed him to get on the ground. The male ignored the commands. The officer took the male to the ground and attempted to handcuff him. The male resisted, so the officer applied a Level I Neck Restraint control hold. A backup officer arrived. The two officers were able to handcuff the male. The two baggies field-tested positive for methamphetamine. Officers booked the male into jail for Possession of a Controlled Substance (Meth), Urinating in Public, and Resisting Arrest.

#### **F18-071 / 2018-20229867**

An officer stopped a male on his bike for a traffic infraction. After talking to the officer briefly and providing a false name, the man ran from the scene. The primary officer and a backup officer chased him. Officers caught up with him but the male continued to resist arrest. Officers attempted to take arm control while ordering him to the ground. A struggle ensued. The man began grabbing an officer's hand, pinning it to the ground. The officer delivered a knee strike to the man's side. The male fell to his side and officers were able to pull his arms behind his back and place him in handcuffs. The male had a counterfeit bill. He was booked into jail for Assault, Obstructing, Resisting Arrest, and Forgery.

#### **K18-010 / 2018-20117457**

An officer on a proactive investigative team located a stolen vehicle and alerted other officers. He maintained surveillance on the vehicle until a person got in the vehicle. As the suspect got out of the car, a K9 officer approached him. The male fled on foot and the officer deployed his K9. After the K9 apprehended the male, officers handcuffed him. Officers took him to the hospital for treatment and then booked him into jail for his felony DOC escape warrant. Officers planned to charge him with possession of the stolen car the following day.

**K18-012 / 2018-20128142**

An officer on a proactive investigative team was working with the Hot Auto list of stolen vehicles. He contacted the car company to see if they could track the car. After confirming the location with the car company, officers conducted surveillance on the vehicle at the location. They blocked off the vehicle to prevent the suspects from leaving. Despite the presence of the vehicles and emergency lights, the driver accelerated the vehicle, colliding with a police car, and drove off. After a vehicle pursuit, the suspects fled on foot. A K9 officer assisted in locating two of the three suspects, apprehending an African-American female and White male. Officers transported the suspects to the hospital for treatment, and then booked them into jail for felony charges of Taking a Motor Vehicle without Permission. They later found the third suspect, and arrested him without incident.