



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F17-046

Incident Number: 2017-20104347

Date of Incident: 6/3/2017

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a Domestic Violence call. They had responded to the residence four times during a 24-hour period on reports from the suspect's former wife. She expressed she feared great bodily harm because he had used a crow bar to try to break into her home. He had followed her and banged on her doors. She felt her ex-husband was experiencing a schizophrenic break and he had not been taking his medications. He barricaded himself into the garage, and she was afraid he would escalate if he did not receive mental health treatment. When officers arrived, the suspect slammed the garage door and stacked materials behind it, making it impossible to enter. The garage contained yard tools and other implements that could easily be used as weapons. Officers developed probable cause for Stalking-Domestic Violence. Two mental health professionals assisted on scene and confirmed that the suspect had a history of serious mental health conditions and was likely unstable. They had completed the paperwork for an involuntary commitment.

After three hours of communication and negotiations, officers inserted two canisters of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) gas, commonly known as pepper spray, into the window to try to force him out. The suspect refused to come out. Officers had explained that they did not want anyone to get hurt, and he needed to comply. Officers said they wanted a peaceful resolution. The suspect said he could tell officers wanted to shoot him. Officers obtained a search warrant and served it through the window. Officers inserted OC gas again. Since the suspect still refused to leave the garage, officers used a ram to force the door open. They announced the intent to use a K9 but he still refused to exit. Officers forced themselves into the garage once they saw the man's hands were empty. They took the suspect into custody without further incident or injury. He was booked into jail for Stalking-Domestic Violence.

