



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F17-085
Incident Number: 2017-20192598
Date of Incident: 9/27/2017
Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

An officer observed a person speeding and driving recklessly in the area of an elementary school. The officer activated his emergency lights and attempted a traffic stop. When the officer was contacting the driver of the vehicle, the driver took off. The officer's arm became lodged inside the window of the car and he had to sprint next to the vehicle while trying to dislodge his arm. At one point, the car actually dragged the officer. The driver suddenly jerked the wheel, almost running over the officer. The motion caused the officer's arm to dislodge and the officer to fall to the ground. The vehicle sped away from the scene at a high rate of speed, speeding through intersections. Another officer saw the suspect vehicle and initiated a vehicle pursuit. The suspect vehicle collided with another vehicle and then sped on, failing to stop after the collision. (Later, it would be determined that his collision caused injury to an innocent citizen.) The collision damaged the suspect vehicle and was leaking fluids and smoking. The suspect drove the vehicle into a yard and then exited. He began running on foot. Two officers chased after him and found him in a residential backyard. They handcuffed him in the prone position and escorted him to a patrol vehicle. The suspect said he had injuries from the collision. Spokane Fire medics evaluated him and transported him to the hospital for an evaluation before booking him into jail. The suspect claimed that officers hurt him, so a supervisor initiated a Use of Force investigation. Bodyworn camera video refuted the suspect's claims and showed the officers had acted appropriately and had not used force besides standard handcuffing techniques. The suspect was booked for Assault, Attempt to Elude, and Vehicular Hit and Run with Injury.

