



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

## Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F18-077  
Incident Number: 2018-20223017  
Date of Incident: 12/12/2018  
Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a Check Welfare call. The caller reported a male and female were arguing on the Monroe Street Bridge, and the male getting on top of the bridge ledge. An officer arrived and saw two people matching the caller's description, walking away from the bridge. He exited his car and saw that the female's face was bleeding and swollen. Another officer arrived so officers could interview the parties separately. The male was intoxicated and uncooperative. He provided a name that did not return any search results, so the officer suspected the man was being untruthful about his name. The officer detained him because he needed to determine his identity and if he had assaulted the woman. The officer told the male he was under arrest for giving a false statement. After the officer handcuffed him, the male banged his head on the car and said he would blame the officer and get him in trouble with Internal Affairs. That officer asked the other officer to assist him in searching the man incident to arrest, but the man resisted the officers' efforts. He kicked his leg forward and wrapped it behind the officer's leg. The officer pinned his boot to pin the back of the male's shoe to the ground, preventing him from moving his foot. He advised that was preventing the man from kicking him while completing the search. The male complained that his ankle was sprained. Officers transported the man to jail and advised jail staff of his ankle pain. Jail staff agreed that they would not book and release him based on his level of intoxication. The male was booked into jail for Resisting Arrest and Providing False Statements. When the sergeant later interviewed the man at jail, he claimed to have a pre-existing foot injury that was aggravated by the officer trapping his foot during the struggle to search him. The sergeant spoke with jail staff about medical assistance for the man. Jail staff confirmed nurses would assess the man, ultimately giving him medical clearance for jail. While investigating the incident, the sergeant reviewed the body camera footage that confirmed the officer's and man's actions as described in the officer's report.





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Note: Officers did not establish probable cause for assault. They talked to the original complainant, who did not see any domestic violence assault between the two, but saw the female fighting with random people. Medics treated the female's injuries. She agreed to go to the hospital for further treatment.

