



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: K19-007

Incident Number: 2019-20025950

Date of Incident: 2/11/2019

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

SPD Patrol Anti-Crime Team (PACT) officers and a K9 officer were assisting the U.S. Marshal Fugitive Task Force with capturing a wanted felony suspect. The suspect was wanted for Assault-(Strangulation or Suffocation), Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Controlled Substance. The suspect had evaded capture on multiple occasions in recent weeks. When officers attempted a traffic stop, he fled in his vehicle. While the suspect eluded police, his vehicle lost control. Officers used their vehicles to block in his vehicle. The engine was still running and the suspect was trying to flee. The K9 officer broke out the driver's side window, forcing the suspect to move over to the front passenger seat. The suspect did not comply with orders. He dove into the backseat and was reaching towards his waistband. He had said that he had a pistol, and was known to be armed from prior contacts. The K9 officer alerted the other officer to the presence of a gun. The K9 officer deployed his K9 inside the vehicle. The K9 made contact with the suspect. The two officers pulled him through the driver's side window. The PACT officer applied closed fist strikes towards the suspect's head area due to the suspect's muscular resistance as he attempted to gain control of his arm. The officer was able to pry the suspect's hand out and get him in handcuffs. Once he was in custody, he was transported to the hospital for medical treatment for his injuries and the possibility that he ingested heroin. He was booked into jail for Attempting to Elude, Possession of Controlled Substance, and his warrants.

The incident became subject to an Internal Affairs investigation, C19-040. Both officers' use of force was determined to be within policy but there were secondary policy violations for the K9 officer. It was determined that he violated the standards for Demeanor and the Bodyworn Camera policy. He received a one-day suspension without pay and a one-day suspension held in abeyance pending no further violations from 12 months of the incident.

Note: This incident is the same incident as F19-016. Internal Affairs issued two separate tracking numbers due to the incident containing a K9 application in addition to another application of force.

