



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F20-056
Incident Number: 2020-20223805
Date of Incident: 12/28/2020
Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a Crisis call. The complainant requested officers respond and check on his friend who was acting irrationally and not making any sense. He believed his friend may be having a mental health breakdown or was intoxicated with narcotics, because he was making comments that people were coming to kill him and he would kill everyone. Officers contacted the male, who was lying on the floor at the back door entrance, covered with a blanket. The kitchen was in disarray with kitchen items strewn over the floor and a knife block near the male. Officers announced themselves to the male. He stood up and asked if “they were trying to fight right now.” The male immediately closed the distance towards one officer, who was attempting to defuse the situation. He shoved the officer in the chest, knocking him backwards. The shove was forceful enough that it caused the officer to stumble backwards, striking the wall with the butt of his duty weapon, making a hole in the drywall. A second officer attempted to gain control of the male, but they were in a very tight constricted space, and the male was very large and strong. The male tried to attack the officer, and he responded by delivering a quick closed fist strike to the male’s upper left eye area. The strike had the desired effect and stunned the male, which allowed officers to take him down to the floor in a prone position for handcuffing. Medics secured the male on a gurney. Officers had probable cause to charge the male with Assault, but decided that charges would be handled through the Prosecutor’s Office as their priority was transporting the male to the hospital for an involuntary hold.

