



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F21-029
Incident Number: 2021-20117624
Date of Incident: 7/13/2021
Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers were dispatched to a residential burglary. A female was attempting to get into an occupied apartment and was armed with a knife. The suspect was pushed out of the apartment but was still in the hallway with the knife. As officers arrived, they were told the suspect went into apartment #38, which the original victim said was not the suspect's apartment. Upon arriving, officers found the female suspect sitting on the outside windowsill of apartment #38. She was on the third story of the building and was at risk of falling. Officers attempted de-escalation. They tried talking to the suspect to get her to go back inside before she fell. She appeared to be under the influence of intoxicants or experiencing a mental health crisis and was not cooperative. The suspect was seen going back into the apartment and grabbing a large knife. She was waving it around in the room. At the time, officers did not know if the resident of the apartment was inside and in danger. While officers were attempting to get the resident of unit #37 out to safety, the suspect came out into the hallway carrying a large fixed-blade knife. Officers gave orders for her to drop the knife, but she did not follow commands. An officer deployed his TASER at the suspect; it appeared not to have any effect. As the suspect ran back to the apartment, a second officer deployed his TASER. It was successful in causing incapacitation, and the suspect fell back into the apartment. Officers used a ballistic shield to hold her to the floor to make sure she was not armed with the knife. Officers then took her into custody without further incident. Medics were on scene and evaluated the suspect and removed the TASER probes. The suspect was transported to the hospital for medical clearance prior to being booked into jail for a mental health evaluation, Residential Burglary, and Malicious Mischief.

Officers attempted de-escalation by verbally speaking to the suspect, trying not to force an encounter. Officers continued de-escalation (talking) to the suspect for approximately 1.5 hours and eventually called for a Hostage Negotiator. Officers utilized force when the subject exited the confines of the apartment, armed with a knife. This act jeopardized the occupants of the large apartment building, necessitating the need to immediately detain the person.

