



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F21-042

Incident Number: 2021-20125798

Date of Incident: 7/26/2021

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a 911 hang up call. Dispatch advised that a male's voice could be heard in the background. When officers arrived on scene of the residence, they observed a vehicle in the driveway with the driver door open. Officers could hear a male arguing with someone inside the residence. A male exited the rear door of the residence, noticed police, and went back inside the residence. Officers checked the vehicle registration and found that the registered owner was the protected party on a Domestic Violence (DV) no-contact order. Officers checked the name of the no-contact order respondent. A recent booking photo confirmed that the male who had briefly exited the residence was the male listed on the court order. The order showed valid and precluded the male from being at the residence along with having any contact with woman. Officers determined there was probable cause to arrest the male for Residential Burglary-DV and violation of the court order.

Officers began the process of containing the residence and requesting additional resources. When a perimeter was set, officers began public address (PA) announcements to the residence. After a short time, five subjects exited the residence. One of the individuals told police that the suspect was in an upstairs bedroom and was armed with a machete. Officers confirmed that there were no other occupants in the residence. Officers checked the suspect's history. He was a convicted felon with multiple violent felony convictions to include Rape of a Child 1st Degree. He also had an alert associated with his name, indicating he had threatened suicide by cop in 2019. Those factors met the criteria for SWAT assistance, so the supervisor activated SWAT and ensured that a search warrant was authored, reviewed, and signed. At that time, SWAT assets were deployed, along with Hostage Negotiation Team and Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU). A six-hour standoff ensued. Officers used the PA to announce that the suspect was under arrest and that force may be used against him, including chemical agents, if he did not comply. EDU robots and a drone were inserted into the residence to locate the suspect. These surveillance platforms cleared areas that were accessible, but there were several areas that were not cleared due to limited access. Officers deployed a Noise Flash Distraction Device to an exterior area of the residence to illicit a response, but there was no response from the suspect. Leadership approved the deployment of OC pepper balls in an attempt to force the suspect to exit the residence and avoid a close proximity encounter with officers. Two separate volleys of OC pepper balls were deployed into two second floor bedroom windows. The OC was effective. A short time after the deployment, EDU advised they could now see the suspect on a robot camera, and then the suspect exited the rear door of the residence and sat on the back stairs. Officers continued to de-escalate the situation and negotiate with the male. After lengthy conversation, the suspect peacefully surrendered and was taken into custody. He was transported to jail and booked for felony Residential Burglary, Obstructing, Resisting Arrest, and Violation of Anti-Harassment Order.

