



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

### Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F22-018

Incident Number: 2022-20048674

Date of Incident: 3/23/2022

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

#### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a Burglary call. The responding officer recognized the suspect from a few days prior where he towed his car and obtained a search warrant. The officer developed probable cause to arrest the subject for multiple charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent, Possession of Stolen Property, Unlawful Possession of Payment Instruments, and Possession of Another's Identification. When the officer told the suspect that he was under arrest, the suspect tensed up and resisted having his hands put behind his back. The officer immediately attempted to de-escalate the situation by trying to relax the suspect, telling him several times that he would let him talk to his girlfriend after he was handcuffed. After about the third time of reassuring the suspect he could talk to his girlfriend, the suspect started to put his hands behind his back. Before the handcuffs were on, the suspect turned slightly toward the officer and swung his fist back at him. He struck the officer in the face, causing a bloody lip. The officer caught up to the suspect, grabbed onto him and they both fell over a three-foot chain link fence onto the ground. The suspect began trying to get up. He refused to get on the ground as instructed and started reaching for his waistband area. The officer gave the suspect many commands, but the suspect refused to comply. Due to the officer's position on the suspect (high up on his back), his best option for stopping the suspect was striking the back of the suspect's head with his hand. The officer delivered a series of three strikes, continually giving the suspect commands. The suspect finally complied and was placed into custody without further incident. The suspect was transported to jail and booked on the above charges, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Assault, and Resisting Arrest.

