



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F23-063
Incident Number: 2023-20166939
Date of Incident: 11/30/2023
Chain of Command Finding: Out of Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The SPD SWAT team was asked by the Regional Anti-Violence Enforcement & Narcotics Unit to facilitate the arrest of a suspect who was wanted for a narcotics distribution case, 1st Degree Assault, and Drive By Shooting. Recent intelligence indicated that that the suspect was most likely armed and had made statements about willing to shoot it out with police. In addition to the goal of apprehension, SWAT was activated to serve search warrants at other residences associated with this case. During the SWAT briefing, investigators advised that the suspect was on the move. SWAT apprehension teams moved into position to conduct a vehicle takedown and apprehend the suspect. The suspect pulled into the parking area of the apartment building and SWAT moved in and pinned the suspect's vehicle. Two SPD SWAT officers pointed their firearms at the suspect while they gave him commands to exit the vehicle, put his hands in the air and walk backwards to the arrest team. The suspect obeyed commands and was taken into custody without incident. Later, SWAT served the search warrants at the residences, secured the locations, and handed them over to investigators.

The Chain of Command determined that the officers' uses of force, (firearms pointed in on target at the suspect during the entire arrest process taking 14 seconds), were not in compliance with policy. Officers should have lowered their firearms sooner, terminating the use of force once the suspect started complying with commands. It was not necessary for the officers to keep their weapons pointed in on the suspect once the suspect showed his hands. Both officers received a Documentation of Counseling and ten hours of firearms training as a sanction. They provided training to the SWAT team after completing their firearms training.

