



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-1449

Issued Date: 02/02/2016

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 8.100 (1) Using Force: When Authorized (Policy that was issued 01/01/2014)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Lawful and Proper)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a 911 call where the caller believed that a man who was holding a razor blade, pacing back and forth while looking at his wrists was possibly suicidal. Officers arrived on scene and attempted to speak with the man, the subject. The subject had cut himself and was refusing to drop the box cutter he was holding. The incident was taking place at a busy location near a bus tunnel and there were many pedestrians on the street. A Taser officer was requested and the named employee responded. The subject continued to cut his arms. Due to the location, pedestrians kept trying to walk through the scene. The named employee deployed her Taser and the subject crouched when contact was made. Officers started to move closer in order to arrest the subject but he did not go down to the ground or drop the box cutter. Officers stopped moving forward, but were within 4 – 6 feet of the subject who was still armed with a box cutter. The named employee used her Taser a second time. The subject was taken into custody and taken to a hospital for treatment.

COMPLAINT

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, alleged that the named employee may have inappropriately used force.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint email
2. Interview of the complainant
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Interview of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The OPA investigation carefully reviewed the documentation available and interviewed the named employee. The officers and supervisor on scene were faced with a dynamic and violent situation. The subject posed a danger to officers and others because he had the box cutter in his hands. The officers on scene recognized and made use of the opportunity to resolve the situation without using lethal force. Although it was not an ideal location for a Taser application, other less lethal alternatives were not immediately available. Once the Taser was deployed, the subject was successfully taken into custody and the situation was brought to a safe conclusion.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

The evidence supports that the named employee used force that was reasonable, necessary and proportionate to bring the subject under control while protecting the lives of officers and others. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Lawful and Proper) was issued for *Using Force: When Authorized*.

NOTE: The Seattle Police Department Manual policies cited for the allegation(s) made for this OPA Investigation are policies that were in effect during the time of the incident. The issued date of the policy is listed.