



Spokane County Sheriff's Citizens Advisory and Review Board

February 14, 2017

Ozzie Knezovich, Sheriff
Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Building.
1100 W. Mallon
Spokane, Washington 99260

Sheriff Knezovich,

On May 20, 2016, the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) requested the investigation files from the Spokane County Sheriff's Internal Affairs (I/A) about an armed juvenile with a weapon disturbance call. The goal was to determine if the investigation and reports were handled in an appropriate manner and make recommendations of findings.

On May 5, 2016, deputies responded to a dispatch of a juvenile male with a mask, holding a knife behind the Zip Trip located at 766 W. Hastings. The initial caller stated there were two male youths, between 11 and 12 years-of-age, behind the store, one with a mask on and holding a knife. It was also reported that the non-armed youth was attempting to get the other male to get rid of the knife. The caller then witnessed the armed youth jump up and run across the field toward the Fairwood Apartments. The armed youth was shouting that his father was trying to stab him. While enroute to the scene, the officer received information that another caller reported seeing a child running through the parking lot and was last seen going toward the Fairwood Apartments, located at 815 W. Bellwood. Deputy Trautman, Reed, and Middlebos responded to the Fairwood location.

Officer Middlebos approached the armed youth and attempted to deescalate the situation by asking the youth to drop his weapon. The youth did not comply. After reasonable efforts were made and officers felt any physical intervention would result in the injury to themselves and/or the youth, the youth was tasered utilizing appropriate protocol and was disarmed and handcuffed. Injuries to the youth were minor. The injuries included small probe marks and a bump on the rear of the youth's head, from falling backward onto the sidewalk.

Deputies contacted the parents at the youth's residence. It appeared the parents were sleeping and had no idea that the child was not at home or that the incident involving their child had occurred. Officers confirmed that the parents were unharmed and had not been involved in any violence as alleged by the youth. The youth was transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center for a psychological evaluation.

The Spokane County Sherriff Department reviewed the reports as filed by the officers and determined that the actions by the officers to be in accordance with Department policies and the case was closed with no charges filed. The case and information was then forwarded to CPS.

It is the finding of the CAB that the incident was handled professionally and in accordance with current Spokane County Sheriff's Office policies and directives.

The CAB concurs with the final conclusions of this case with no recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Spokane Citizens Advisory and Review Board.