



Mercer Island Police Department

Memorandum

DATE: February 26, 2020
TO: Chief Holmes
FROM: Cmdr. Jokinen
RE: Use of Force Review
CC: Cmdr. Magnan

I conducted a review of all use of force incidents by the Mercer Island Police Department for the calendar year 2019. In total there were two (2) reported incidents where some form of force was used. Also documented were any situations where a person in police custody was injured, even if by accident.

As a result of this review, no patterns of excessive force were noted, and no situations stood out as warranting further review. Documentation of the incidents was sufficient to judge that the amount of force used was both reasonable and necessary, as mandated by both state and federal law, and within Mercer Island Policy guidelines.

In 2019 Mercer Island PD Officers:

1. A pain compliance wrist hold was utilized to take a DUI suspect, who was resisting arrest, into custody.
2. Officers responded to a residential burglary – suspect observed on video camera inside of the residence by an offsite homeowner. The suspect was described as being known to carry firearms. The suspect was detained at gun point. After officers obtained the suspect's ID the homeowner advised that the subject was a family friend he mistook as a burglar.

Below are the details of the incidents.

2019-10329 – Officers attempted to take a DUI suspect into custody. When an officer took hold of the subject's left arm the subject began to tense up and passively resist being placed into handcuffs. With one officer holding the subject's left arm and the other officer took his right. Officers then attempted to place the subject in handcuffs. The subject continued to resist, and he was placed in a position of disadvantage by being bent over the hood of the patrol vehicle. The subject was told to put his left hand behind his back, but he refused. An officer then applied pressure to the subjects left

wrist using a “gooseneck” in a manner that the officer had been trained in to gain compliance with a resisting suspect. The officer monitored the subject’s actions to the pain compliance and noted that the “gooseneck” was not being effective. The officer then switched to handcuffing the subject’s left wrist. The officer maintained control with the handcuff and pried the subjects left hand out from underneath him. The officers were then able to cuff the subject’s hands behind his back. The subject complained of pain in his arms and told officers they broke his wrist. Officers requested an Aid Unit to the scene to evaluate the subject. Mercer Island Aid evaluated and cleared the subject stating that nothing appeared to be broken. The wrist/arm the subject told Mercer Island Aid was hurting/broken (left) was the opposite arm/wrist that had been applied the “gooseneck”.

2019-11224 - Officers responded to a report of residential burglary. A suspect was observed on a video camera inside of the residence by an offsite homeowner. The suspect was described as being known to the homeowner (daughter’s ex-boyfriend) and known to carry firearms. As officers were setting up containment around the residence the suspect exited the front door. Officers detained the suspect at gun point and handcuffed him. Officers obtained ID from the subject and spoke with the homeowner. The homeowner advised that the subject was a family friend and that he mistook him as a burglar/daughter’s ex-boyfriend. The subject was released.