



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

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NEWS RELEASE

Officer's Use of Force to be Investigated; Police Bureau Releases Information and Video Regarding Incident

Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman has directed that an officer be placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the use of force used on a 12-year-old girl who was resisting arrest and had struck another officer.

On November 14, 2009, at 10:47 p.m., Officer Aaron Dauchy and Officer Christopher Humphreys, both 10-year veterans of the Police Bureau and assigned to the Transit Police Division, responded to a call to assist with a large party that had just broken up involving several known gang members. Information provided to officers stated that a gun had just been recovered in bushes near the party and that 75-100 male and female teens were walking in the area of 162nd and Northeast Halsey.

Several teens went to a nearby bus stop and were angrily shouting about wanting to fight. Portland Police and Gresham Police Officers began to follow the groups to ensure they disbanded without violence. Officers Dauchy and Humphreys arrived at the MAX platform on 162nd and observed about 20-30 teens board a westbound MAX. Officer Dauchy recognized a juvenile female whom he knew to be excluded from MAX.

The officers followed the train to 148th, and went on to the MAX platform. They were the only officers on scene at that point, as other officers were responding to fight calls in the area of 162nd. As the train pulled in, Officer Dauchy recognized a juvenile male whom he also knew to be on the TriMet exclusion list. After placing the male in handcuffs, Officer Dauchy called to the excluded juvenile female to also get off the train. As he began to take her into custody, she swung at him, striking him in the face and began actively resisting. Officer Dauchy told the female to stop resisting arrest and continued to struggle with her.

(MORE)

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After giving repeated warnings to stop resisting or he would shoot a beanbag gun, Officer Humphreys deployed the beanbag gun at the female's thigh at close range. She became compliant and the officers began to take her into custody when she began to resist again. Another officer arrived and the officers were able to handcuff her. Medical personnel were called and advised officers that the girl had a bruise on her thigh and did not need to be medically transported. Both juveniles were taken to the Transit Police Division for further processing and then to JDH. The female juvenile has already appeared in Juvenile Court at a preliminary hearing and a petition has been filed against her for the following: Assaulting a Public Safety Officer; Resist Arrest; and Interfering with Public Transportation. She is not in custody at this time.

The incident was fully documented in police reports and the TriMet video from the MAX platform was downloaded and reviewed by Chief Rosanne Sizer and Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman. In an effort to be fully transparent and considering the seriousness of the incident, Commissioner Saltzman and Chief Sizer made the decision to release the information and the TriMet video to the community.

“After reviewing the video, I am troubled by it. Officer Humphreys has been placed on administrative leave and I have directed the Internal Affairs Division to conduct an immediate and full investigation into whether the use of force was justified under the totality of circumstances and whether the application of the beanbag at close range was consistent with the Bureau's training,” said Chief Sizer.

“The actions I witnessed on the video are not consistent with my expectations and what I believe are the community's expectations for a Portland Police Officer. I directed that Officer Humphreys be immediately removed from the street and placed on administrative leave,” stated Commissioner Saltzman.

“I believe it is the best interest of the community and the members of the Portland Police Bureau to quickly act and investigate this fully. I ask the community and the media to remember that there is a juvenile involved and therefore, we are being very careful in providing the public records protection regarding her identity that is afforded to juveniles,” said Chief Sizer.

The Police Bureau has been in contact with the girl's mother. In order to protect the due rights of all, there will be no additional information released by the Police Bureau about the incident until the investigation has been completed.

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