

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

FINDINGS OF FACT IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENT

Force Type (s):	Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) Force Straight Strikes & a Takedown
Incident Date:	May 8, 2024
Publication Date:	September 25, 2024
Involved MPD Member(s): Rank, Division Assigned, Race/Gender:	Various members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) Various members of District CDU Platoons 23, 24, 31, 33, 44, 71 Officer 1 (OFC1) White/Male SOD Sergeant 1 (SGT1) Black/Male Second District
Subject of the Force's Race/Gender and Age at time of the use of force incident:	Black/Male 17 years old
Use of Force Review Board Date:	September 3, 2024

SYNOPSIS OF USE OF FORCE

On May 8, 2024, members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and various District Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) Platoons assisted in clearing an encampment of protestors from the George Washington University (GWU) campus. Several arrests were made. A CDU line was formed in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest, when protestors marched towards the area where arrestees were being prepared for transportation. The CDU line moved the protestors out of the block. During this event, CDU Force was used consisting of Constructive Force (Line Formation), Physical Force (Arrests, Hand Controls, Pushing, Mountain Bike Push), Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Force, and Mechanical Force (Use of Batons to Push). Additionally, OFC1 had an individual use of force consisting of a straight strike and SGT1 had individual uses of force consisting of a straight strike and a takedown.

Consistent with MPD policy, this use of force incident was referred to MPD's Internal Affairs Division (IAD) for investigation. The MPD's use of force investigative procedures are outlined in [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#). After all available evidence was collected and analyzed, and statements from the police and civilian witnesses were reviewed, the IAD final investigative report was completed on August 16, 2024. The material facts regarding this use of force incident are outlined below.

EVENTS THAT LED TO POLICE CONTACT

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1. On April 25, 2024, a protest tent encampment was established on the GWU campus, in the 2000 block of H Street, Northwest, related to the war in Gaza.
2. On May 8, 2024, members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and various District Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) Platoons assisted in clearing the encampment.

EVENTS THAT LED TO THE USE OF FORCE

3. Beginning around 3:15 AM, the GWU campus police gave multiple warnings using a loudspeaker for the protestors to leave or they would be arrested.
4. The MPD also gave multiple warnings using a loudspeaker for the protestors to leave or they would be arrested.
5. Some protestors left the encampment but others did not and were arrested.
6. The arrestees were being prepared for transportation from the area near 20th and H Street, Northwest.
7. A group of protestors marched in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest, towards where the arrestees were.
8. Members of the SOD and various District CDU platoons formed a line to keep the protestors away from the arrestees and began to move them out of the block.
9. Some of the protestors resisted moving back and some became assaultive.
10. MPD members used Physical Force (Arrests, Hand Controls, Pushing, Mountain Bike Push), Oleoresin Capsicum (OC spray) Force, and Mechanical Force (Use of Batons to Push) in order to move the protestors back and/or defend themselves from assault.
11. A protestor pushed SGT1, and attempted to push through the CDU line. SGT1 ordered the protestor to move back. The protestor pushed, swung at the face/head of, and grabbed the uniform of SGT1. SGT1 struck the protestor with a straight strike.
12. A protestor assaulted SGT1 and other members. Members attempted to grab the protestor to arrest him. The protestor resisted. SGT1 took the protestor down to the ground. While on the ground, the protestor grabbed and struck members, including OFC1. OFC1 used a straight strike on the protestor. The protestor was arrested.
13. The protestors were moved north, out of the 800 block of 20th Street to 20th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest.

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ACTIONS AFTER THE USES OF FORCE

14. Other than those arrested, the protestors that fled were not identified.

PROSECUTORIAL REVIEW BY THE US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (USAO)

These uses of force were not referred to the USAO for review. Consistent with MPD policy, [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#), only the following incidents are referred to the USAO for review: (1) serious uses of force, (2) deadly force, (3) uses of force indicating potential criminal conduct, (4) vehicle pursuits involving a fatality, and (5) in-custody deaths involving an MPD member.

**FINDINGS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (IAD) ADMINISTRATIVE
INVESTIGATION**

On August 13, 2024, the IAD final investigation made the following findings based on a preponderance of the evidence regarding the use of force by the involved units/members:

- The Use of Force (CDU Physical Force (Arrests and Hand Controls) - clearing the protest encampment from the GWU campus) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and a District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoon, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (CDU Constructive Force (Uniformed CDU Line Formation) - clearing the protest encampment from the GWU campus) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of the District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (CDU Physical Force (Arrests, Hand Controls, and Pushing) - in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (CDU OC Force - in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (CDU Constructive Force (Uniformed CDU Line Formation) – in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (CDU Mechanical Force (Use of Batons to Push) - in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of a District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoon, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (Straight Strike) by OFC1 on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be classified as *Justified*.

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- The Use of Force (Straight Strike) by SGT1 on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (Takedown) by SGT1 on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be classified as *Justified*.

FINDINGS OF THE USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB)

On August 28, 2024, the UFRB convened to review the final investigative report prepared by the IAD and the evidence regarding the use of force by the involved member. The UFRB ruled:

- The Use of Force (CDU Physical Force (Arrests and Hand Controls) - clearing the protest encampment from the GWU campus) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and a District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoon, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (CDU Constructive Force (Uniformed CDU Line Formation) - clearing the protest encampment from the GWU campus) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of the District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons, be classified as *Justified*.
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- The Use of Force (CDU Mechanical Force (Use of Batons to Push) - in the 800 block of 20th Street, Northwest) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by members of a District Civil Disturbance Unit Platoon, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (Straight Strike) by OFC1 on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (Straight Strike) by SGT1 on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be classified as *Justified*.
- The Use of Force (Takedown) by SGT1 on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be classified as *Justified*.