

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

FINDINGS OF FACT IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENT

Force Type (s):	Electronic Control Device (ECD)
Incident Date:	February 27, 2022
Publication Date:	November 30, 2022
Involved MPD Member(s): Rank, Division Assigned, Race/Gender:	Sergeant 1 Seventh District Hispanic/Male
Subject of the Force's Race/Gender and Age at time of the use of force incident:	Black/Female 63 years of age
Use of Force Review Board Date:	June 29, 2022

SYNOPSIS OF USE OF FORCE

Sergeant 1 (SGT1) discharged his electronic control device (ECD), commonly known as a TASER, at the subject of the force. Consistent with MPD policy, this use of force incident was referred to MPD's Internal Affairs Division (IAD) for investigation. MPD's use of force investigative procedures are outlined in [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#). The IAD final investigative report concluded on June 9, 2022, after all available evidence was collected and analyzed, and statements from the subject officer, and police and civilian witnesses were reviewed. The material facts regarding this use of force incident are outlined below.

EVENTS THAT LED TO POLICE CONTACT

1. On Sunday, February 27, 2022, SGT1 along with other members of the MPD were deployed in the area of McPherson Square located at 15th and I Streets, NW, in response to 1st Amendment Activity.
2. At 2:33 PM, an MPD Lieutenant, hereafter referred to as LT1, was approached by a person who stated that there was a woman in the park waving a knife at people. The woman was later identified as the subject of the force.
3. LT1 walked into the park area and approached the subject of the force. LT1 ordered the subject of the force to put the knife down several times and not to move. The subject of the force did not comply with LT1's orders and continued to walk away.
4. LT1 followed the subject of the force and continued to tell her to put the knife down. LT1 provided a description of the subject of the force and their location to other MPD members in the area.

EVENTS THAT LED TO THE USE OF FORCE

5. At 2:36 PM, SGT1, two other MPD sergeants hereinafter referred to as SGT2 and SGT3, and an officer hereinafter referred to as OFC1 located the subject of the force and LT1 in the 1500 block of I Street, NW, across the street from McPherson Square.

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6. The MPD members approached the subject of the force from different positions. LT1 told the subject of the force to drop the knife, she did not comply and walked across the street back towards the park area.
7. SGT3 removed their ECD from its holster and yelled, "Taser, taser, taser!" two times.
8. As the subject of the force walked across the street, she pointed her knife that she was holding in her left hand at SGT1.
9. SGT1 had his ECD pointed at the subject of the force, yelled, "Taser, taser, taser!", then deployed the ECD. The two probes of the ECD struck the lower left coat that the subject of the force was wearing. The subject of the force grabbed at her left side and continued to walk towards the park.

ACTIONS AFTER THE USE OF FORCE

10. The MPD members continued to tell the subject of the force to get on the ground and put the knife down.
11. The subject of the force threw the knife down onto the sidewalk, stepped over a small decorative chain face, laid down on the ground, and put her hands behind her back. MPD members handcuffed the subject of the force.
12. The DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DC FEMS) was called to the scene to medically evaluate the subject of the force as a result of the ECD deployment. DC FEMS Ambulance #23 arrived and reported that the subject of the force refused medical treatment. The subject of the force was not injured.
13. The subject of the force's coat was examined, and the ECD probes did not penetrate the coat to make contact with her skin.
14. The subject of the force was arrested and charged with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon-Knife. She was transported to the Second Police District for processing.
15. The subject of the force complained of pain to her left side, she was transported to a local hospital for treatment. The attending physician reported that the subject of the force was in good condition and discharged her from the hospital.

PROSECUTORIAL REVIEW BY THE US ATTORNEYS OFFICE (USAO)

This incident involving the use of an ECD was not was 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 United States Attorney's Office 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.

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

On June 9, 2022, the IAD final investigation made the following findings based on a preponderance of evidence regarding SGT1's use of force:

- The Use of Force-Electronic Control Device by SGT1 was **Justified**.

FINDINGS OF THE USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB)

On Wednesday June 29, 2022, the UFRB convened to review the final investigative report prepared by the IAD and the evidence regarding the use of force by SGT1. The UFRB ruled:

- The Use of Force-Electronic Control Device by SGT1 was **Justified**.