

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

FINDINGS OF FACT IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENT

Force Type (s):	Discharge of a Firearm
Incident Date:	July 6, 2022
Publication Date:	November 30, 2022
Involved MPD Member(s): Rank, Division Assigned, Race/Gender:	Sergeant 1 Special Operations Division Black/Male
Subject of the Force's Race/Gender and Age at time of the use of force incident:	Animal (Dog)
Use of Force Review Board Date:	November 8, 2022

SYNOPSIS OF USE OF FORCE

Sergeant 1(SGT1) discharged their MPD firearm at an animal. Consistent with MPD policy, this use of force incident was investigated by the involved member's chain of command. MPD's use of force investigative procedures are outlined in [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#). The final investigative report concluded on September 5, 2022, after all available evidence was collected and analyzed, and statements from the subject officer, and civilian witness were reviewed. The material facts regarding this use of force incident are outlined below.

EVENTS THAT LED TO POLICE CONTACT

1. On Wednesday, July 6, 2022, SGT1 was in full MPD uniform and on-duty.
2. At approximately 4:00 PM, SGT1 was walking his MPD canine leashed in Fort Dupont Park located near the 4100 block of Alabama Avenue, SE.
3. While in the park, an unleashed pit bull terrier charged towards the MPD canine. The owner of the unleashed pit bull terrier is running behind it.
4. SGT1 attempted to pull the MPD canine towards him and away from the pit bull terrier.
5. The pit bull terrier was able to reach the MPD canine, jumped on top of it, and bit it. The owner of the pit bull terrier was able to pull his dog off of and away from the MPD canine.
6. SGT1 retrieved his MPD firearm from its holster.

EVENTS THAT LED TO THE USE OF FORCE

7. The pit bull terrier was able to get away from its owner's grasp and ran after the MPD canine.
8. SGT1 discharged his MPD firearm one time striking the attacking pit bull terrier. The pit bull terrier fell to the ground before reaching the MPD canine.

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9. There were no injuries sustained by SGT1 or the owner of the pit bull terrier as a result of the firearm discharge.

ACTIONS AFTER THE USE OF FORCE

10. US Park Police Officers arrived on the scene and took the pit bull terrier to a local animal hospital for treatment.
11. The MPD canine sustained a bite to its front leg near the shoulder and was taken to the MPD Special Operations Division veterinarian technician.

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

This incident involving the discharge of a firearm at an animal 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.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

On September 5, 2022, the chain of command final investigation made the following finding based on a preponderance of evidence regarding the use of force by SGT1:

- Use of Force-Discharge of Firearm (Animal) by SGT1-**JUSTIFIED**

FINDINGS OF THE USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB)

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, the UFRB convened to review the final investigative report prepared by the chain of command and the evidence regarding the use of force by SGT1. The UFRB ruled:

- Use of Force-Discharge of Firearm (Animal) by SGT1 was **JUSTIFIED**.