

Use of Force Report #: UF17-69
Date Logged In: 02/19/2018
Initials: dat
Justified
SEH-Suspect Injury

Columbus Police Department

Field Use-Of-Force Report

Reporting Officer Officer Kenneth Rammage Employee No. [REDACTED]

Date 9/26/2017 Time 0040 Nature of Contact Traffic [] 911 Call [X] Self-Initiated []

Location 1421 Ridgeview Rd

Use of Force ☐ Pain Compliance ☐ Baton ☐ Fist ☐ Soft Empty Hands w/ Injury
Check All That Apply ☐ Chemical Agent ☐ Kicks ☐ Taser ☒ Other (Specify) Takedown

Officers Who 1. Ofc. Kenneth Rammage 2.

Used Force 3. 4.

Suspect Data: Name Vajas, Shey Age 23

DOB [REDACTED] Race B Height 506 Weight 130 Sex M ☒ F ☐

Charges, If any Obstruction (F), Simple Battery (M)

Disposition (jail, hospital, etc.) He refused services at the hospital and was transported to the Jail.

Officer Data: Name Officer Kenneth Rammage

Age 25 Race w Height 506 Weight 230 Sex M ☒ F ☐

Years of Service 0-3 [x] 4-7 [] 8-11 [] 12-15 [] 16-19 [] 20-23 [] 24-27 [] 28-31 [] 32+ []

Injured: Yes ☒ No ☐ Describe I sustained an abrasion to my right knee.

Officer Data: Name _____

Age _____ Race _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Sex M ☐ F ☐

Years of Service 0-3 [] 4-7 [] 8-11 [] 12-15 [] 16-19 [] 20-23 [] 24-27 [] 28-31 [] 32+ []

Injured: Yes ☐ No ☐ Describe _____

Circumstances: _____

Continued of Reverse

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COLUMBUS POLICE DEPT
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Subject Injured **PRIOR** To Incident YES ☐ NO ☒ Describe _____

Subject Injured **DURING** Incident YES ☒ NO ☐ Describe Complained of his whole back

hurting. He had a small scratch on his left elbow.

HOSPITALIZATION:

☐ NO Reason _____

☒ YES Transport Via ☐ Police Vehicle No. 506 ☐ Ambulance No. _____

☐ Other _____

Hospital Name [REDACTED] Doctor's Name Unknown

Subject ☐ Admitted ☐ Treated & Released ☐ No Treatment

☒ Refused Treatment – Witness' Name Officer Denson

Witness' Title Officer Phone [REDACTED]

WITNESS INFORMATION

1. NAME Romona Spence

ADDRESS 1408 Ridgeview Road

TELEPHONE: HOME No phone WORK _____

2. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

3. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

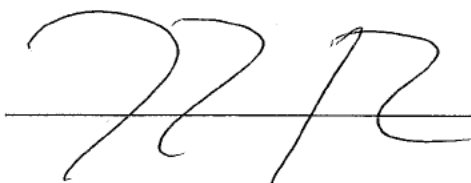
TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

4. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

Reporting Officer's Signature



Date

2/17/18

Name of Supervisor Notified

Sgt. June Reeves

By Ofc. Rammage

Columbus Police Department

Field use-Of-Force Report

Narrative of Circumstances Continued from Page

On 09/26/2017 at approximately 0021 hours, Officer Edgeworth (1A35) and I, Officer Kenneth Rammage (1B22) was dispatched to 1421 Ridgeview Road in reference to a domestic dispute. Upon arrival I did not see anyone outside. I then got out of my patrol vehicle and saw an unknown black female at the address located at 1408 Ridgeview Road walk outside. I asked the unknown black female if she called the police and she said no. At about that time I looked back at the residence (1421 Ridgeview Road) and saw an unknown black male, later identified as Mr. Shey Vajas (DOB: [REDACTED]) walking toward me with his fist closed and down by his side. I asked Mr. Vajas if he called the police, but he did not answer and kept walking toward me.

Once Mr. Vajas got close to me he swung his right fist at me. I attempted to block him with my left arm but he was still able to strike me in the left side of my face with his right fist. At that time I reached around Mr. Vajas back and grabbed him by his right side and took him to the ground. Once we were on the ground, Officer William Edgeworth came up and assisted me in putting Mr. Vajas in custody. While Officer Edgeworth and I were putting the handcuffs on Mr. Vajas, he kept struggling with police trying to stop us from putting him into custody.

We were finally able to get Mr. Vajas in police custody and put him inside of my patrol vehicle. I sustained an abrasion to my right knee. Mr. Vajas sustained an abrasion to his left elbow and complained of his whole body hurting. Officer Denson transported Mr. Vajas to Midtown Medical Center and Mr. Vajas refused hospital treatment. Officer Denson then transported Mr. Vajas to the Muscogee County Jail for Obstruction of an Officer (F) and Simple Battery (M).

NOTHING FURTHER.

Columbus Police Department

Executive Summary



OFFENSE TITLE-INCLUDE DEGREE Simple Battery **CASE NUMBER** 17-023948
DESCRIBE TYPE FORCE OR THREAT USED **POINT OF ENTRY**
NATURE OF INJURY
OFFENSE TITLE-INCLUDE DEGREE Obstruction of Officer **POINT OF ENTRY**
DESCRIBE TYPE FORCE OR THREAT USED
NATURE OF INJURY
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE 1421 RIDGEVIEW RD
OCCURRED ON/BETWEEN 9/26/2017 1:00:00 AM **REPORTED ON** 9/26/2017 12:20:06 AM
VICTIM OR BUSINESS **NAME:** Rammage, Kenneth **ENTITY:**
VICTIM OR BUSINESS **NAME:** **ENTITY:**
ARRESTED (NAME) Vajas, Shea

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

On 9/26/2017 I Ofc. Edgeworth and Officer Rammage were dispatched to a domestic dispute at 1421 Ridgeview Road. Upon arrival Officer Rammage exited his patrol vehicle and encountered Mr. Shea Vajas (DOB [REDACTED]) who was walking across the front yard of 1418 Ridgeview lane. Mr. Vajas walked directly up to Ofc. Rammage who asked Mr. Vajas if he had, "called the police?" Mr. Vajas then swung his right arm with clinched fist and punched Officer Rammage making contact with the left side of his face. Officer Rammage attempted to block the punch but was still struck. Officer Rammage then reached around Mr. Vajas grabbing him around the shoulders and took him to the ground landing on top of him. Mr. Vajas was laying on the ground moving from side to side with both arms folded under him saying, "Fuck you, Fuck you."

Officer Rammage and I attempted to place Mr. Vajas in custody. Mr. Vajas continued to resist by tightening his shoulders and keeping his left arm folded under his body. He was extremely belligerent, repeating, "Fuck you." I (Ofc. Edgeworth) reached under Mr. Vajas body and grabbed hold of Mr. Vajas left wrist attempting to pull his arm out from under his body. Mr. Vajas tightened his body and continued to resist by stiffening his left arm and keeping it tight under his body.

After freeing Mr. Vajas' left arm from under his body, it was brought from behind his back and cuffed. Mr. Vajas continued to be belligerent and verbally abusive to myself and Officer. Rammage saying, "Fuck you nigger," over and over. After Mr. Vajas was placed in the back of Officer Rammage's patrol vehicle car where he kicked the drivers side rear window several times with his feet. The vehicle did not sustain any damage.

Ms. Ramona Spence (DOB [REDACTED]) the mother of Mr. Vajas, was standing in front of her residence. She stated that Mr. Vajas was inside her residence playing video games with their son TJ. Ms. Spence said her son (Mr. Vajas) had been drinking. She stated that he was drunk and angry right now and she didn't know if he had taken any other intoxicants. I asked her why Mr. Vajas attacked the officer. She stated, "I saw him do that," I can't believe he did that shit. That's crazy to me he's that drunk.

Mr. Vajas was transported to [REDACTED] where he was asked if he had any injuries and responded, "Fuck you." Mr. Vajas was then transported to Muscogee Jail where he continued to resist and be belligerent to all Officers.

Mr. Vajas was charged with Simple Battery and Felony Obstruction to a Law Enforcement Officer.

Nothing Further.

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ASST. CHIEF'S OFFICE

CHIEF'S OFFICE

2018 FEB 19 A 11:14

2017 OCT 26 A 7:26

CHIEF'S OFFICE

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor's Field Use-Of-Force Report

Supervisor Reporting June Reeves Employee No. [REDACTED]
Reporting Officer Kenneth Rammage Employee No. [REDACTED]

SUSPECT DATA Name Shay Vajas Age 23
DOB [REDACTED] Race B Height 5'6" Weight 130 Sex M X F

Charges, If Any Obstruction of a Law Enforcement Officer, Simple Battery

Disposition of Suspect Suspect was arrested and transported to Muscogee County Jail via the Midtown Medical Center

Circumstances Officer Rammage was investigating a person refusing to leave his neighbors yard. When he exited his patrol vehicle the suspect without provocation punched him. Officer Rammage was required to do a use of force because the suspect sustained an injury while being placed in custody.

Officers Who 1. Kenneth Rammage 2.
Used Force 3. 4.

SUPERVISOR'S INVESTIGATION

Deviations From Columbus Police Department Policies or Rules YES ☐ NO ☒

Tactics or Actions Should Be Reviewed YES ☐ NO ☒

Narrative of Investigation On 09262017 at approximately 0024 hours I, Sergeant June Reeves, was notified by Officer Kenneth Rammage that he used force by taking Shay Vajas to the ground to get him to comply with a lawful arrest.

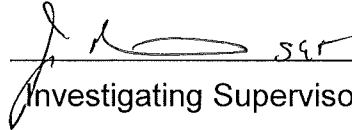
**Supervisor's Recommendations
Use of Force Report**

Based on the circumstances of this incident and my investigation this use of force incident is classified as:

- ☒ Justified – The investigation's findings reveal the act or acts did occur, but were within department policy and guidelines.
- ☐ Not Justified – The investigation's findings reveal sufficient evidence that the use of force violated department policy and guidelines. Disciplinary Action report is attached.
- ☐ Needs Further Investigation – Refer to the Office of Chief of Police for review and assignment.

09/26/2017

Date Received


Investigating Supervisor

10-18-17

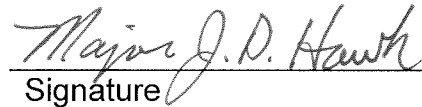
Date Received


Bureau Captain

10-24-17

Date Received

Bureau Major


Signature

2-19-18

Date Received

Assistant Chief


Signature

10-28-17

Date Received

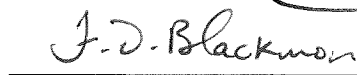
Chief of Police


Signature

03.08.18

Date Received

Professional
Standards


Signature

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor's Field Use-Of-Force Report

Narrative of Investigation **Continued from Page 1**

SUMMARY INTERVIEW WITH OFFICER KENNETH RAMMAGE

Officer Rammage stated that he was dispatched to a domestic dispute at 1421 Ridgeview Road in reference to a person refusing to leave the property. He stated that he got out of his patrol vehicle and asked an unknown black female standing in front of 1408 Ridgeview Road if she called the police. He stated that she said no. He stated that he then looked back at 1421 Ridgeview Road and saw an unknown black male identified as Shay Vajas walking quickly towards him with his fist balled up down by his side. He asked Mr. Vajas if he called the police, but Mr. Vajas did not answer and kept walking toward him. Once Mr. Vajas got close to him he swung his right fist at him. Officer Rammage attempted to block the punch but was unsuccessful and was struck in the face. He stated that he reached around Mr. Vajas' body grabbing him by the shoulders and took him to the ground. It was at that point that Officer Edgeworth assisted him in placing Mr. Vajas in handcuffs. He was arrested and charged with Simple Battery and Obstruction of a Law Enforcement Officer. He was then transported to Muscogee County Jail after going to Midtown Medical for jail clearance. I asked Officer Rammage if he felt that he could have done anything other than taking Mr. Vajas to the ground. He stated that he was defending himself and could have been more aggressive but did not feel it was necessary. He stated that he was not trying to hurt Mr. Vajas he was just trying to stop him.

SUMMARY INTERVIEW WITH SHAY VAJAS (SUSPECT)

I spoke with Mr. Vajas immediately following the incident. He was extremely hostile and belligerent. He alternated from shouting "I'll kill that mother fucker", to "get his badge number" and finally "why are ya'll laughing at me." Despite asking for a badge number he did not appear to know Officer Rammage or even know why he had been arrested. Mr. Vajas was intoxicated at the time and was unable to answer simple questions.

I spoke to Mr. Vajas again approximately 2 hours after the incident. He was cooperative but talked as if he had a mental breakdown or was under the influence of an unknown drug. He was amorous and expressing sexual desires for all the women he saw. He seemed incredibly happy. He was unable to verbalize what happened except to say that he hurt his shoulder. He showed me a small abrasion, similar to a burn from sliding on his left arm. He did not know why he had been arrested or taken to the ground.

SUMMARY INTERVIEW WITH RAMONA SPENCE (SUSPECT'S MOTHER)

I spoke with Ramona Spence immediately following the incident. Ms. Spence stated that she saw her son Shay Vajas punch the officer. She stated that she did not know why he would do that but she was aware that he had been drinking all day long. She apologized for him striking the officer and stated that he has never done anything like that before. Ms. Spence stated that her son may have taken "some kind" of drug. She also stated that she believed he may have an unknown mental illness. She then stated that she was glad the officer did not hurt him.

REVIEW OF AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

This incident was captured on Officer Rammage's body camera. The body camera shows Officer Rammage exit his vehicle and ask someone off camera if they called the police. He then turns and you see Shay Vajas walking up to him from the driveway at 1421 Ridgeview Road. Officer Rammage then ask him if he called the police. Mr. Vajas does not answer and then without warning attacks, by punching, Officer Rammage. You can hear Ramona Spence in the background saying "don't hurt him" repeatedly. There is a brief struggle to get Mr. Vajas in custody because he will not put his hands behind his back. He is then handcuffed and put in a patrol vehicle.

CONCLUSION

Officer Rammage was dispatched to a domestic dispute call in reference to a male not leaving his neighbor's yard. When Officer Rammage arrived he exited his patrol vehicle and sees Mr. Vajas walking towards him. He then ask Mr. Vajas if he called the police. Without warning or provocation Mr. Vajas punched Officer Rammage in the face. Officer Rammage did not fight Mr. Vajas he simply took him to the ground in an effort to defend himself. This action limited the injury to both Mr. Vajas as well as to Officer Rammage.

RECOMMENDATION

The investigations findings reveal that the use of force was justified. There were no violations of the departmental policies and no laws were violated. I do not recommend any disciplinary action for Officer Kenneth Rammage.

