

Use of Force Report #: 11A-90
Justified
Date Logged In: 12/23/19
Initials: dat

Columbus Police Department

Field Use-Of-Force Report

Reporting Officer Officer Kenneth Rammage Employee No. [REDACTED]

Date 10/25/19 Time 08:59:57 Nature of Contact Traffic [] 911 Call [X] Self-Initiated []

Location Enterprise parking lot (5733B Veterans Parkway)

Use of Force ☐ Deadly Force ☐ LLM Bean Bag ☐ OC Spray ☒ Taser ☐ PIT ☐
Check All That Apply ☐ NLM Pepper Ball ☐ Hard Empty Hands ☐ Baton ☐ Stop Sticks
☐ Restraint/Soft Empty Hands w/ Injury ☐ Weapon of Opp. (Specify) _____

Officers Who 1. Ofc. Kenneth Rammage 2.

Used Force 3. 4.

Suspect Data: Name James Hopson Age 39

DOB [REDACTED] Race White Height 5'10 Weight 150 Sex M ☒ F ☐

Charges, If any Misd Obstruction, Loitering and Failure to Appear warrant (other agency)

Disposition (jail, hospital, etc.) Supect apprehended, taken to hospital and then Muscogee County Jail

Officer Data: Name Ofc. Kenneth Rammage

Age 27 Race White Height 5'6 Weight 240 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 Scratches to face, arms and left leg.

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 _____

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 _____

RECEIVED

MEDICAL INFORMATION

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

Subject Injured **DURING** Incident YES ☒ NO ☐ Describe lacerations to right and left

knee caused by running through woods and jumping fences.

HOSPITALIZATION:

☐ NO Reason Subject was treated for lacerations caused by him running.

☒ YES Transport Via ☒ Police Vehicle No. 796 ☐ Ambulance No. _____

☐ Other _____

Hospital Name [REDACTED] Doctor's Name Nurse staff

Subject ☐ Admitted ☒ Treated & Released ☐ No Treatment

☐ Refused Treatment – Witness' Name _____

Witness' Title _____ Phone _____

WITNESS INFORMATION

1. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

2. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

3. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

4. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

Reporting Officer's Signature  Date 10/26/19

Name of Supervisor Notified Sergeant Jonathan McKelvey By Officer Kenneth Rammage

Columbus Police Department

Field Use-Of-Force Report

Narrative of Circumstances

OFFICER NARRATIVE:

On 10/25/2019 at approximately 0837 hours, I Officer Kenneth Rammage (2B14) was dispatched to 5731 Veterans Parkway (Chevron Gas Station) in reference to investigate a person who was sleeping on the side of the business with his personal belongings. Upon arrival I noticed a white male laying on the ground next to the gas station asleep. I approached the individual, later identified as James Hopson (arrestee) and woke him up. When Mr. Hopson stood up, I noticed he had a white folding pocketknife in his right front pocket. I immediately told Mr. Hopson to put his hands up so that I could safely remove the knife from his person for officer safety. Mr. Hopson had a hoodie on, and I was not able to tell if he had any additional weapons on his person at this time. I also did not do any further search or pat down of Mr. Hopson's person to determine if he had any additional weapons on him at the time.

INTERVIEW WITH ARRESTEE: James Hopson (w/m, DOB: [REDACTED])

Mr. Hopson stated he was at the store waiting on his wife (unknown) to come and pick him up from Cataula, Georgia. While waiting for his wife, Mr. Hopson fell asleep until I woke him up. Mr. Hopson said he dropped off the Penske truck that he rented this morning at approximately 0630 hours and walked up to the store to wait for his wife. Mr. Hopson attempted to call his wife but was unable to make contact with her on the phone. I asked Mr. Hopson if he had an identification card and he handed me a Georgia Driver's License [REDACTED]. While running Mr. Hopson's information through dispatch, he came back wanted with the Columbia County Sherriff's Office with a failure to appear warrant.

I started to approach Mr. Hopson and asked him to turn around and place his hands behind his back. Just before I was able to tell him he was under arrest for an outstanding warrant, Mr. Hopson started to flee west on foot. I started to run after him and was able to grab ahold of Mr. Hopson by his jacket which started to come off his person. We both fell to the ground and Mr. Hopson was able to get up and start fleeing east towards Veterans Parkway. When Mr. Hopson got back to the front of the store, he started

running north through the parking lot into the Enterprise parking lot. As Mr. Hopson got around to the backside of the business, I lost sight of him until a group of pedestrians told me that he was running around the back of the business. I finally was able to locate Mr. Hopson again running back south through the Enterprise parking lot to the other side. While running after Mr. Hopson, I lost sight of him for a few minutes and was never able to check Mr. Hopson for any additional weapons before he started to flee. While he was running, I could not see if he had anything in his hands or if he had another weapon on his person. As I came around the front of the Enterprise building, I noticed Mr. Hopson was staring to climb over the back fence. I told Mr. Hopson to get on the ground as he was going over the fence. Mr. Hopson did not listen to my command. When Mr. Hopson got on the other side of the fence, he turned and faced me. I was unsure if he had another weapon on his person because I was unable to do a more thorough pat down of his person before he started to flee and when I originally took the knife away from him. If Mr. Hopson had another weapon on him, he could have used it against me through the fence. I was winded and out of breath from the foot pursuit and without knowledge of whether Mr. Hopson had additional weapons on his person, I decided to deploy my Taser (S/N: X1200372H, Cartridge S/N: C4104A9AK) at Mr. Hopson before he had any chance of using force against me. The Taser had no effect on Mr. Hopson, and he was able to get away from police temporarily.

As other officers arrived on scene, we were able to cordon off an area where Mr. Hopson was last seen in the wooded area behind the Fire Station on Whitesville Road near Veterans Parkway. A short time later, police were able to locate Mr. Hopson laying in the brush in the wooded area. Mr. Hopson again attempted to flee police on foot. Police were finally able to apprehend Mr. Hopson and take him into custody. After examining Mr. Hopson, we were able to locate one of the Taser probe's stuck to the back left of his pants pocket. Mr. Hopson had scratches all over his body from sticker bushes and running through the woods.

CSID Unit 484 (Cpl. Joshua Bailey) processed the scene and took photographs of injuries, Mr. Hopson sustained from running through the woods. He also took photos of the scene where the Taser was deployed. I located the used cartridge and collected it for evidence. There was also a \$20.00 bill located on the ground near the area where the Taser was deployed that was also logged into Property and Evidence. I took all of Mr. Hopson's items to Property and Evidence and while completing an inventory of

the items, I located a clear glass smoking device (crack pipe) in the black book bag. The crack pipe was also logged into Property and Evidence for destruction.

Mr. Hopson was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Columbia County, Obstruction (MISD) and Loitering. Mr. Hopson was transported to the [REDACTED] by police for jail clearance. Mr. Hopson was transported to the Muscogee County Jail.

CASE CLEARED BY ARREST.

NOTHING FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supplement to Field Use-of-Force Report

Taser Usage Report

Complaint No. 19-028753 Date 10/25/2019 Time 8:59:57

Person Tased Hopson, James

Officer Who Used Taser Kenneth Rammage

Number of Cycles Used 1

Taser Serial No. X1200372H Taser Cartridge No. C4104A9AK

Location Where Probes Struck Person Taser probe struck back left pocket area.

Photographs Taken By CSID UNIT 484 (Cpl. Joshua Bailey)

EMS Unit No./Crew N/A

Who Removed Probes Sgt. Derick Solt

Medical Issues Brought to Attention of Officer Lacerations all over face, arms and body due to suspect

running through the woods. Nothing caused by taser.

Medical Treatment Rendered Suspect was taken to [REDACTED] based off of his injuries

sustained by himself running through the woods and climbing fences.

Disposition (jail, hospital, etc.) Hospital, Jail.



EVIDENCE SYNC™

TASER Information

Serial X1200372H
Model TASER X26P
Firmware Version Rev. 04.010
Application Version 3.15.37
Health Good

Offline Report

Local Timezone Eastern Daylight Time (UTC -04:00)
Generated On 25 Oct 2019 14:24:03

Dates from : Thu Oct 24 16:00:00 2019 to : Fri Oct 25 15:00:00 2019

Device (X26P)

Seq #	Local Time [DD:MM:YYYY hh:mm:ss]	Event [Event Type]	Duration [Seconds]	Temp [Degrees Celsius]	Batt Remaining [%]
2098	25 Oct 2019 08:59:49	Armed		31	92
2099	25 Oct 2019 08:59:57	Trigger	3		92
2100	25 Oct 2019 09:00:00	Safe	11	31	92
2101	25 Oct 2019 09:00:04	Armed		31	92
2102	25 Oct 2019 09:00:10	Safe	6	31	92
2103	25 Oct 2019 14:22:18	USB Connected			
2104	25 Oct 2019 14:22:37	Time Sync	25 Oct 2019 14:22:23 to 25 Oct 2019 14:22:37		

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor's Field Use-Of-Force Report

Supervisor Reporting Sergeant Jonathan McKelvey Employee No. [REDACTED]

Reporting Officer Officer Kenneth Rammage Employee No. [REDACTED]

SUSPECT DATA Name HOPSON, JAMES Age 39

DOB [REDACTED] Race W Height 5'10" Weight 150 Sex M X F

Charges, If Any Loitering and Prowling, Obstruction of an Officer (M), Warrants (Outside Agency)

Disposition of Suspect Taser ineffective. Suspect Apprehended. Taken to hospital then County Jail

Circumstances:

On Friday, October 25, 2019 at about 0859 hours Officer Kenneth Rammage deployed his taser against a suspect fleeing from arrest. Officer Rammage issued verbal commands before deploying his taser. Upon Officer Rammage deploying his taser; he failed to connect with the suspect and the taser was ineffective.

Officers Who	1. <u>Officer Kenneth Rammage</u>	2. <u></u>
Used Force	3. <u></u>	4. <u></u>

SUPERVISOR'S INVESTIGATION

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

Tactics or Actions Should Be Reviewed YES ☐ NO ☒

SUPERVISOR'S RECOMMENDATION

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.

CHAIN OF COMMAND APPROVAL

10/25/2019

Date Received

11-19-19

Sgt J. H. [Signature]
Investigating Supervisor
Lt W. R. [Signature]

Date Received

12/19/19

Date Received

Investigating Supervisor's Lieutenant

Capt [Signature]
Bureau Captain

Bureau Major

12/19/19

Date Received

Major C. 15-8
Signature

Assistant Chief

12-20-19

Date Received

[Signature]
Signature

Chief of Police

12-20-19

Date Received

[Signature]
Signature

Professional Standards

12-24-19

Date Received

J. D. [Signature]
Signature

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor's Field Use-Of-Force Report

Narrative of Investigation

SUMMARY OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENT

On Friday, October 25, 2019 at approximately 0837 hours, OFFICER KENNETH RAMMAGE (2B14) was dispatched to 5731 Veterans Parkway (Chevron Gas Station) in reference to investigate a person who was sleeping on the side of the business with his personal belongings. Upon arrival OFFICER RAMMAGE noticed a white male laying on the ground asleep next to the gas station. RAMMAGE approached the individual, later identified as JAMES HOPSON (W/M, DOB [REDACTED]) and woke him up. When HOPSON stood up, RAMMAGE noticed he had a white folding pocketknife in his right front pocket. RAMMAGE immediately told HOPSON to put his hands up so he could safely remove the knife from his person for officer safety. HOPSON was wearing a hoodie at the time, and RAMMAGE was not able to tell if HOPSON had any additional weapons on his person. RAMMAGE also did not perform any further search or pat down of HOPSON's person to determine if he had any additional weapons on him at the time.

INTERVIEW WITH JAMES HOPSON (W/M, DOB: [REDACTED])

HOPSON stated he was at the store waiting on his wife (unknown) to come and pick him up from Cataula, Georgia. While waiting for his wife, HOPSON fell asleep until RAMMAGE woke him up. HOPSON said he dropped off the Penske truck that he rented this morning at approximately 0630 hours and walked up to the store to wait for his wife. HOPSON attempted to call his wife but was unable to make contact with her on the phone. RAMMAGE asked HOPSON if he had an identification card and he handed RAMMAGE a Georgia Driver's License [REDACTED]. While running HOPSON's information through dispatch, he came back wanted with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office with a failure to appear warrant.

RAMMAGE started to approach HOPSON and asked him to turn around and place his hands behind his back. Just before RAMMAGE was able to tell him he was under arrest for an outstanding warrant, HOPSON started to flee west on foot. RAMMAGE started to run after HOPSON and was able to grab ahold of HOPSON by his jacket which started to come off his person. RAMMAGE and HOPSON both fell to the ground and HOPSON was able to get up and

start fleeing east towards Veterans Parkway. When HOPSON got to the front of the store, he started running north through the parking lot into the Enterprise parking lot. As HOPSON got around to the backside of the business, RAMMAGE lost sight of him until a group of pedestrians told RAMMAGE that HOPSON was running around the back of the business. RAMMAGE finally was able to locate HOPSON again running back south through the Enterprise parking lot to the other side. While running after HOPSON, RAMMAGE lost sight of him for a few minutes and was never able to check HOPSON for any additional weapons before he started to flee. While HOPSON was running, RAMMAGE could not see if HOPSON had anything in his hands or if HOPSON had another weapon on his person. As RAMMAGE came around the front of the Enterprise building, RAMMAGE noticed HOPSON was starting to climb over the back fence. RAMMAGE told HOPSON to get on the ground as he was going over the fence. HOPSON did not comply to RAMMAGE's commands. HOPSON then turned and faced RAMMAGE for a brief moment as he made it to the other side of the fence. RAMMAGE was unaware if HOPSON had any additional weapon on his person that he could have used against him through the fence as he did not perform a thorough pat down of HOPSON when he removed the knife from his pocket upon initial contact. At this time, RAMMAGE was winded and out of breath from the foot pursuit and without knowledge of whether HOPSON had additional weapons on his person, RAMMAGE decided to deploy his taser (S/N: X1200372H, Cartridge S/N: C4104A9AK) at HOPSON. The taser had no effect on HOPSON and he was able to get away from police temporarily. The taser probes did not make a good connection with HOPSON, resulting in an ineffective deployment. HOPSON was then able to continue fleeing from police.

As additional OFFICERS arrived on scene, they were able to cordon off an area where HOPSON was last seen in the wooded area behind the Fire Station on Whitesville Road near Veterans Parkway. A short time later police were able to locate HOPSON laying in the brush in the wooded area. HOPSON again attempted to flee police on foot. Police were finally able to apprehend HOPSON and take him into custody. After examining HOPSON, police were able to locate one of the taser probes stuck to the back left of his pants pocket. HOPSON had multiple scratches all over his body from sticker bushes and running through the woods.

CSID Unit 484 (Cpl. Joshua Bailey) processed the scene and took photographs of injuries HOPSON sustained from running through the woods. He also took photos of the scene where the taser was deployed. RAMMAGE located the used cartridge and collected it for evidence.

CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST JAMES HOPSON

- Loitering and Prowling (OCGA 16-11-36), a misdemeanor
- Obstruction of an Officer (OCGA 16-10-24), a misdemeanor

See case #19-028753 for further details.

DE-ESCALATION ATTEMPTS

There were no de-escalations attempts made by RAMMAGE, as HOPSON fled prior to RAMMAGE being able to advise him he was under arrest for outstanding warrants.

MEDICAL RESPONSE AND TREATMENT

HOPSON was struck in the seam of the back left pocket of his jeans.

HOPSON sustained multiple cuts and scratches all over his body as was transported to [REDACTED] for treatment.

SUPERVISOR'S INTERVIEW WITH JAMES HOPSON

Sergeant McKelvey interviewed HOPSON on 10/25/2019, at Piedmont Medical Center.

HOPSON said he did not have any recollection of the events that occurred as he had recently used marijuana and methamphetamine. HOPSON stated the last thing he remembered prior to being at the hospital was falling asleep on the side of the Chevron waiting for his wife to pick him up. HOPSON was however apologetic for the events that occurred with RAMMAGE.

OFFICER KENNETH RAMMAGE'S BODY VIDEO RECORDER REVIEW

OFFICER RAMMAGE's body video recorder views his taser deployment and clearly picks up his voice.

OFFICER RAMMAGE's body video recorder does support the details of the incident documented above.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

There were no witnesses available.

DISPOSITION

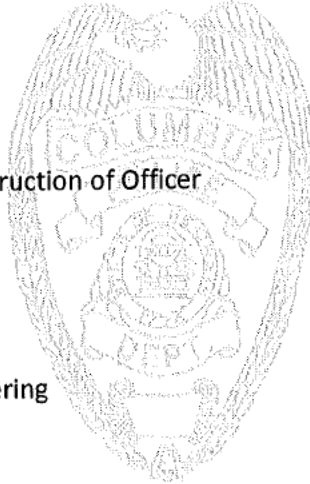
RAMMAGE arrived on scene and located HOPSON, who matched the provided description of the individual he was dispatched in reference to. RAMMAGE was authorized to detain HOPSON, based on probable cause that he was a wanted person. HOPSON signaled his intention to resist RAMMAGE's efforts to make an arrest when he pulled away, fled on foot, and refused to comply with lawful commands being issued by RAMMAGE.

RAMMAGE was authorized to use force that was objectively reasonable to effectively bring HOPSON under control, while protecting the safety of himself and others. This force was used when no reasonably effective alternative existed, and the level of force used was that of a reasonably prudent officer.

OFFICER RAMMAGE complied with CPD Policy Section 3-1 [Use of Force]. He performed the duties of a police officer and his actions are **JUSTIFIED** in accordance with departmental policy.

Columbus Police Department

Executive Summary



OFFENSE TITLE-INCLUDE DEGREE Obstruction of Officer

CASE NUMBER 19-028753

POINT OF ENTRY

DESCRIBE TYPE FORCE OR THREAT USED

NATURE OF INJURY

OFFENSE TITLE-INCLUDE DEGREE Loitering

POINT OF ENTRY

DESCRIBE TYPE FORCE OR THREAT USED

NATURE OF INJURY

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE 5731 VETERANS PKWY

OCCURRED ON/BETWEEN 10/25/2019 8:35:00 AM

REPORTED ON 10/25/2019 8:37:53 AM

OFFICER: Rammage, Kenneth

VICTIM OR BUSINESS NAME: ENTITY:

ARRESTED (NAME) Hopson, James Cary

EVIDENCE: Other

EVIDENCE: Other

EVIDENCE: Discharge Device - Taser, Etc.

EVIDENCE: Bills - Twenty Dollar

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

On 10/25/2019 at approximately 0837 hours, I Officer Kenneth Rammage (2B14) was dispatched to 5731 Veterans Parkway (Chevron Gas Station) in reference to investigate a person who was sleeping on the side of the business with his personal belongings. Upon arrival I noticed a white male laying on the ground next to the gas station. I approached the individual, later identified as James Hopson (arrestee).

INTERVIEW WITH ARRESTEE: James Hopson (w/m, DOB: [REDACTED])

James stated he was at the store waiting on his wife (unknown) to come and pick him up from Cataula, Georgia. While waiting for his wife, JAMES fell asleep until I woke him up. JAMES said he dropped off the Penske truck that he rented this morning at approximately 0630 hours, and walked up to the store to wait for his wife. JAMES attempted to call his wife but was unable to make contact with her on the phone. I asked JAMES if he had an identification card and he handed me a Georgia Drivers License [REDACTED]. While running JAMES's information through dispatch, he came back wanted with the Columbia County Sheriffs office with a failure to appear warrant.

I started to approach JAMES and asked him to turn around so that I could put handcuffs on him. At that time, James started to flee west on foot. I started to run after him and was able to grab ahold of JAMES by his jacket which started to come off of his person. We both fell to the ground and JAMES was able to get up and start fleeing east towards Veterans Parkway. When JAMES got back to the front of the store, he started running north through the parking lot into the Enterprise parking lot. As JAMES got around to the backside of the business, I lost sight of him until a group of pedestrians told me that he was running around the back of the business. I finally was able to locate JAMES again running back south through the Enterprise parking lot to the other side where JAMES started to go over the back fence. When JAMES was climbing over the fence, I told him to get on the ground and he still was fleeing from me. At that time I deployed my taser (S/N: X1200372H, Cartridge S/N: C4104A9AK) at JAMES. The taser had no effect on JAMES and he was able to get away from police temporarily.

As other officers arrived on scene, we were able to cordon off an area where JAMES was last seen in the wooded area behind the Fire station on Whitesville Road near Veterans Parkway. A short time later police were able to locate JAMES laying in the brush in the wooded area. JAMES again attempted to flee police on foot. Police were finally able to apprehend JAMES and take him into custody. After examining JAMES we were able to locate one of the taser prongs stuck to the back left of his pants pocket. JAMES was scratched up all over his body from stickers and running through the woods.

CSID Unit 484 (Cpl. Joshua Bailey) processed the scene and took photographs of injuries, JAMES sustained from running through the woods. He also took photos of the scene where the taser was deployed. I located the used cartridge and collected it for evidence, There was also a \$20.00 bill located on the ground near the area where the taser was deployed that was also logged into Property and Evidence. I took all of JAMES's items to Property and Evidence and while searching the items I located a clear glass smoking device (crack pipe) in the black book bag. The crack pipe was also logged into Property and Evidence for destruction.

JAMES was arrested for an outstanding warrant, obstruction and loitering. JAMES was transported to the Piedmont Medical Center by police for jail clearance. JAMES was transported to the Muscogee County Jail.

CASE CLEARED BY ARREST.

NOTHING FURTHER AT THIS TIME.