



Chandler Police Department – PSS Memo No. 21-26

Date: July 20, 2021
To: Sean Duggan, Chief of Police
Thru: Bryan Cox, Assistant Chief
Melissa Deanda, PSS Lieutenant
Donna Reno, PSS Sergeant
From: George Arias, PSS Detective
Subject: Use of Force Review, 2nd Quarter 2021

Procedure

- Please sign below acknowledging your review of the report.
- Forward through the chain of command and return to the Professional Standards Section.

Signature

Date

PSS Sergeant

PSS Lieutenant

Assistant Chief

Chief of Police

Professional Standards Section shall maintain inspection files and reports.

Background

The Chandler Police Department recognizes the current Arizona statutory law dictating that “no unnecessary or unreasonable force shall be used in making an arrest, and the person arrested shall not be subjected to any greater restraint than necessary for his detention.”¹ The Chandler Police Department stipulates that officers must adhere to their training unless the situation justifies a deviation from that training.²

The Chandler Police Department began to utilize the Use of Force Review Board in 2008 to ensure the proper documentation of all applications of force, to evaluate those applications for adherence to established policy, and to determine any additional training needs.³ The board meets monthly to evaluate the prior month’s incidents, and quarterly reviews are prepared in order to share information and findings with the Citizen Review Panel.

This analysis contains use of force statistics for the second quarter of 2021 in order to identify prevalent trends or deficiencies per the current CALEA standard.⁴ In addition to an internal comparative analysis, this report will illustrate training issues that have emerged throughout the quarter, as well as the number and general nature of injuries sustained by personnel and suspects.

2021 Second Quarter Review

The Chandler Police Department logged 2064 arrests during the second quarter of 2021, averaging approximately twenty-three (23) arrests a day. The second quarter of 2021 yielded a total of twenty (20) incidents resulting in the utilization of force by Chandler Police Officers to effect an arrest or detain a subject under reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

The reportable incidents were reviewed by the Use of Force Review Board. This board meets monthly to determine if the applications of force are justified in accordance with the policies of the Chandler Police Department.

The following tables document the twenty (20) incidents reviewed by the board for the months of April, May, and June of 2021. It includes the types of force used and dispositions. In some incidents there were multiple applications of force used by various officers. For this reason, there were twenty-six (26) distinct applications of force. This report will deliver the summaries of the twenty (20) reviewed incidents.

¹ ARS § 13-3881.B

² CPD G.O. E-01.200.B.3

³ CPD G.O. E-01.400.E.1

⁴ CALEA 1.3.13

Type of Force Used Second Quarter 2021

Force Used	Applications	Additional Details
Low Level Force	13	Take downs, pressure points, Hard hands, etc.
Intermediate Force	13	K9 Bite, fist strikes, Knee strikes, Kicks, Less lethal, CEW, Impact push, etc.
Total	26	

Total Force Used Second Quarter 2021

Total Arrests	Force Used	Percentage
2064	20	.97%

Use of Force Demographics by Race/Gender/Age

Number	Race	Gender	Age Range	Average Age	%
10	White	Male	15-54	30	50%
2	Black	Male	31-48	39.5	10%
1	Black	Female	16	16	5%
7	Hispanic	Male	16-47	30	35%

(20 total subjects in the use of force incidents)

Policy Violations/Reviews

In the second quarter of 2021 there was one use of force incident referred to Internal Affairs for review. The officer was found to be within policy.

Training Issues

There was one training issue identified by the Use of Force Board. The training issue involved failing to activate a body worn camera (1). The training issue was handled by the individual officer's chain of command.

Injuries

In the second quarter of 2021, four officers were injured during use of force incidents. The injuries sustained by officers were mostly minor in nature, generally consisting of sprains, abrasions, cuts, or bruising. Most of the officers' injuries appeared to stem from body-to-body contact, takedown techniques, and struggling to handcuff suspects on hard surfaces or from direct assaults on the officers themselves.

Sixteen (16) suspects were injured or complained of injury during the use of force incidents. Most of these injuries were minor in nature, consisting of lacerations, abrasions, contusions, complaints of pain, and CEW puncture wounds.

The officer, the suspect, or both received medical attention in the use of force incidents with injury when requested. Medical treatment was either provided on scene by fire department personnel or at a hospital for more extensive care or evaluation.

Total Injuries When Forced Used Second Quarter 2021

Suspects/Detainees	Officers	Total
16	4	20

Emotionally Disturbed/Impaired

Fourteen (14) subjects involved in use of force incidents were found to be emotionally disturbed, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or a combination of impairments.

Conclusion

The reported types of use of force incidents during the second quarter of 2021 indicate officers used the appropriate level of force to effect the arrest of suspects. This illustrates that the use of force policy, defensive tactics training, board reviews, and overall departmental philosophy are aligned with established case law, statutory regulations, and the principles of community-oriented policing.

The following pages are the summaries that were presented to the Use of Force Board for the second quarter of 2021.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 1

Date of Occurrence: 04/04/2021
Time of Occurrence: 0535
Incident Report: 21-34939
Personnel Involved: Officer Kaden Romero #802
Force Used: Impact push
Subject Actions: Fleeing from police
Summary:

On April 4th, 2021, at 0535 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a vehicle burglary at 3800 W. Chandler Boulevard in Chandler. The caller stated two males were attempting to break into vehicles at this location. The caller was following the two males as they attempted to flee.

Officer Romero was first to arrive and located the two males. Officer Romero coordinated responding officers to set up a perimeter as the two males fled on foot. Officer Romero exited his vehicle and began to chase one of the males, later identified as Nathan Burkhart. As Officer Romero gave Mr. Burkhart orders to stop, he continued to flee and disobey the orders. Officer Romero caught up with Mr. Burkhart and impact pushed him to the ground. Officer Romero handcuffed Mr. Burkhart and took him into custody.

Mr. Burkhart sustained an abrasion to his knee. He was treated by paramedics and transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility where he was booked. Officer Romero's body worn camera was charging at the station, as he had worked a full shift and voluntarily stayed after due to staffing needs. The incident was not captured on body worn camera. Photos were taken of the incident.

Charges on suspect:

Possession of drug paraphernalia
Interfering with an officer

Injuries:

Mr. Burkhart sustained an abrasion to his knee.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 2

Date of Occurrence: 04/03/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1251

Incident Report: 21-35014

Personnel Involved: Officer Jon Correll #441, Officer Mariah Madaras #813

Force Used: Takedown

Subject Actions: Self injuring, refusing commands, resisting arrest

Summary:

On April 3rd, 2021, at 1251 hours, Officer Madaras was on patrol when she came across a disabled vehicle near the intersection of Cooper Road and Queen Creek Road in Chandler. As Officer Madaras positioned her patrol car to block traffic and protect the disabled vehicle, she determined the same disabled vehicle was related to another call for service of a reckless driver.

Officer Madaras contacted a male changing a tire, identified as Thomas Jones. Mr. Jones' wife was also present and standing on the curb. Upon contact Officer Madaras detected an odor of alcohol coming from Mr. Jones. As Officer Correll arrived to assist, Mr. Jones was advised he would not be allowed to drive. As the officers assisted Mr. Jones in changing the tire, he began yelling insults to his wife and complaining about the flat tire. The officers separated Mr. Jones from his wife, and he was instructed to stop being disorderly. Mr. Jones started throwing rocks in the dirt, followed by punching and slapping his own face with his hands stating, "what do I have to do to go to jail?" He was told several times to stop throwing rocks and hurting himself. Mr. Jones then stood up, clinched his fists, and walked towards Officer Correll in an aggressive manner stating, "are you ready to go?" Officers Correll and Madaras grabbed Mr. Jones and took him to the ground. He was placed in handcuffs and taken into custody.

Mr. Jones sustained an abrasion under his left eye and knees. He was treated by paramedics then transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility where he was booked. Body worn cameras captured the use of force. Photos of the incident were not taken.

Charges on suspect:

Disorderly conduct

Interfering with an officer

Injuries:

Mr. Jones sustained an abrasion under his left eye and knees.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 3

Date of Occurrence: 04/03/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1630

Incident Report: 21-35032

Personnel Involved: Detective Tu Le #626, Detective Ryan Jauregui #597

Force Used: Takedown

Subject Actions: Resisting arrest

Summary:

On April 3rd, 2021, at 1630 hours, Chandler Police Officers and Maricopa County Adult Probation Officers were conducting a threats investigation involving James Itule. Mr. Itule was on intensive probation for felony related domestic violence offenses. During the investigation it was determined Mr. Itule had committed a new domestic violence related offense (threatened to kill his estranged girlfriend). The investigation also revealed Mr. Itule said if police were to contact him, he would create a "suicide by cop situation." Maricopa County Probation decided to revoke his probation status and Chandler Police Detectives had probable cause to arrest Mr. Itule.

Mr. Itule was located at 1704 W. Barrow Drive in Chandler. Upon contact in front of this location, Mr. Itule was ordered to get on his knees and surrender. Mr. Itule initially did not comply, looking around as if looking for a way to flee. After a few moments he began to comply and placed his hands above his head. As Detectives Le and Jauregui grabbed his arms to place him in handcuffs, Mr. Itule began to flex his arms to prevent from being arrested. Both detectives pushed Mr. Itule to the ground face down and were able to handcuff him and take him into custody.

Mr. Itule complained of shoulder pain due to having a bad shoulder. He was transported to a local hospital for evaluation. After being released from the hospital, Mr. Itule was booked into the Maricopa County 4th Avenue Jail. Photos were taken of the incident and Detective Jauregui's body worn camera captured the use of force. Detective Le's body worn camera was not activated during the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Probation violation

Prohibited possessor of weapons

Threats domestic violence

Injuries:

Mr. Itule complained of shoulder pain due to having a bad shoulder.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 4

Date of Occurrence: 04/05/2021
Time of Occurrence: 0642
Incident Report: 21-35692
Personnel Involved: Officer Zachary Thomas #801
Force Used: CEW
Subject Actions: Fleeing from police
Summary:

On April 5th, 2021, at 0642 hours, Chandler Police Officer Thomas was completing police reports in his patrol car at 425 S. Alma School Road in Chandler when he observed Officer Camacho conduct a traffic stop on a bicyclist. He observed the subject on the bicycle, later identified as Jose Marquez, flee from Officer Camacho on the bicycle. Officer Thomas drove his patrol car and positioned himself such that Mr. Marquez was riding in his direction.

Officer Thomas exited his vehicle and ordered Mr. Marquez to stop. He continued to ride past the passenger side of Officer Thomas's patrol car. Officer Thomas gave chase on foot as he continued to give commands for Mr. Marquez to stop. He observed Mr. Marquez reach into his pocket as he fled on the bicycle. Officer Camacho blocked his path, causing Mr. Marquez to stop. Mr. Marquez then began to flee again on the bicycle as he continued to reach into his pocket. Officer Thomas, believing Mr. Marquez was reaching for a weapon, deployed his CEW. Two probes penetrated Mr. Marquez's torso. The CEW activation caused Mr. Marquez to fall to the ground. Once on the ground both officers were able to take Mr. Marquez into custody.

Mr. Marquez complained of shortness of breath and had two puncture wounds from the CEW probes. He was transported to a local hospital for evaluation. After being released from the hospital, Mr. Marquez was booked into the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility. Photos were taken of the incident and a body worn camera captured the use of force. Officer Thomas did not have his body worn camera turned on due to his spontaneous response to the foot pursuit.

Charges on suspect:

Possession of dangerous drugs
Possession of drug paraphernalia
Interfering with the duties of a public official

Injuries:

Mr. Marquez complained of shortness of breath and had two puncture wounds from the CEW probes.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 5

Date of Occurrence: 04/08/2021
Time of Occurrence: 1118
Incident Report: 21-36975
Personnel Involved: Officer Salvador Gallegos #706
Force Used: Takedown
Subject Actions: Resisting arrest, attempting to flee
Summary:

On April 8th, 2021, at 1118 hours, Chandler Police Officer Gallegos was on patrol in the Chandler Festival Shopping Center located at 2600 W. Chandler Boulevard. While on patrol he observed a male sleeping in the landscape area of the parking lot. It should be noted the Chandler Festival Shopping Center is part of the City of Chandler's Trespass Enforcement Program.

Prior to contacting the male, Officer Gallegos contacted RED Development Property Management, who is responsible for the Chandler Festival Shopping Center. They arrived at the property and agreed to be a victim of trespassing.

Officer Gallegos contacted the male, identified as Brandon McNally. As he explained to Mr. McNally that he could not remain on property, Officer Gallegos conducted a records check. He determined Mr. McNally had a City of Chandler misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. When Officer Gallegos advised he was not free to leave, Mr. McNally became upset stating he was not going back to jail. Mr. McNally then attempted to flee but slipped on the gravel and fell to the ground. Officer Gallegos got on top of him and held him until other officers arrived. Mr. McNally was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Mr. McNally complained of neck, knee, and rib pain. He was transported to a local hospital for evaluation. After being released from the hospital, Mr. McNally was booked into the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility. Photos were taken of the incident and a body worn camera captured the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Warrant
Possession of dangerous drugs
Possession of drug paraphernalia
Resisting arrest

Injuries:

Mr. McNally complained of neck, knee, and rib pain.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 6

Date of Occurrence: 04/19/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1755

Incident Report: 21-41465

Personnel Involved: Officer Molly O'Neill #671, Officer Kevin Kimmerling #738

Force Used: Take down (tackle)

Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, attempted to flee during arrest

Summary:

On April 19th, 2021, at 1755 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at 400 S. California Street in Chandler. According to the caller, Ricky Gutierrez was at his father's house creating a disturbance and on drugs. Mr. Gutierrez was said to have been under the influence of methamphetamines for the past two weeks.

Officer O'Neill was first to arrive and contacted Mr. Gutierrez. She observed that Mr. Gutierrez was acting erratically, pacing back and forth, and unable to focus and carry on a conversation. Mr. Gutierrez inexplicably started emptying his pockets. One of the items he removed from his pocket was a small plastic baggie containing a white substance. Officer O'Neill retrieved the plastic baggie from his waist and determined it was narcotics. As Officer Kimmerling arrived to assist, Officer O'Neill advised she would be arresting Mr. Gutierrez for drug possession. Both officers grabbed him by the arms to effect an arrest. Mr. Gutierrez was able to break Officer O'Neill's grip and attempted to flee. Officer Kimmerling still had a hold of his arm and was able to tackle Mr. Gutierrez through a fence and onto the ground. While on the ground Mr. Gutierrez resisted being handcuffed by flexing his arms and keeping them under his body. With the assistance of Officer O'Neill and another officer who had arrived, Mr. Gutierrez was eventually placed in handcuffs and arrested.

Mr. Gutierrez sustained a laceration to his face and abrasions on his knees, one arm, and his back. He refused medical treatment and was booked at the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility. A crime scene technician photographed the incident and a body worn camera recorded the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Possession of narcotics

Resisting arrest

Disorderly conduct DV

Injuries:

Mr. Gutierrez sustained a laceration to his face and abrasions on his knees, one arm, and his back.

Incident Review Summaries Summary 7

Date of Occurrence: 04/29/2021

Time of Occurrence: 2236

Incident Report: 21-45717

Personnel Involved: Officer Rupert Snedigar #732

Force Used: K9 deployment

Subject Actions: Shot at officers, vehicle pursuit, struck an officer with a stolen vehicle

Summary:

On April 29th, 2021, at approximately 2236 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a pursuit initiated by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. The pursuit was entering the City of Chandler. According to Pinal County Sheriff, the driver had shot at deputies.

Officer Snedigar and K9 Rex joined the pursuit, which ended with a collision at the San Tan Ford dealership located at 1429 E. Motorplex Loop in Gilbert. As officers from multiple jurisdictions arrived the suspect ran into the dealership, stole a vehicle, and attempted to flee. The suspect struck an officer as well as other objects and vehicles. The vehicle then became disabled.

Officer Snedigar gave commands to the suspect to get out of the vehicle but the suspect refused. Believing the suspect was still armed and a danger to other officers and civilians, he deployed his K9 Rex. Due to the damage and airbag deployments of the stolen vehicle, K9 Rex was not able to get to the suspect. Officer Snedigar recalled K9 Rex as other officers were able to retrieve the suspect from the vehicle and render aid.

The suspect did not sustain any injuries related to the K9 deployment. He was transported to a local hospital for injuries sustained during the incident. A crime scene technician photographed the incident and a body worn camera recorded the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Murder

Attempted murder

Aggravated assault

Injuries:

The suspect did not sustain any injuries related to the K9 deployment.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 8

Date of Occurrence: 05/07/2021
Time of Occurrence: 0853
Incident Report: 21-48494
Personnel Involved: Officer Zachary Thomas #801
Force Used: CEW X3
Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, fighting stance
Summary:

On May 7th, 2021, at 0853 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of a disorderly conduct at Food City located at 1005 N. Arizona Avenue in Chandler. According to the caller, a male customer was attempting to get into a physical confrontation with a store employee.

As Officer Thomas arrived in his patrol car the male customer, later identified as Lyle Daychild, began yelling at him. Officer Thomas exited his vehicle and ordered Mr. Daychild to sit on the ground. Mr. Daychild ignored the commands, clinched his fists, and assumed a fighting stance. Officer Thomas ordered Mr. Daychild to get on the ground several times but he refused. Mr. Daychild told Officer Thomas “fuck you!” and “shoot me or I’m going to shoot you!” As Mr. Daychild advanced, Officer Thomas deployed his CEW striking Mr. Daychild in the torso with two probes. Mr. Daychild removed the probe from his torso, rendering the CEW deployment ineffective. Mr. Daychild again assumed a fighting stance and yelled at Officer Thomas to shoot him as he clinched his fist and approached him. Officer Thomas deployed a second set of CEW probes, striking Mr. Daychild in the torso and right thigh. The CEW deployment took effect and Mr. Daychild fell to the ground. While on the ground and under the effects of the CEW, Mr. Daychild made attempts to reach his hand to his waistband area. Officer Thomas continued to active the CEW for approximately 10 seconds to maintain control of Mr. Daychild. A second officer arrived, and he was taken into custody.

Mr. Daychild sustained four puncture wounds from CEW probes. Paramedics arrived and treated him. Mr. Daychild was then transported and booked at the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility. A crime scene technician photographed the incident and a body worn camera captured the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Threats
Assault
Resisting arrest
Disorderly conduct

Interfering with an investigation

Injuries:

Mr. Daychild sustained four puncture wounds from 4 CEW probes.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 9

Date of Occurrence: 05/09/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1742

Incident Report: 21-49439

Personnel Involved: Officer Kaden Romero #802

Force Used: Open hand strike

Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, assaulted officer

Summary:

On May 9th, 2021, at 1742 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of a shoplift at the Walmart located at 1175 S. Arizona Avenue in Chandler. According to Walmart's Loss Prevention Staff, a female customer was concealing merchandise in a large purse.

Several officers arrived and contacted four female customers who were still inside the store and were identified by loss preventions staff as being involved in the shoplift. The four females became verbally confrontational with the officers and attempted to leave the store. Officer Romero was positioned outside the entrance of the store. As the four females walked out of the store, Officer Romero ordered them to stop. Three out of the four stopped, with the fourth continuing to walk away. The fourth female was later identified as being a juvenile. Officer Romero again gave the juvenile an order to stop, which she refused, telling Officer Romero that he was not to put his hands on her. Officer Romero grabbed the juvenile by the arm to detain her. The juvenile turned her body towards Officer Romero, attempted to break free, and struck him in the chest with her hand. Officer Romero used an open hand to strike the juvenile in the head. The juvenile was then taken to the ground with the assistance of other officers and taken into custody.

The juvenile did not sustain any visible injuries or complain of injury. The juvenile was transported to the Chandler Police Station where she was fingerprinted and photographed prior to being released to a parent. A body worn camera recorded the use of force. Photos were taken of the incident.

Charges on suspect:

Aggravated assault on an officer

Injuries:

The juvenile did not sustain any visible injuries or complain of injury.

Incident Review Summaries

Summary 10

Date of Occurrence: 05/16/2021

Time of Occurrence: 0810

Incident Report: 21-52132

Personnel Involved: Officer Shane Lumpp #721, Officer Joseph Phelps #824

Force Used: Take down

Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, resisting arrest

Summary:

On May 16th, 2021, at 0810 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of trespass at the Coffee Bean located at 2560 W. Chandler Boulevard in Chandler. According to Coffee Bean Staff, a male was disturbing customers inside the store.

Officers Phelps and Lumpp arrived and contacted the male, later identified as Anthony Pipes. Mr. Pipes began making irrational statements such as accusing Officer Phelps of being a rapist, that he was being framed for an unknown crime, and that if touched, he would sue. Officer Phelps instructed Mr. Pipes to leave the store several times, but he refused. During the contact Mr. Pipes became increasingly agitated and upset as he continued to make irrational statements. Officer Phelps grabbed Mr. Pipes' right arm as Officer Lumpp assisted. He pushed Officer Lumpp to avoid being arrested. Mr. Pipes resisted being detained and handcuffed, causing both officers to take him to the ground where he was handcuffed.

Mr. Pipes sustained an abrasion to his hand. He was treated by paramedics on scene before being transported to a local mental health institution. Officer Phelps sustained an abrasion to his arm and Officer Lumpp sustained an abrasion to his elbow. Photographs were taking of the incident and body worn cameras captured the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

No charges

Injuries:

Mr. Pipes sustained an abrasion to his hand.

Officer Phelps sustained an abrasion to his arm.

Officer Lumpp sustained an abrasion to his elbow.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 11

Date of Occurrence: 05/19/2021
Time of Occurrence: 0114
Incident Report: 21-53269
Personnel Involved: Officer Rich Rimbach #711
Force Used: Take down (tackle), fist strike
Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, fleeing from officers
Summary:

On May 19th, 2021, at 0114 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of an armed robbery at the Circle K located at 1995 W. Chandler Boulevard in Chandler. According to a Circle K employee, a male had entered the store and demanded money stating he had a gun in his pocket. The employee refused to give the male money and called the police. The male stole a pack of candy and fled the store.

Officers arrived and set up a perimeter and a search for the male was initiated. Officers located the male, later identified as Joe Romero, as he fled from officers on foot. Officer Rimbach had positioned himself on Dobson Road just south of Chandler Boulevard. Officers pursuing Mr. Romero on foot advised they were approaching Officer Rimbach's location. Officer Rimbach gave Mr. Romero commands to stop and get on the ground. Mr. Romero refused and continued to flee on foot while reaching for his waistband. Officer Rimbach gave chase and tackled Mr. Romero to the ground. Officer Rimbach then delivered a single fist strike to the side of Mr. Romero's head. With the help of other officers Mr. Romero was handcuffed and taken into custody. A firearm magazine with ammunition was found in Mr. Romero's possession. A firearm was not located.

Mr. Romero sustained an abrasion to his head. He was treated by paramedics on scene before being transported to the Gilbert Chandler Regional Holding Facility and booked. Photographs were taken of the incident and body worn cameras captured the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Armed robbery
Possession of drug paraphernalia

Injuries:

Mr. Romero sustained an abrasion to his head.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 12

Date of Occurrence: 05/29/2021

Time of Occurrence: 0117

Incident Report: 21-57516

Personnel Involved: Officer Brad Hocking #733, Officer Julian Gomez
#777

Force Used: Take down (tackle)

Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, fleeing from officers

Summary:

On May 29th, 2021, at 0117 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of an unknown problem near Manor Street and Vine Street in Chandler. According to the caller, a male was yelling and there was possibly an ongoing fight.

Officers arrived in the area and began a search for the unknown problem. Officer Gomez was contacted by several citizens who advised that a male was in a nearby greenbelt yelling at himself. Officer Gomez located the male, later identified as a juvenile. The male fled from Officer Gomez and began hopping walls and in and out of several back yards. Officer Gomez chased the juvenile as he gave him orders to stop. He was able to catch up to the juvenile and tackle him to the ground as Officer Hocking arrived to assist. As the juvenile struggled on the ground, Officer Hocking placed his knee on the juvenile's back and pressed down to prevent the juvenile from resisting. Both officers were able to handcuff the juvenile and take him into custody.

The juvenile sustained abrasions to his chin, elbows, and hands. He was treated by paramedics on scene before being released to his father who had arrived. Officer Gomez sustained abrasions to his arm. Photographs were taken of the incident and body worn cameras captured the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Long form charges for possession of marijuana
Long form charges for possession of drug paraphernalia
Curfew

Injuries:

Mr. Romero sustained an abrasion to his head.
Officer Gomez sustained abrasions to his arm.

Incident Review Summaries

Summary 13

Date of Occurrence: 05/30/2021
Time of Occurrence: 1635
Incident Report: 21-59018
Personnel Involved: Officer Irwin Wierzbicki #709
Force Used: Impact push
Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, aggressive stance towards officer
Summary:

On May 30th, 2021, at 1635 hours, Chandler Police Officer Wierzbicki was working an extra duty shift at the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility. His duties included processing incoming arrestees with fingerprinting and booking.

Officer Wierzbicki was in the process of booking Roberto Vaughn who had been arrested for aggravated assault on an officer. Mr. Vaughn continuously raised his hands and made statements that he was not a threat and wanted to cooperate. Officer Wierzbicki assured him no one wanted to harm him and that his rights would not be violated. As he escorted Mr. Vaughn to the fingerprinting machine, Mr. Vaughn's tone changed, and he became verbally aggressive stating he was not going to be disrespected and he did not "give a fuck" about police officers. He then abruptly turned towards Officer Wierzbicki and got within a foot of the officer. Officer Wierzbicki impact pushed him, causing Mr. Vaughn to stumble approximately 5-7 feet. Mr. Vaughn turned and charged Officer Wierzbicki, who took him to the ground with the help of a detention officer who was present. He was eventually hand cuffed and taken into custody.

Mr. Vaughn did not sustain any injuries. He was placed into a cell and the booking process was eventually completed. Officer Wierzbicki was not in possession of his body worn camera while inside the holding facility. The holding facility has multiple cameras that are in continuous operation. The incident was captured on one of these cameras.

Charges on suspect:

Aggravated assault on an officer

Injuries:

Mr. Vaughn did not sustain any injuries.

Incident Review Summaries

Summary 14

Date of Occurrence: 06/01/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1949

Incident Report: 21-59018

Personnel Involved: Officer Ron Emary #212, Officer Megan Fritz #760,
Officer Kyle Poindexter #830

Force Used: Take down

Subject Actions: Non-compliance with commands, attempted to flee

Summary:

On June 1st, 2021, at 1949 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of a shoplift at 1175 S. Arizona Avenue in Chandler. According to Loss Prevention Staff, a male was concealing items in a backpack and paint bucket.

Officer Emary arrived and contacted two Loss Prevention staff members just outside the entrance of the store. They were talking to the shoplifting male, identified as Dean Balthazor, as Officers Fritz and Poindexter arrived. Officer Emary told Mr. Balthazor he was under arrest and grabbed his arm to arrest him. Mr. Balthazor tensed his arm and attempted to break free, stating he didn't do anything. Officer Fritz and Poindexter also grabbed Mr. Balthazor as he violently attempted to break free from the officers. All three officers took Mr. Balthazor to the ground and took him into custody.

Mr. Balthazor sustained a laceration to his forehead. He was initially treated by paramedics then transported to a local hospital. After he was released from the hospital, Mr. Balthazor was transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility and booked. Photos of the incident were taken, and body worn cameras captured the use of force.

Charges on suspect:

Shoplifting

Resisting arrest

Injuries:

Mr. Balthazor sustained a laceration to his forehead.

Incident Review Summaries

Summary 15

Date of Occurrence: 06/13/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1602

Incident Report: 21-63852

Personnel Involved: Officer Kevin Kimmerling #738

Force Used: Take down

Subject Actions: Intoxicated, balled up fists and got into fighting stance

Summary:

On June 13th, 2021, at approximately 1602 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of indecent exposure at 1909 E. Ray Road in Chandler. During the investigation the suspect of the indecent exposure was located driving a vehicle. A traffic stop on the suspect and subsequent DUI investigation was initiated by Officer Zermeno. Officer Kimmerling responded to assist.

During the DUI investigation the suspect, identified as Isiah Austin, refused to obey instructions. He was belligerent and argumentative towards officers, and at one point started to walk away. Mr. Austin then turned towards Officer Kimmerling, balled up his fists, and got into a fighting stance as he walked towards the officer. Believing Mr. Austin was preparing to assault Officer Kimmerling, both officers grabbed Mr. Austin by the arms. Mr. Austin resisted being grabbed by pulling both of his arms towards his chest. Officer Kimmerling took Mr. Austin to the ground and he was eventually handcuffed and taken into custody. Once on the ground and handcuffed, Mr. Austin kicked Officer Kimmerling in the leg.

Mr. Austin sustained abrasions to his arms and legs. Paramedics responded but Mr. Austin refused treatment. He was subsequently transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility and booked. Body worn cameras captured the use of force. Mr. Austin refused to have photos of his injuries taken.

Charges on suspect:

Aggravated assault on an officer

DUI

Injuries:

Mr. Austin sustained abrasions to his arms and legs.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 16

Date of Occurrence: 06/14/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1955

Incident Report: 21-64353

Personnel Involved: Officer Tyler Cascio #774, Officer Megan Fritz #760

Force Used: Take down X2, impact push

Subject Actions: Suspect refused commands, struck officer in face

Summary:

On June 14th, 2021, at approximately 1955 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of a domestic disturbance at 2177 S. McQueen Road #2066 in Chandler. Officers Cascio and Fritz attempted contact at apartment #2066 but there was no answer. As they spoke to a witness a male who was bleeding from his head walked towards them. The neighbor identified the bleeding male as having been involved in the domestic disturbance.

The bleeding male, later identified as Julian Lucero, attempted to walk past the officers and go into apartment #2066. The officers ordered Mr. Lucero to stop but he refused stating he wanted back into his apartment. Officer Cascio grabbed Mr. Lucero to prevent him from going into the apartment but he pulled away. Officer Cascio then wrapped his arms around him and took him to the ground. Once on the ground Mr. Lucero struck Officer Cascio in the face with an open hand and was able to get on top of Officer Cascio. Officer Fritz impact pushed Mr. Lucero, causing him to get off Officer Cascio. Mr. Lucero got up and attempted to flee but Officer Cascio was able to take him down to the ground a second time. Both officers were able to handcuff Mr. Lucero and take him into custody.

Mr. Lucero sustained a head injury prior to police contact. Paramedics responded and transported him to a local hospital where he was admitted for his injury and psychiatric evaluation. Officer Cascio sustained a laceration to his face and was treated by paramedics. Body worn cameras recorded the use of force and photos were taken of the incident.

Charges on suspect:

Aggravated assault on an officer
Disorderly conduct DV

Injuries:

Mr. Lucero had sustained a head injury prior to police contact.
Officer Cascio sustained a laceration to his face.

Incident Review Summaries Summary 17

Date of Occurrence: 06/14/2021
Time of Occurrence: 2057
Incident Report: 21-64415
Personnel Involved: Officer Kevin Kimmerling #738
Force Used: Baton strike
Subject Actions: Suspect refused commands, struck officer in face
Summary:

On June 14th, 2021, at approximately 2057 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of an unknown problem at 800 E. Chandler Boulevard #31 in Chandler. The caller indicated a white Chrysler 300 was headed to the address. Officer Kimmerling was first to arrive and observed two males exit the vehicle and run towards trailer #31.

Officer Kimmerling gave both males orders to stop. Both males refused, with one attempting to force his way into the trailer. Both males appeared angry, agitated, and were refusing Officer Kimmerling's orders to stop. Officer Kimmerling pushed one of the males, identified as Humberto Peredo, away from the front door to prevent him from entering. As he ordered Mr. Peredo to the ground, he grabbed the other male to detain him. As additional officers arrived, Mr. Peredo balled up his fists, got into a fighting stance, and moved towards Officer Kimmerling. Officer Kimmerling withdrew his expandable baton and delivered a single baton strike to Mr. Peredo's upper right arm. After the baton strike another officer pointed her conducted electronic weapon towards Mr. Peredo as orders were given to him to get on the ground. Mr. Peredo got on the ground and was taken into custody.

Mr. Peredo sustained a contusion to his right arm. He was treated by paramedics and transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility and booked. A body worn camera captured the use of force and photographs were taken of the incident.

Charges on suspect:

Threats
Interfering

Injuries:

Mr. Peredo sustained a contusion to his right arm.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 18

Date of Occurrence: 06/15/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1531

Incident Report: 21-64638

Personnel Involved: Officer Kevin Kimmerling #738, Officer Ashlie Allison #754

Force Used: Take down

Subject Actions: Suspect slammed door on officer, attempted to flee

Summary:

On June 15th, 2021, at approximately 1531 hours, Chandler Police Officers responded to a call of domestic disturbance at 868 S. Arizona Avenue #1021 in Chandler. The caller indicated a physical confrontation had occurred between her and a male friend.

Officers Kimmerling and Allison arrived and approached the open apartment door. As they approached, they saw a male from inside the apartment slam the door shut. Once the door was closed, both officers could hear a woman's voice scream.

Officer Kimmerling forced open the door and both officers entered. When forcing the door open, it caused the male, identified as Wilson Garcia, to fall backwards into a table with a large TV on it. Mr. Garcia grabbed at the TV as he fell, causing the TV to fall on top of him. Officer Kimmerling lifted the TV off Mr. Garcia and both officers attempted to handcuff him. Mr. Garcia resisted being handcuffed by pulling his arms into his chest and refusing to roll onto his stomach. The officers were eventually able to roll Mr. Garcia over and handcuff him.

Mr. Garcia had abrasions to his neck, face, and right arm. Due to the domestic fight that had occurred prior to police arrival, it was not determined how all the injuries were obtained. Mr. Garcia refused medical aid. He was transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility and booked. Body worn cameras recording the use of force and photographs were taken of the incident.

Charges on suspect:

Disorderly conduct DV

Injuries:

Mr. Garcia had abrasions to his neck, face, and right arm.

Incident Review Summaries
Summary 19

Date of Occurrence: 06/20/2021

Time of Occurrence: 2245

Incident Report: 21-66743

Personnel Involved: Officer Castlegrante #768, Officer Destiny Richardson #805

Force Used: Take down, CEW

Subject Actions: Suspect refused to get out of vehicle, resisted being handcuffed

Summary:

On June 20th, 2021, at approximately 2245 hours, Chandler Police Officer Castlegrante was on frequent patrol at 700 N. Arizona Avenue in Chandler. A license plate check of an unoccupied vehicle showed the registered owner, Jesse Romero, had an outstanding felony warrant. Per the arrest warrant Mr. Romero was to be considered "armed and dangerous." Additional records checks revealed that Mr. Romero had prior arrests for weapons and drug violations.

Officer Castlegrante observed several males enter the vehicle. He contacted the driver of the vehicle as additional officers arrived to assist. Officer Castlegrante determined the front passenger of the vehicle was Mr. Romero. He opened the passenger front door and ordered Mr. Romero to get out several times but Mr. Romero refused. Officer Castlegrante grabbed Mr. Romero's arm and again told him to get out. Mr. Romero tensed his arm and attempted to pull away, refusing to get out of the vehicle. As Officer Castlegrante pulled him out of the car, Mr. Romero tensed his body, refused to put his hands behind his back, and reached for his waistband. Believing he was reaching for a weapon, Officer Castlegrante took Mr. Romero to the ground. Mr. Romero continued to resist as he tucked his hands under his body while on the ground. Officer Richardson deployed her CEW and fired two probes into Mr. Romero's back. After the CEW deployment Mr. Romero stopped resisting and was taken into custody. A firearm and drug paraphernalia were recovered from inside the vehicle's front passenger side.

Mr. Romero sustained puncture wounds from the CEW deployment. He was treated by paramedics and transported to the Gilbert Chandler Unified Holding Facility where he was booked. A body worn camera captured the use of force and photographs were taken of the incident.

Charges on suspect:

Felony warrant
Misconduct involving a firearm
Resting arrest

Injuries:

Mr. Romero sustained puncture wounds from the CEW deployment.

Incident Review Summaries

Summary 20

Date of Occurrence: 06/29/2021

Time of Occurrence: 1930

Incident Report: 21-69491

Personnel Involved: Detective Jeremy Nolan #641

Force Used: Pepper ball rounds

Subject Actions: Suspect fled from police

Summary:

On June 29th, 2021, members of the Chandler Police Department's Criminal Apprehension Unit (CAU) and the United States Marshal's Office were assigned to locate and apprehend Dakota Black for armed robbery. He was also wanted by the Mesa Police Department for a recent shooting. At approximately 1930 hours CAU located Mr. Black at a hotel located at 8008 E. Main Street in the City of Mesa.

As CAU approached the hotel Mr. Black fled out of a window on foot. As several detectives gave him orders to stop, Mr. Black continued to flee on foot alongside the rear of the hotel. Detective Nolan fired several pepper ball munitions towards Mr. Black, but no rounds struck him. Mr. Black continued to run but was eventually taken into custody with no further incident.

Mr. Black did not sustain any injuries. He was transported to the Maricopa County 4th Avenue Jail in Phoenix where he was booked. Detective Nolan did not have his body worn camera activated. No photos of the incident were taken.

Charges on suspect:

Aggravated armed robbery
Misconduct involving weapons
Possession of narcotics

Injuries:

Mr. Black did not sustain any injuries.

