



**AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT
USE OF FORCE INVESTIGATION**



ARREST or SUBJECT'S NAME:		Dierra C. Fields	
CASE NUMBER:		2024-003974	
DATE OF INCIDENT:		01/11/2024	
DATE OF REPORT:		01/12/2024	
Call Card	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Taser Log	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BWC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Officer Statements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

INCIDENT SUMMARY: (A brief recap of the incident)

On Thursday, January 11th, 2024, Officer Shoemaker was working patrol in Car 17. He was dispatched to 818 Saxon Ave. reference a fight. When he arrived on scene, members of the household were engaged in a physical altercation in the living room. He along with other household members, separated the involved parties. After the physical altercation was broken up, a male, later identified as [REDACTED], began having what appeared to be a medical issue, falling on the ground and lying face down. After this occurred, Officer Shoemaker attempted to give medical attention to [REDACTED] while calling for EMS. During this time, the remaining parties continued to argue, creating a volatile scene. Officer Shoemaker made every attempt to ask the parties to separate, sit down and stop fighting so that he could gain control of the scene and conduct his investigation. Sgt. Shmigal soon arrived on scene to assist.

Seeing no other options, Officer Shoemaker made the decision to detain a member of the altercation, Dierra Fields, whom he viewed as being a main instigator, and remove her from the house to calm down the parties. He advised Dierra that she was being placed into handcuffs and detained. While attempting to gain control of Dierra's arms from behind her, she quickly spun and pulled her right arm away from Officer Shoemaker. Believing that she was trying to pull away from him, Officer Shoemaker spun Dierra back around, grabbed her by her arms and took her to the ground. He picked her up and placed her belly down on a couch behind him and placed her into handcuffs without further incident. He walked Dierra out of the home while in handcuffs and placed her into the rear seat of his cruiser.

Dierra refused EMS and had no complaint of injury. She was interviewed on scene by Sgt. Belacic before being issued a summons for Obstructing Official Business and Resisting Arrest.

SUPERVISOR'S ACTION TAKEN:

01/11/2024

- As a result of Sgt. Shmigal being a witness to the UOF, I was contacted to come conduct the investigation. I responded to the scene and conducted interviews with both Dierra Fields and her father, David Fields. I confirmed that Dierra had received medical attention, to which I got confirmation that she refused all treatment. I took photos of Dierra to document her overall appearance as she did not have any injury complaints, nor any visible injuries.

INTERVIEWS

*Below is a summarization of the interviews conducted on scene, not a verbatim translation of them. Each interview that was conducted was interrupted by additional people arriving on scene and causing commotion.

- I interviewed the suspect, Dierra Fields, as she was handcuffed and seated in the rear seat of Officer Shoemaker's cruiser. She stated that she was engaged in a verbal altercation with her father, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She stated that the argument became heated and her father began to push her out of the house while calling 911. She initially stated that Officer Shoemaker told her she was being detained, but later stated she was not given any instructions or warnings. She stated that when her left arm was grabbed, she turned to her right to give up her right arm. She agreed that the scene was chaotic, but



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stated that she was not arguing with anyone while officers were present. She stated that outside of being taken to the ground, no further force was used.

- I interviewed ██████████, the father of Dierra, inside the home. He stated that he called the police because he wanted Dierra to leave the home but she refused. He stated that Dierra lived at the house with him, his wife and granddaughter. He stated that the argument started over drinks being left out. He stated that the officer was getting tired of Dierra yelling and arguing. He stated that he attempted to deescalate the situation by gaining verbal compliance before the force was used. He stated that the officer advised Dierra she was going to be detained before he put his hands on her. He was unable to say if Dierra physically pulled away from the officer, but did state that he believed she tried to go to her car while this was going on. He stated that the officer may have misinterpreted his actions. He did not observe the officer punch, kick or strike her in any way. He did not feel like the officer did anything wrong or use any force that he felt was unnecessary.

01/12/2024

- Complied all reports, viewed all videos, and began my Supervisor Review and Blue Team report.

01/15/2024

- Received Officer Shoemaker's UOF report and reviewed it.
- Received Sgt. Shmigal's Witness UOF Report and reviewed it.
- Completed my Supervisor Review.
- Forwarded my Blue Team forward to Captain Beitzel.

CONCLUSION:

After reviewing all associated paperwork and videos of the incident, I have determined that the force used by Officer Shoemaker, a takedown, was **OBJECTIVELY REASONABLE**. I found Officer Shoemaker's actions to be within the City of Akron's Rules and Regulations and Procedures.

During this incident, Officer Shoemaker found himself in a situation where multiple parties were irate and hostile towards one another. Upon initially arriving on the call, he had to break up a physical altercation that was already occurring. After separating the parties, they continued to taunt and banter back and forth despite his every effort to gain even an ounce of civility from them. To make the situation even worse, Mr. Fields began to have a medical emergency during the chaos. In a last ditch effort to gain control of the situation, he made the decision to detain Dierra, who he viewed as being the main agitator, and remove her from the house and place her into the rear seat of his cruiser. While explaining what he was doing and attempting to place her into handcuffs, she made an abrupt and quick turn away from Officer Shoemaker. Officer Shoemaker interpreted this as her attempting to elude his attempts. It was then, and only then, that Officer Shoemaker made the decision to take Dierra to the ground. He did not use any further force other than physically placing her in handcuffs.

In conclusion, I believe that Officer Shoemaker's actions were not only justified, but deserved as well. It would have been very easy for someone in the same situation to lose their patience and react in a way that would reflect poorly on the Akron Police Department.

INVESTIGATING SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Jason Belacic 1298

PACKAGE REQUIRED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL