

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the incident that took place at 16 Lincoln St on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021.

That day I was assigned to cruiser 507 and I was acting as the south side patrol supervisor. At approximately 1345 hrs. A toned radio call from Dispatch came out over the air that there was an armed robbery in progress taking place at the candy shop at 16 Lincoln St. I radioed dispatch that I was responding. I activated my blue lights and siren and responded to the scene. While en route to the scene, dispatch had updated responding units that the suspect who was described as a white male wearing a green jacket was armed with a knife. The reporting party who identified herself as the candy shop owner was still on the phone line with dispatch acting as she was talking to a "UPS" facility and to misdirect that attention of the suspect who believed was still in the store at the time. As I was pulling off on scene, other officers stated on the radio that the suspect had left the store and entered the apartment entrance next door to the store. I pulled in front of the store and called off on arrival and I spoke to the reporting party who was at the entrance of her store and I asked her if she was hurt in any way. The reporting party who stated that she was

not hurt and did not need medical attention. The reporting party further informed me that the suspect did brandish a knife to her, that the suspect did not try to rob her but had told her, " I don't want to hurt you but you must come with me so you can help me solve this whole mess." The reporting party stated that she used a ruse by pretending that she had to talk to UPS on the phone first before going with him, when she was actually on the phone with 911 dispatchers. The reporting party stated the suspect became agitated and finally left her store and she then locked him out of the store. I informed the reporting party that she should stay in her store and I would send an officer to collect a full statement from her. As I was about to enter the apartment building, Officers on the second floor of the apartment building yelled down to me that they needed the less than lethal shotgun upstairs. I unlocked the less than lethal shotgun from its shelving in my cruiser. I then radioed dispatch that less than lethal shot gun was on scene. I then entered the front entrance of the apartment building. I had the less than lethal shot gun with the entire time I was inside the apartment building.

I made my way up to the second-floor hallway right at the beginning of the stairs leading to the third floor, I met officers Raymond and Spinney along with Det Sgt

O'Connell. Lt D'Angelo also met us at that location with bunker shield. I observed the suspect at the top of the stairwell. I observed the suspect to be a large white male heavy set, wearing a green coat and the knife he had in his hand which he kept up to his own neck. The suspect was yelling at the top of his lungs that we were "fake police and he wanted the real police or the FBI" to come and give him an FBI Cell phone so he could talk to his "real" father. The suspect appeared delusional in his yelling and rantings, that he believed what was going on around him was "only a scenario" and he threatened several times to cut his own throat if we approached him any closer by coming up the stairs, which we didn't. The suspect also took possession of a fire extinguisher with his free hand and was making an under arm swinging motion with it in our direction, as if he was going to toss it at us. I began to talk to the suspect asking him to drop the knife and we would help him and reiterated to him several times that he would not be attacked in anyway. The suspect then asked me who I was, and I told him my name and who I worked for. After communicating with the suspect for a minute or two, the suspect's agitation did not appear to lessen. Officer Raymond then tried to communicate with the suspect which had negative results as well. Lt D'angelo informed me that we should have NEMLEC respond to our location and I asked Lt.

Apotheker (who was on the same floor with us but further away from our location) to make the call for NEMLEC to respond and he told me they were already called and were responding.

As Officer Raymond was communicating with the suspect, it sounded like a third-floor resident of the building who was not in our view had exited their apartment and began yelling at the suspect briefly and we instructed this neighbor to go back inside his apartment. The suspect began asking what time it was and yelled several times at us that the time we told him it was “fake time” and we only had minutes before he was going to cut his own throat. I then spoke to Officer Raymond, Officer Spinney Lt Dangelo and Sgt O’Connell about creating an option action plan on what we should all do if the suspect approaches us down the stairs with or without the knife. We were all in agreement on what roles and steps we would take if we had to go forward because the suspect was becoming more hostile. These plans focused on using the lesser amount of force before the greater amount of force was to be taken.

Then Officer Scaltreto began communicating with the suspect from the area of the third floor where the neighbor had been yelling at the suspect earlier. Officer

Scaltreto was not in our line of vision, but he was engaging the suspect in conversation and the suspect began to bargain with Officer Scaltreto. I observed the suspect begin to de-escalate his hostility through this conversation and momentarily took the knife from his neck area and held it closer to the area of his waist. Officer Scaltreto's communication appeared like it was making progress with the suspect but then the suspect began to take steps towards the area where Officer Scaltreto's voice was coming from and a series of gunshots rang out and I observed the suspect fall to the floor. I believed I heard a total of four gunshots. It sounded like two shots each tight close to each other. It happened so quickly it startled me greatly. Myself and other officers ran upstairs and there were other officers next to the suspect, attempting to give the suspect medical attention. I radioed dispatch that there was a man down at our location and for the paramedics to respond quickly. Paramedics responded and I left a couple of officers on scene to help the paramedics and then I cleared the rest of the officers out of the building and began to coordinate with Capt. Dowling on securing the scene and its perimeters.

Once outside the building I secured the less than lethal shotgun back into my cruiser. I returned to the front entrance of the apartment building and requested that Detective Curry get a full statement from the reporting party which she did. I assigned officers Lazarakis and Marini the task of shutting down traffic and pedestrian travel on Lincoln St at the intersection of Hartford St. I also assigned Officer M. Boudreau and R. March to block off Lincoln St for traffic and pedestrians at the intersection of Walnut St. as well. I assigned Officer Wilson to the rear of the apartment building for scene safety and security. After Detective Curry was finished getting a full statement from the reporting party, I requested that she stay at the front entrance of the apartment building and attain the duties of a scribe for the investigators who beginning to arrive from the state police. Several of our officers who were involved in this incident appeared were visibly shaken. I retrieved gun belts and department issued firearms from Officers Scaltreto, Spinney, Benes and Sgt Chisholm and secured them in cruiser 508 temporarily and then had Officer Schaefer transport those items and store them in the range. I was able to get ambulances to transport all four officers to Newton Wellesley Hospital for further Medical evaluation. After assisting paramedics and Officer Gaudet and Lt Healy getting the suspect loaded into and

ambulance, I assigned Officer Nardelli to drive the ambulance transporting the suspect to Newton Wellesley Hospital. Shortly after, Captain Dowling instructed me to drive to Newton Wellesley Hospital and get evaluated by medical staff. After a few hours I was cleared by medical staff and returned cruiser 507 back to Newton Police Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sgt. Sean McLean
#S-14