



NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1321 WASHINGTON STREET
WEST NEWTON, MA. 02465



Howard L. Mintz
CHIEF OF POLICE:

DATE : January 8, 2021

SIR:

On January 5, 2021, while working a City of Newton forestry detail on Centre St, dispatch toned out a possible armed robbery with a knife on Lincoln St. Due to my close proximity to Lincoln St, I responded in my personal vehicle. While en route dispatch stated the incident was taking place at 16 Lincoln St, Indulge candy store. Moments later I pulled off in front of Indulge along with Officer Raymond and we were immediately confronted with a man wielding a knife. While exiting my vehicle in full uniform I updated dispatch with a description of the individual, later identified as Michael Conlon, as a white male wearing a green jacket, carrying a knife. Officer Raymond was giving verbal commands to Mr. Conlon to drop the knife. Mr. Conlon then turned and ran through a doorway at 18 Lincoln St. and up a flight of stairs. I identified myself as a police officer and Officer Raymond and I pursued Mr. Conlon as he ran up to the third floor of the apartment building. We stopped on the second floor at the bottom of a staircase below Mr. Conlon and again stated we were police officers. We continued to ask Mr. Conlon to put the knife down but he would not. He was standing beside the door of apartment 3 and began aggressively banging his fist against the door yelling for someone named Danielle to open up. As Officer Raymond and I attempted to deescalate the situation, multiple other officers arrived on scene to assist. It was evident that Mr. Conlon was experiencing some type of agitated chaotic event as he was screaming for "Danielle" to open up the door so loudly that he was spitting and drooling. He was gripping the knife in his hand so tightly that his knuckles and fingers were white. He was demonstrating episodes of extreme paranoia questioning if we were CIA agents out to get him and repeatedly stated that he was in a "simulation." He was continually jittery and could not stop moving and shifting his weight back and forth. Throughout the interaction he would point the knife at us saying he'd "shank" us if we approached or he would hold the knife to his throat and make suicidal statements such as slitting his own neck. I was fearful for the safety of anyone in apartment 3 as he continued to hit the door and state that Danielle was part of the simulation.

I was provided with a ballistic shield to protect officers in case Mr. Conlon ran down the stairs at us. The stairway and adjacent hallway was very narrow which gave little room for officers to move. I took a position at the bottom of the stairs with the shield. Sgt. McLean was behind me to my left with a less-lethal beanbag shotgun and Officer Raymond was behind me to the right with his firearm. We continued attempts to calmly deescalate Mr. Conlon's disturbed demeanor. He yelled that he was hearing voices and was disoriented to what time it was, stating it was 1530 when it was approximately 1400. Mr. Conlon then began asking for someone to call his father.

At some point Officer Scaltreto and other officers were able to make entry to the third floor and stood directly above me, down the hallway from Mr. Conlon. Officer Scaltreto began attempting to deescalate the situation by addressing Mr. Conlon's concerns and stating he would attempt to call his father. He asked him for his father's phone number but Mr. Conlon made statements that the number he had was fake and part of the simulation. Officer Scaltreto began to reduce the intensity in Mr. Conlon and convinced him to put the knife down. Mr. Conlon placed the knife down slowly beside his foot and told us not to move towards him. He continued to crouch near the knife. Then he spontaneously reached down, grabbed the knife, and rushed down the third floor hallway to the officers above me. I immediately ran up the stairs with the shield and as I was approaching the top I heard multiple gunshots. Mr. Conlon fell a couple feet to my right side on the other side of a banister dividing the hallway from the staircase. Officers immediately attempted to administer first aid. The hallway was too narrow so Mr. Conlon was moved to an area a few feet away with more space. I then ran down the stairs to get an AED to bring back up but as I reached the first floor, Medics were entering the building with their equipment. Captain Dowling instructed me to be transported to NWH to be checked out and I cleared the scene in an ambulance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Officer Alexander Spinney