



Communications Unit

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Date: March 29, 2022

Subject: Arrest of LaDonna Paris on October 25, 2021

Today, March 29, 2022, the Tulsa Police Communications Office received several inquiries from the local media in reference to the arrest of LaDonna Paris that took place on October 25 of 2021.

Most of the inquiries stemmed from a social media post directing people to a YouTube channel that had an edited video of an Officer on the call. One inquiry originated from a City Councilor asking a local media group to give the matter attention.

Incident Synopsis:

On 10/25/2021 we were called by employees of the ReStore located at 1234 S. Norwood in reference to a woman who had locked herself in the bathroom. The employees told officers that she had been in there for 4 hours and she left a dog locked in a U-Haul that she arrived in.

They told the officers that she was not allowed to be in the bathroom, and they wanted us to remove her and tell her that she wasn't allowed to come back on the property.

Officers requested our Community Response Team respond to the location to assist with Paris, unfortunately they were busy on another call and unable to respond to the location.

Officers spent 15 minutes talking to Paris through the door telling her that she needed to come out of the bathroom. While the door was locked, it was not beyond the capabilities of the Officers to force their way into the room. The officer continued to attempt verbal coercion and rattling the door to get Paris to comply with the lawful order to come out.

After 15 minutes Paris said she wanted to hear from the Manager to tell her that she had to leave, the officers got the manager on speakerphone and told Paris that she had to leave, but Paris did not believe that it was the actual manager on the phone and dismissed it.

After 17 minutes, the Officers recognized that Paris had been spraying an aerosol can and had a lighter. Officer secured a fire extinguisher and started to formulate a plan to bring another officer to the location to help secure Paris, not knowing what Paris had on the other side of the door.

After 21 minutes Officers formulated a plan to make entry into the room and immediately control Paris' hands. One Officer told Paris to open the door and come out now, when Paris did not open the door, she activated her taser to make an arc sound hoping that that auditory stimulus would prompt Paris to open the door.

At 33 minutes a third officer arrived on scene and Paris still refused to exit the bathroom, the officers formulated a plan to enter the room and secure Paris. While the use of OC spray was discussed the officers chose to not use it and try to control Paris' hands instead.

At 34 minutes officers made entry in the bathroom and quickly took Paris into custody. Paris did sustain a minor injury to her face when officers were taking her into custody on the floor of the bathroom.

EMSA was called to the scene, and they tended to Paris' injury.

Officers spoke to Paris for several minutes outside of the location without incident. When they attempted to get Paris to sit in the back of the police car, Paris actively resisted and kicked one of the officers.

Paris was transported to Tulsa County and did not offer any additional resistance through the course of the booking process.

Summary:

The video that was sent to my attention is edited down from 90 minutes to just under 6 minutes. To be clear, the banter between the officers outside of the presence of the suspect can be received as unprofessional and has been addressed with the Officers.

The overall actions of the Officers and the way in which the call was handled is within the policies of the Tulsa Police Department.

In summary, we were called to a location by staff to remove an individual who was trespassing. The suspect used an aerosol can and lighter in an unsuccessful attempt to set a fire. Officers attempted to call our Community Response team to the location, but they were unable to respond. After 34 minutes of unsuccessful verbal coaxing, Paris still refused to open the door and surrender. Officers forced entry into the small bathroom and quickly secured Paris with minimal force. When loading Paris into a vehicle, she kicked an Officer. During and after transport Paris was compliant with Officers.

Along with this statement, we are also including the links to the full unedited videos on the Media Portal.

The original release of the video was under the guise that an arrest was made. The judge in this case later dismissed the charges due to the mental health condition of Paris. Under normal circumstances, we would not release a video where no arrest was made, and someone was in a mental health crisis.