



CITY OF
REEDSBURG
POLICE DEPARTMENT
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PATRICK B. CUMMINGS
CHIEF OF POLICE



Case R20-10389

Printed on May 6, 2021

Status	Approved
Report Type	Incident
Primary Officer	Jesse Spears
Investigator	None
Reported At	08/24/20 15:12
Incident Date	08/24/20 15:12
Incident Code	ERT : Emergency Response Team Call
Location	3700 WASHINGTON RD, KENOSHA
Zone	
Beat	
Disposition	Closed - Resolved
Disposition Date/Time	08/27/20 14:27
Review for Gang Activity	None

Dispatch Information

CFS #	REPD20-10420
Location	3700 WASHINGTON RD, KENOSHA
Incident Code	ERT : Emergency Response Team Call
Occurred Between	08/24/20 15:12:11 and
Assigned	16:01:21
Enroute	16:01:21
On Scene	16:01:21
Completed	06:59:03

Initial Narrative By Jesse Spears, 08/27/20 10:33

ERT assisted with crowd control for riots/protesting in Kenosha over an officer involved shooting of Jacob Blake.

Det. Sgt. Spears #136

Supplemental Narrative By Timothy Knuth, 09/11/20 11:39

TAK 08-24-20

BACKGROUND

On Monday 08-24-20 the Sauk County Emergency Response Team was requested and responded to the city of Kenosha to assist in response to civil unrest in the city where the city was experiencing rioting, looting and damage to property.

INFORMATION

On Monday 08-24-20 Sauk County ERT members were requested to respond to the city of Kenosha to assist with civil unrest occurring in the city of Kenosha. Sauk County ERT had previously responded to the city of Kenosha on Sunday 08-23-20 and we were deployed to provide security to fire department personnel as they put out several fires in the city. ERT members met at the Sauk County Law Enforcement Center and departed for the city of Kenosha at approximately 4:30 P.M. ERT members arrived in the city of Kenosha and staged at the staging area (Mary D Bradford High School).

Sauk County ERT was split into two teams (field force team and rescue vehicle operation) and I was assigned as a team leader to the rescue vehicle operation. Also assigned to rescue vehicle operation was Detective Pointon (driver), Sgt. Gilbert (navigator), Detective Spears (chemical munitions), Deputy Schlough, Detective Oakeson

and Sgt. Steinhorst. Due to the civil unrest chemical munitions were stored in the rescue vehicle and the LRAD (long range acoustic device) was set up on the rescue vehicle. We were initially assigned to 54th St. and 10th Ave. and responded to this area. While at this location we did not encounter any civil unrest and were at this location without incident.

Command then requested we respond to in front of the courthouse (56th St. between Sheridan Rd and 10th Ave.) as civil unrest was beginning to escalate at this location with rioters throwing objects (rocks, bricks, fireworks, etc.) at law enforcement personnel. As we responded to this location I heard over the radio that a field force personnel needed to be evacuated from the location due to an injury sustained from a firework thrown by a rioter. We positioned our rescue vehicle in front of the courthouse on 56th St. near the Waukesha County rescue vehicle and field force personnel also positioned themselves near the rescue vehicles. As we positioned ourselves the rescue vehicle was struck with numerous hard objects to include bricks, rocks and bottles. There were also numerous fireworks thrown at and exploded near our rescue vehicle. When we arrived on scene I observed a garbage truck was on fire on 56th St. at Sheridan Rd.

I observed a large group of rioters positioned across the street in a park across from the courthouse and the items being thrown at us were coming from this crowd. I estimate the crowd to be approximately 200-300 people. Announcements were made by Sgt. Gilbert over the LRAD system to the crowd to disperse and to leave the park. Announcements were also made by other rescue vehicles to disperse, to stop throwing items and were in violation of a curfew that was in place. The crowd did not obey any of these commands and continued to throw items to include fireworks at field force personnel and rescue vehicles. We observed a mortar firework explode underneath the Waukesha rescue vehicle and several fireworks hit and exploded near or around our rescue vehicle. The Waukesha rescue vehicle became disabled during our deployment at this location.

We requested to use the LRAD system to disperse the crowd and command gave us permission to utilize the LRAD system. The LRAD system was activated and the crowd began to move back from field force personnel, but the crowd did not disperse entirely and continued throwing items at field force personnel. Throughout our deployment at this location we activated and used the LRAD system in attempt to disperse the crowd and stop any further civil unrest. The LRAD system was deployed for no longer than 25 minutes at a time and would be turned off for periods of time and would only be activated again when the crowd became more uncivil and violent.

Announcements were made if these actions did not cease that chemical agents would be introduced to the crowd. Items continued to be thrown at field force personnel and chemical munitions were deployed into the crowd from our rescue vehicle and other rescue vehicles on scene. Detective Spears deployed these agents from the turret of our rescue vehicle and deployed the following: 9 CS 40 mm ferret rounds deployed by the 40 mm chemical munition launcher, 3 OC ferret rounds deployed by the 40 mm chemical munition launcher, 6 flameless tri-chamber OC/CS chemical munitions deployed by hand, 2 instantaneous blast OC chemical munitions deployed by hand. All ferret rounds were accountable when deployed and were directed into the ground, curb or tree bank in front of the crowd. The hand deployment of chemical munitions were deployed upwind of the crowd to use the wind at the fullest extent to safely disperse the crowd.

While attempting to deploy chemical munitions from the turret Detective Spears had to quickly shut the turret at times to prevent from being struck by objects being thrown such as rocks, bricks and fireworks. Chemical munitions were directed in the area of crowd members who were throwing items such as rocks, bricks and fireworks. I observed the crowd begin to use barricades and create shields using umbrellas, dumpsters, street signs and other objects in order to advance closer to field force personnel. The crowd also utilized a human shield tactic where people would deliberately stand in front of a group who were launching or throwing objects. At one point it appeared several members of the crowd attempted to start a dumpster on fire, but they were unsuccessful in igniting the dumpster.

The crowd eventually dispersed until approximately 30 people were left protesting on 56th St. This group of 30 people were non-violent and protested without any issues. We were directed by the command post to return to the staging area and left the courthouse area and returned to the staging area.

No members from the rescue vehicle operation were injured and the rescue vehicle sustained damage from being struck by numerous objects during the operation.

DISPOSITION

Sauk County ERT members assisted in the city of Kenosha.

Submitted By

Timothy A. Knuth #130

