



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WILLIAM F. HONSAL, SHERIFF/CORONER

CIVIL/COURTS
(707) 445-7335

MAIN STATION
826 FOURTH STREET • EUREKA CA 95501-0516
PHONE (707) 445-7251 • FAX (707) 445-7298

CUSTODY SERVICES
(707) 441-5159

October 25, 2024

Dear Mr. Darrin Dickson,

On September 26, 2023, Deputy Ryan Campadonia conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle you were driving. Upon making contact, Deputy Campadonia issued instructions, which you did not follow. A disagreement then ensued at the driver's side of the vehicle.

During this interaction, Deputy Campadonia escalated the situation by breaking the vehicle window, without attempting any initial de-escalation measures.

Our Sheriff's Office Use of Force policy states:

Any peace officer may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. A peace officer attempting to make an arrest need not retreat or desist due to resistance or threatened resistance; nor shall a deputy be deemed the aggressor or lose their right to self-defense by using reasonable force to make an arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance.

The policy further requires that, when time and circumstances allow, and when doing so will not compromise safety, deputies should consider actions that increase safety and reduce the need for force, such as:

- Summoning additional resources when available.
- Formulating a plan with other deputies before entering unstable situations that do not require immediate intervention.
- Employing alternative tactics that do not unreasonably compromise safety.

Additionally, when feasible, deputies are expected to evaluate the totality of circumstances and consider alternative tactics that may encourage voluntary compliance or reduce the need for a higher level of force, per Government Code § 7286(b). Such tactics may include:

- Attempts to de-escalate.
- If possible, utilizing crisis intervention techniques by trained personnel.

While Deputy Campadonia gave you a directive to "roll down the window or open the door" and stated, "get out of the vehicle or I'll break..." before breaking the window with his baton, he may have been legally justified in using this level of force. However, our policy emphasizes that deputies should attempt de-escalation first. Additional law enforcement arrived shortly afterward, and with their assistance, the situation was resolved with minimal further force.



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This incident did not meet the high standards of conduct we uphold at the Sheriff's Office. Our mission is "To protect and serve our community and earn the public's trust through compassion and accountability."

Corrective action has been taken to ensure Deputy Campadonia aligns with our policies. He will be undergoing additional de-escalation training and will be responsible for conducting de-escalation training for the entire patrol division based on his experiences and learning.

We are committed to accountability and continuously improving to meet community expectations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. F. Honsal", is written over the typed name.

William F. Honsal
Sheriff