Media Advisory

Employee Misconduct

Report#: 2018-2170385 Date and Time: December 8, 2018

Location: 5250 W. Indian School Road

Officer Involved: Male, 44-years-old

17 years with the Phoenix Police Department

On February 20, 2019, the Phoenix Police Department was notified by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office of possible criminal misconduct by a Phoenix Police Officer. The department was provided with a video showing an officer striking a handcuffed prisoner, who had fought with the officer while being taken into custody. The 22-year-old man was arrested for shoplifting. This incident occurred on December 8, 2018 at a store located in the area of 5200 W. Indian School Road, where the officer was working off-duty.

When the department became aware of the matter, a criminal investigation was immediately initiated. In addition, the officer was placed on administrative leave and assigned to his home pending the completion of the criminal and internal investigation processes. The criminal investigation has been submitted to the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for review.

Please note, in reviewing the booking paperwork concerning the arrest of the shoplifting suspect, an error in what was written and what has been reported was found. The paperwork submitted by the Phoenix Police Department refers to the fight between the officer and the shoplifting suspect while he was being taken into custody. The report indicates the officer delivered "2-3 knee strikes" and "4-5 closed fist strikes," meaning "two to three" and "four to five" strikes respectively. However, during the transfer of electronic information, the dash character was omitted from the court record and the information appears, and has subsequently been reported as "23 knee strikes" and "45 closed fist strikes."

The Phoenix Police Department is researching this programming issue. This particular matter does not affect the original police report submitted for charge recommendations in this incident.

Public records may be requested via email to Media.Request.PPD@Phoenix.gov, or appear in person at our Records Unit, 1717 East Grant, Street Suite 100.

Sent on behalf of Sgt. Tommy Thompson Phoenix Police Department Public Affairs Bureau