

Jason LaForest
Chief of Police



171 Egremont Plain Road
P.O. Box 368
Egremont Mass. 01258

**TOWN OF EGREMONT
MASSACHUSETTS**

Telephone: (413) 528-2160
Fax: (413) 528-3308

POLICE DEPARTMENT

I, Chief Jason La Forest of the Egremont Police Department am investigating 19-21-AR. This incident took place on 6/25/19.

This event took place prior to my employment with the Town of Egremont. Once I began my employment on 7/1/2019 Mary Brazie (town Administrator) advised me that there was a possible Excessive Use of Force incident that took place involving Officer O'Sullivan of the Egremont Police Department and LOCKRIDGE.

I, Spoke with LOCKRIDGE'S mother, Nona Lockridge on 7/30/19 at 1400 hrs by phone. Nona advised me that she was very upset and concerned with how her son was treated. She states that she has many family members in law enforcement and could not believe what her son had told her (mother was not present during the incident). Nona made mention of her son being disrespected and treated in a condescending manner. Nona also reported that her son was handled aggressively.

I explained to Nona that I would be looking into the matter and addressing it. I advised Nona that her son has the option to file a formal written complaint. I also expressed my willingness to discuss this matter with LOCKRIDGE as well and that he could reach me by phone, email or we could set up a meeting. Nona expressed that her son just wanted to go to court and deal with the license issues and move on. I never heard from LOCKRIDGE once regarding this matter despite my requests to speak with him.

I have not received any formal complaints or follow up from LOCKRIDGE.

I reached out to Chief Eric Munson of the Sheffield Police Department and requested Officer Nourse (responding officer/witness) provide me with a To/From documenting what he witnessed while assisting with the LOCKRIDGE incident.

Officer Nourse states in his To/From that "O'Sullivan instructed the operator to place his hands behind his back so he could be handcuffed. The operator asked why he needed to be placed in handcuffs, at which time O'Sullivan told him to stop resisting and proceeded to strike the operator in the back of his right thigh with O'Sullivan's right knee. I observed O'Sullivan strike the operator approximately three times before stopping. I did not observe the operator trying to resist in any way". (Nourse's statement is attached).

I spoke with Officer O'Sullivan regarding this matter. O'Sullivan stated that his report is very clear and detailed regarding what took place and that he has nothing to add, alter or redact from the report.

I also spoke with Officer Kolb regarding this matter. Officer Kolb reports that his supplemental narrative (attached) describes the incident thoroughly.

CASE REVIEW

- Nourse states O'Sullivan delivered a knee strike to the back of LOCKRIDGE's right thigh approximately three times.
- Kolb and O'Sullivan report that one distraction technique was delivered to the left leg of Lockridge while he was actively resistant.
- Distraction techniques fall within the guidelines for an actively resistant individual.
- Although the term knee strike was used, I find that this was a distraction technique and not a strike after having Officer O'Sullivan demonstrate the actions he took.
- Due to the totality of the circumstances I find that O'Sullivan did not exhibit excessive force in this matter.
- No further action was taken and this IA was closed on 8/1/2019.

Respectfully,
Chief Jason La Forest



Egremont Police Department

Egremont Police Department
NARRATIVE FOR MATTHEW A O'SULLIVAN

Page: 1

Ref: 19-21-AR

Entered: 06/26/2019 @ 0352
Modified: 07/08/2019 @ 0039

Entry ID: 387
Modified ID: 387

Egremont Police Department

Arrest Report

On Tuesday June 25th 2019 I, Officer Matthew O'Sullivan of The Egremont Police Department was assigned to the 0000-0800 shift. I was in full uniform and assigned to marked cruiser number 537. Prior to starting my shift I conducted a cruiser check which included testing the hand held radar unit and dash mounted radar unit with tuning forks.

At approximately 0735 hours I was monitoring traffic in the area of 257 Hillsdale Road. Hillsdale Road is a public way in the Town of Egremont. This area has a speed limit of 35 MPH. During this time I observed a vehicle (NY PC: HKH4484) traveling Eastbound at a speed that I estimated to be greater than the posted speed limit of 35 MPH. I activated the hand held radar unit, observed the audio tone to be of a high pitch and further checked the display screen to find that the vehicle was traveling at 54 MPH.

I activated my emergency lights and stopped the vehicle in the area of Hillsdale Road and Tyrell Road. Upon approaching the vehicle I made contact with operator and requested license and registration. The operator provided me with his information. I then asked the operator how he was. The operator stated "I'm good man, can we just get this over with" I identified the operator as Kenneth A. LOCKRIDGE JR who is the registered owner of the vehicle. I returned to my cruiser and checked the vehicles registration status and LOCKRIDGE license status through my mobile data terminal (MDT). I discovered that LOCKRIDGE's license status was [REDACTED]. I verified this with Berkshire Regional Dispatch (BRD) before requesting a response from Watson's Towing and a mutual aid unit from The Town of Sheffield.

Upon Officer Norse of The Sheffield Police Department arriving on scene I gave LOCKRIDGE an exit order. LOCKRIDGE did not initially comply and had to be told 2-3 times to exit the vehicle. LOCKRIDGE can be described as approximately 5/11' tall and weighing approximately 280 pounds. LOCKRIDGE had a large stature and very thick muscly arms. I advised LOCKRIDGE to place his hands behind his back as he was being placed under arrest for [REDACTED]. LOCKRIDGE did not comply and Officer Norse attempted to assist me with using contact controls to place LOCKRIDGE's hands behind his back. LOCKRIDGE became actively resistant when he tensed up his muscles and attempted to pull his arms in front of his body. I advised LOCKRIDGE to "Stop resisting". Eventually Officer Norse and I were able to place LOCKRIDGE in handcuffs.

LOCKRIDGE informed officer Norse and I that he had a paper from the court in the center console of his vehicle that showed his license was no longer [REDACTED] and asked that I retrieve it. Upon checking the vehicle I discovered a piece of paper from A court in NY with a seal on it informing the reader that LOCKRIDGE had paid fines regarding his [REDACTED]. Based on the appearance of the paper it was difficult to deduce if LOCKRIDGE's license was [REDACTED] regardless of it showing he had paid the fines. After further investigation I informed Officer Norse that he could remove the handcuffs from LOCKRIDGE as I was going to summons LOCKRIDGE for [REDACTED] of a motor vehicle rather than arrest due to the new facts that had been presented. It should be noted that I had been acting in good faith while arresting LOCKRIDGE based off of the information that I had obtained through my mobile data terminal (MDT) (Criminal justice database (CJIS)/registry of motor vehicles (RMV) information) when I had originally placed LOCKRIDGE under arrest. It should also be noted that I had confirmed this information with BRD prior to acting on it. It should further be noted that LOCKRIDGE failed to provide me with documentation regarding his [REDACTED] at the time of

Egremont Police Department
NARRATIVE FOR MATTHEW A O'SULLIVAN

Page: 2

Ref: 19-21-AR

Entered: 06/26/2019 @ 0352
Modified: 07/08/2019 @ 0039

Entry ID: 387
Modified ID: 387

Egremont Police Department

Arrest Report

my first contact with him and that he had not informed me of such until I was in the process of placing handcuffs on him.

I advised LOCKRIDGE that he would be receiving a criminal summons and that I would be towing his vehicle as I could not allow him to continue operating it based off the RMV and CJIS information. When advised of such LOCKRIDGE became agitated and began pacing. I attempted to speak with LOCKRIDGE as did Officer NORSE and de-escalate LOCKRIDGE, however LOCKRIDGE would not calm down. LOCKRIDGE continued pacing; was raising his voice and talking over Officer Norse and I when we tried to speak with him. At the request of LOCKRIDGE Officer Norse retrieved his cell phone from the vehicle. I requested that LOCKRIDGE take a seat in my cruiser several times for safety reasons, however LOCKRIDGE refused. LOCKRIDGE made several statements including "You're not towing my vehicle, that's my vehicle."

Due to LOCKRIDGE's agitated behavior I contacted The Egremont Police Department and requested Officer Kolb who had just come on shift respond to our location. Officer Kolb arrived about the same time as did Watsons Towing. LOCKRIDGE attempted to return to his vehicle and walk past me several times. Each time he was redirected and advised to stay by my cruiser. This was done for officer safety reasons and also for the safety of LOCKRIDGE due to the volume and speed of motor vehicle traffic going by. After several requests and in an attempt to de-escalate LOCKRIDGE officers allowed him access to his vehicle to retrieve some personal property.

Once at the vehicle officer monitored LOCKRIDGE and gave him a few moments to retrieve his personal property. LOCKRIDGE walked to the driver seat of the vehicle, opened the door and leaned/sat partially inside. Officer's advised LOCKRIDGE that he had to step away from the vehicle so that it could be towed. LOCKRIDGE became passively resistant and did not move. LOCKRIDGE was given 5-10 more commands to step away from the vehicle. LOCKRIDGE refused to acknowledge officers commands and continued to argue with officers about the vehicle being towed. Further he stayed leaning up against the vehicle preventing Watsons Towing from impounding it. During this time traffic that was going by was forced to cross significantly far over the center line of the roadway to avoid striking the tow truck that was partially in the roadway. It should be noted that this area of Hillsdale Road (State route 23) is a high traffic area and is located on a hill and near two turns in the roadway. Officers had not yet conducted a search of the vehicle and were unaware of what was in it that LOCKRIDGE could use as a weapon. LOCKRIDGE's consistent arguing, and refusal to move served no legitimate purpose and was creating a hazardous situation for LOCKRIDGE, officers and the motoring public.

Officer Kolb gave LOCKRIDGE three more commands to step away from the vehicle which LOCKRIDGE ignored. I then advised LOCKRIDGE that he was subject to arrest for [REDACTED] if he did not step away from the vehicle. LOCKRIDGE stated "I'm not being [REDACTED]". After a final command was given to LOCKRIDGE and ignored Officer Kolb and I placed LOCKRIDGE in the escort position and began walking him towards my cruiser. LOCKRIDGE became actively resistant when he dropped his weight towards the ground and pushed his legs out in front of him in an attempt to stop Officer Kolb and I from moving him. I advised LOCKRIDGE to "stop resisting". Once at my cruiser LOCKRIDGE I advised LOCKRIDGE to place his hands behind his back. LOCKRIDGE continued to be actively resistant as he attempted to pull both of his hands away from Officer Kolb and I. During this time LOCKRIDGE was tensing his muscles and using physical means to

Egremont Police Department
NARRATIVE FOR MATTHEW A O'SULLIVAN

Ref: 19-21-AR

Entered: 06/26/2019 @ 0352
Modified: 07/08/2019 @ 0039

Entry ID: 387
Modified ID: 387

Egremont Police Department
Arrest Report

resist officer Kolb and I. LOCKRIDGE was given several verbal commands to place his hands behind his back and stop resisting, however he refused to comply and continued to pull away. Fearing for the safety of other officers and myself due to the size and demeanor of LOCKRIDGE and as a result of his actively resistant behavior I delivered a knee strike distraction technique to LOCKRIDGE's left leg. As a result of this LOCKRIDGE momentarily released the pressure from his arms allowing officer KOLB and I to place him in handcuffs. The handcuffs were double locked and checked for tightness. As Officer Kolb and I attempted to place LOCKRIDGE in the rear passenger seat of my cruiser LOCKRIDGE stiffened his body to prevent Officer Kolb and I from doing so. During this time I deemed the LOCKRIDGE's behavior continued to be actively resistant as he was attempting to prevent Officer Kolb and I from continuing to safely effect and arrest and transport him to The Egremont Police Department. After Officer Kolb and I further assisted him and gave him multiple verbal commands LOCKRIDGE eventually got into the cruiser. LOCKRIDGE appeared physically ok at the time of the incident and did not display any signs of injury afterward. At no time did LOCKRIDGE request medical attention.

Prior to transport Officer Kolb and I completed a motor vehicle inventory search of LOCKRIDGE's vehicle and completed the corresponding form in accordance with The Egremont Police Departments Motor vehicle inventory policy. LOCKRIDGE was transported to The Egremont Police Department for booking. Starting and ending mileage of the transport was given to BRD. Once at The Egremont Police Department Officer Kolb and I completed the standard booking process with LOCKRIDGE which included fingerprinting and photographs. Prior to beginning the booking process I read LOCKRIDGE his Miranda rights and later had him sign the corresponding form. During booking LOCKRIDGE was advised of what he was being charged with.

After completion of booking LOCKRIDGE was again handcuffed behind his back and transported to the Southern Berkshire District Court (SBDC). The handcuffs were double locked and checked for tightness. Starting and ending mileage of the transport was given to BRD.

Once at SBDC LOCKRIDGE was brought inside where he spoke with Clerk Magistrate Tom Bartini. Clerk Magistrate Bartini advised LOCKRIDGE of his court date and asked officer's to remove LOCKRIDGE's handcuffs which was done.

Due to the totality of the circumstances I find probable cause to charge LOCKRIDGE with the following:

[REDACTED]

Additional documents attached to this report:

[REDACTED]

Use of force document.

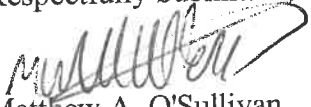
Egremont Police Department
NARRATIVE FOR MATTHEW A O'SULLIVAN

Ref: 19-21-AR

Entered: 06/26/2019 @ 0352 Entry ID: 387
Modified: 07/08/2019 @ 0039 Modified ID: 387

Egremont Police Department
Arrest Report

Respectfully Submitted,


Matthew A. O'Sullivan

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR PATROL MAXIMILIAN KOLB

Ref: 19-21-AR

Entered: 06/26/2019 @ 1048
Modified: 06/26/2019 @ 1057Entry ID: MXK385
Modified ID: MXK385

Egremont Police Department

Arrest Report

On Tuesday June 25th 2019, I Officer Maximilian Kolb was assigned to marked patrol in full uniform for the Egremont Police Department. At approximately 0800hrs I was getting ready for my shift when I received a phone call from Officer O'Sullivan in Cruiser #537 who requested I respond to his location on Hillsdale Rd. at Tyrell Rd.

I took Cruiser #538 and responded to that location. While in route I called Berkshire Sherriff's Control (BSC) to get more information on the call. BSC advised that it was a motor vehicle stop and the operator was [REDACTED] in New York.

I arrived on scene shortly after and was met by Officer O'Sullivan and Officer Nourse of the Sheffield Police Department. Officer O'Sullivan informed me that the operator of the vehicle was [REDACTED] in NY and that he would be issued a criminal application for [REDACTED] of a vehicle. Due to the fact that no other licensed driver was available, Watsons Auto had been called for a tow and was in route to our location.

The operator of the vehicle, LOCKRIDGE, Kenneth (DOB 04/07/93) was leaning against the cruiser with his arms crossed. When informed that his vehicle would be towed LOCKRIDGE stated "No way." He asked to get some personal belongings out of his vehicle and Officer Nourse and I followed him to let him retrieve items from his vehicle. LOCKRIDGE retrieved his cell phone from the front passenger side of his car. He then stood there for over a minute despite me telling him that we have to move so the tow truck could load up his vehicle.

It should be noted that the area of the motor vehicle stop on Hillsdale Rd. was a dangerous spot with cars coming down the mountain travelling eastbound at a high rate of speed. Due to the time it was morning rush hour and there was a high volume of traffic. Our cruisers were partially in the eastbound lane and the tow truck was also partially protruding into the roadway. Due to these safety hazards I wanted to clear the area as quickly as possible for the safety of the Officers, LOCKRIDGE himself as well as the tow truck operators.

LOCKRIDGE would not move from the passenger side of the vehicle despite me telling him numerous times that at this point we had to tow his vehicle but that he would be able to get his chance in court if his NY driver's license was indeed active as he claimed it was. LOCKRIDGE then walked around the front of his vehicle to roll up his window. I advised him to leave it and that the tow truck operator would roll it up for him.

LOCKRIDGE was now at the front driver's side of his vehicle. I again told him to please come with us voluntarily so we could give him a courtesy ride to the station where he could find a ride home. LOCKRIDGE instead move his right leg into the vehicle and was leaning into the vehicle so that in fact he was halfway into the driver's seat. I became concerned for our safety since it appeared entirely possible that he could fully jump into the car and try to leave at any moment.

I again asked LOCKRIDGE to please come with us to make this "as easy as possible for everyone involved." LOCKRIDGE again made no intention of moving and complying with me. At this point we were all standing at the side of the vehicle which was facing the roadway. Cars were still travelling by us at a high rate of speed and it had started to rain which made for poor visibility.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR PATROL MAXIMILIAN KOLB

Ref: 19-21-AR

Entered: 06/26/2019 @ 1048
Modified: 06/26/2019 @ 1057

Entry ID: MXK385
Modified ID: MXK385

Egremont Police Department

Arrest Report

I then took control of LOCKRIDGE's right arm and escorted him back to the cruiser with Officers Nourse and O'Sullivan. LOCKRIDGE began tensing up and resisting our efforts to walk him to the cruiser. At this point we attempted to place LOCKRIDGE into custody for disorderly conduct. LOCKRIDGE tensed up and I had to force his right arm behind his back to put handcuffs on. LOCKRIDGE kept actively resisting by tensing up his arms. Officer O'Sullivan delivered a distraction technique to LOCKRIDGE's left leg. This allowed me to place handcuffs on. I checked the handcuffs for proper tightness and double locked them.

After initially refusing to get into the cruiser LOCKRIDGE finally sat in the cruiser and Officer O'Sullivan transported him to the station for booking. I assisted with the booking process and took photographs and fingerprints. LOCKRIDGE had large wrists and complained multiple times about the handcuffs being too tight. Each time I re-applied handcuffs to him during the booking process I checked for proper tightness. I was able to fit my pinkie finger between the cuff and his wrist every time.

Respectfully Submitted,



Officer Maximilian Kolb