



**MEMORANDUM  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**DATE:** December 17, 2018

**TO:** File

**FROM:** Sergeant Wes Morey

**SUBJECT:** Sergeant William Clayton Interview  
Internal Affairs Case # 2016-010

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On October 17, 2016 at approximately 1250 hours, Sergeant Clayton was interviewed by DA Inspector Edward Delfin at the Santa Cruz Police Department. The following is a summary of the interview.

Sergeant Clayton has been employed by the Santa Cruz Police Department for fifteen years. At the time of this incident, he was assigned to Operations as the A-side graveyard field supervisor.

Sergeant Clayton stated on October 16, 2016 at approximately 0330 hours, Officer Bailey was dispatched to [REDACTED] Chace Street for a subject pounding on the door, causing a disturbance. The reporting party (RP) provided the name of the responsible as Sean Arlt. Sergeant Clayton immediately recognized the name. During a department-wide training on October 12, 2016, the arrest of Mr. Arlt on October 11, 2016 was discussed among the police officers present at the training. The incident was discussed in the context of Taser training – How Mr. Arlt got into a physical confrontation with officers, exhibited exceptional strength and the Taser was ineffective in subduing him. During Sergeant Clayton’s roll call briefing earlier in the evening, he again discussed the details of the same incident from October 11, 2016 as it was written on a probable cause to arrest form. He reiterated that if they were to encounter Mr. Arlt, the entire shift would respond.

When the call for service was dispatched, the following officers responded from the police station: Sergeant Clayton, Officer Bailey, Officer Baker and Officer Cockrum. These were all the

available officers at the time. While they were on their way to the residence, dispatch provided an update that the subject was now at the back door of the house, screaming that he was going to kill somebody. They approached the residence from Delaware Avenue and then southbound on Getchell Street. The units parked on Getchell Street a few houses from [REDACTED] Chase Street. Sergeant Clayton expected that because the number of the residence was [REDACTED] the residence would be a few houses from the intersection of Chase Street and Getchell Street, not right at the intersection.

When Sergeant Clayton got out of his patrol vehicle, he saw Mr. Arlt at the back door of the residence holding something in his hand. He notified the rest of the officers that Mr. Arlt was armed. Sergeant Clayton thought that Mr. Arlt may have been holding an ax handle or something similar. Sergeant Clayton assigned roles to the officers. He designated himself to have the Taser along with Officer Baker while Officer Cockrum and Officer Bailey were designated to have lethal force available. Sergeant Clayton added that ideally, he wanted to also have another set of officers designated as the "hands team" to affect the arrest, but he did not have any more officers available at that time.

Officer Bailey engaged Mr. Arlt in a conversation, asking him to come out and talk with the officers. Sergeant Clayton briefly lost sight of Mr. Arlt behind the backyard fence. Within a few moments, Mr. Arlt came out of the backyard fence gate wielding a metal bow rake. Sergeant Clayton described the rake as having a five to six foot handle, a fixed metal head that was approximately two feet wide. There were four-inch fixed metal tip blades spread across the metal head. Mr. Arlt had the rake in a "port arms... swinging position" over his right shoulder as he walked on to the driveway. Sergeant Clayton was slightly in front of the other officers so he was not sure what their exact positions were behind him.

Sergeant Clayton commanded Mr. Arlt, "Drop the weapon", at least four to five times. Sergeant Clayton believed that Mr. Arlt was intent to use the rake against them. He did not observe Mr. Arlt show any indication that he was going to drop the rake or stop advancing. Mr. Arlt walked on to Getchell Street advancing towards the officers. Sergeant Clayton aimed his Taser at Mr. Arlt and saw his red laser beam on his shoulder. He also saw another set of red laser beams on him. Mr. Arlt continued to get closer to the officers and got within twenty to twenty-five feet. As he got closer, Mr. Arlt raised the rake even higher like he was ready to swing the rake down. Sergeant Clayton believed that Mr. Arlt was not going to stop and comply with his commands. Sergeant Clayton said, "Taser, Tasker" and then fired a Taser round at Mr. Arlt. Sergeant Clayton heard another Taser deployed. The Tasers did not have any effect on Mr. Arlt.

As the Tasers were still cycling through, Mr. Arlt "charged" towards the officers. Sergeant Clayton described Mr. Arlt's actions to that of a running back in a football game charging ahead after getting the football. Sergeant Clayton said that Mr. Arlt continued past him and was fixated on

someone to Sergeant Clayton's left hand side. Sergeant Clayton at that point was "frightened" because he did not have any time to transition to lethal force to stop Mr. Arlt. While Sergeant Clayton's Taser was still cycling, he heard two gunshots. Sergeant Clayton was "very relieved" when he heard the shots. Sergeant Clayton said he was the closest to Mr. Arlt and felt defenseless. Without the shots being fired, he was certain that Mr. Arlt was going to try to kill him or the other officers. Sergeant Clayton added, "I wished I would have had a gun in my hand instead of a Taser at the point he started charging... I felt vulnerable".

Mr. Arlt immediately fell forwards. Sergeant Clayton and the other officers rendered aid to Mr. Arlt and noticed that he was still holding on to the rake. Sergeant Clayton kicked the rake away from Mr. Arlt. As they were rendering aid, Mr. Arlt was still "thrashing around" and trying to kick the officers. They were eventually able to cuff him. As the officers rendered aid on Mr. Arlt, Sergeant Clayton called for additional resources to the scene.

Sergeant Clayton expressed that despite his specific training and experience as a member of the Hostage Negotiations Team, he was unable to apply his training to this situation, because he never had an opportunity to even get into a dialogue with Mr. Arlt. Although Sergeant Clayton specifically trained for crisis where somebody may harm themselves or some else, the opportunity to apply his skills never presented itself in this incident, because there was never a pause for them to start a conversation with him.

It should be noted, Sergeant Clayton had activated his digital audio recorder during the call.

During the course of the interview, DA Inspector Delfin had Sergeant Clayton draw a diagram depicting the area where the OIS occurred. The diagram is located in section 13 of this report. The following is a reference guide of the notation on the diagram:

- Sergeant Clayton marked the intersection of Getchell Street and Chase Street
- He marked a rectangle "████ Chase"
- X and labeled "Subject" to depict Mr. Arlt's initial location
- X with a circle around it as Sergeant Clayton's position
- Four vehicles parked facing south indicating the patrol vehicles
- A dashed line to indicate Mr. Arlt's path of travel
- B – where Mr. Arlt was standing when Sergeant Clayton deployed his Taser
- Rectangle labeled as possible vehicle parked in front of █████ Getchell Street

End of interview.