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DEVELOPING

Videos of Clarkston arrest make rounds online

Some concerned about possible racial profiling; police say man refused to comply with orders

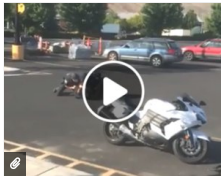
By KERRI SANDAINE of the Tribune Jun 26, 2019 Updated Jul 9, 2019



The screenshot of an online video shows Clarkston police officers Chris Lorz and Anthony Bennett subduing Mark A. Domino in the parking lot of the Clarkston Walmart on Monday evening. Police confronted Domino in response to a suspected vehicle prowler. Videos of the incident drew thousands of views on social media sites Tuesday.

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Editor's note: A different video of the same incident no longer appeared to be available on YouTube as of Tuesday evening.



Clarkston arrest

This online video shows Clarkston police officers Chris Lorz and Anthony Bennett subduing Mark A. Domino in the parking lot of the Clarkston W...

Videos of two white police officers subduing a black man with a stun gun in the Clarkston Walmart parking lot blew up on social media Tuesday, sparking concerns of racial profiling.

Clarkston police have launched an internal investigation into the use of force, which is routine whenever a Taser is deployed, Chief Joel Hastings said. The department has no history of racial bias, and the incident is under careful review, he said.

"We haven't received any formal complaints about this, but it did get a lot of attention on social media," Hastings said. "Citizens are required to cooperate with lawful orders during an investigation, and the man refused to cooperate. The outcome is unfortunate. Because there was a use of force, our agency will conduct an internal review, which is part of our protocol."

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Community members voiced concerns of excessive force, as well as support for the police department, on social media posts of the videos that have been viewed more than 20,000 times and shared more than 500 times as of Tuesday evening.

The man, later identified as Mark A. Domino, 52, can be heard repeatedly asking, "Why are you detaining me?" as the officers made contact with him.

Hastings said police were called to the scene at about 5:45 p.m. Monday after a community member contacted Whitcom Regional Dispatch Center about a suspected vehicle prowler in the parking lot. The man was described as a black male approximately 5 feet, 11 inches tall, wearing a backpack.

When the first officer arrived, he found a man matching the description standing near a motorcycle, Hastings said. The officer asked the man for identification.

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Domino reportedly refused to comply with orders and became agitated, Hastings said. In his report, the first officer, Chris Lorz, said he felt it would be safer to detain the man while he conducted his investigation.

A second officer, Anthony Bennett, arrived at the scene, and Domino continued to refuse to comply with their orders, according to police. Initial attempts to handcuff him were unsuccessful.

In the video, Domino, who is employed at Walmart and had just finished his shift, kept asking why he was being questioned, saying he knows his rights and didn't do anything. A woman in the background can be heard saying, "Mark, are you OK?"


After he was told he was under arrest for obstruction, the man reportedly broke loose and was consequently subdued with a Taser, the chief said.

Domino was handcuffed, taken to the Asotin County Jail and cited and released on two misdemeanors. He is facing charges of obstructing a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest. The police report has been sent to City Prosecutor Todd Richardson for a charging decision.

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