



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE GABRIEL CAMACHO

101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

NONEMERGENCY NUMBER: (540) 434-4436

FAX NUMBER: (540) 437-2691

WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

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Contact: Lt. Chris Monahan
HPD Public Information Officer
(540) 432-8905
hpd-pio@harrisonburgva.gov

HPD Resolves Armed Barricade With Less-Lethal Tactics

HARRISONBURG, VA – On March 25, 2021 at approximately 9:00 am, officers with the Harrisonburg Police Department attempted an Emergency Custody Order (ECO) service on a male located at Motel 6 on South Main Street Harrisonburg. The ECO was obtained by family members who were concerned about his mental health.

The 29-year-old male, from New York then barricaded himself inside his hotel room with a knife and threatened to harm himself. Officers then established a perimeter to contain any possible threat to others in the area. Members of HPD's Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) were requested to respond to the incident.

Once the immediate area was secured, members of HPD's Patrol Division established communication with the male. CNT team members arrived on location and continued this communication for nearly two hours in an attempt to gain compliance. CNT members receive specialized training in negotiating peaceful resolutions to crisis situations.

While negotiations were taking place, the male exited the room and approached officers with a knife. An officer deployed a Taser which was ineffective, and the subject returned inside the room.



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At approximately 11:10 am, the male once again exited his room, still armed with a knife and approached SWAT officers maintaining the perimeter. At this time, two less lethal impact munitions were deployed as he was attempting to breach the perimeter with the knife. As a result of utilizing the less lethal option, HPD officers were able to take the subject into custody without injury.

Taser devices and impact munitions are designed with the intent of eliciting a degree of incapacitation, giving law enforcement an opportunity to safely apprehend an individual.

“It’s always dangerous dealing with individuals in crisis, especially when they are armed with a weapon. In this situation, officers were patient and methodical with their tactics and attempts to safely take the male into custody,” said Interim Police Chief Gabriel Camacho. Camacho went on to say, “This is a prime example of why we send officers to advanced trainings such as Integrating Communications, and Tactics (ICAT), Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT) and other de-escalation tactics.”

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