

WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police
Memorandum

San Francisco Police Department

To: Acting Captain Mark Im
Commanding Officer
General Crimes

From: Sergeant Thomas Ly #793
General Work

Date: Monday, August 29, 2022

Subject: Citizen Recognition

o c e 9/18/22
ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID LA...
SFPD OPERATIONS BUREAU



APPROVED APPROVED YES NO

Lt. GREER #2037

to # 293 / Capt. Mark Im #2096

CMDR. ERIC VINTERO

DEPUTY CHIEF RAJ VASWANI
WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

On 7/25/22 at approximately 0035 hours, Officers Shaheed #400 and Vidulich #260 responded to [redacted] 5th St regarding a person screaming in distress and banging on walls. [redacted] 5th St is managed by [redacted] and houses individuals from 18 to 25 years of age who are homeless or at high risk of being homeless.

After making contact with the front desk clerk who called the police, the officers responded to the [redacted] floor where they located Larry Jorgensen laying on the floor in the hallway outside his room. **Anthony Clewis**, a neighbor, was standing over Jorgensen and checking on him. Clewis said he thought Jorgensen may have had a seizure.

Officer Vidulich removed a pocket knife clipped to Jorgensen. Suddenly, Jorgensen got up and began aggressively yelling at the officers, "I'll kill you," and, "You want to die? You want a machete shoved up your fucking throat?" Jorgensen continued to yell, "I'm a man with nothing left to lose.... Shoot me! Shoot me!.. Kill me! Kill me!" Almost immediately, Clewis was physically holding and struggling to keep Jorgensen from advancing at the officers. Clewis also attempted to verbally calm Jorgensen down.

The officers attempted to deescalate the situation and additional officers, including Officer Mathiesen #1386, arrived on scene. The officers then observed Jorgensen enter his room and emerge with a machete that had a blade over a foot long. As Jorgensen attempted to charge at the officers, Clewis placed his body and arms in front of Jorgensen to block him. Jorgensen reached the machete past Clewis and waved it at the officers telling them to shoot him.

Jorgensen returned to his room and came back out without the machete. Jorgensen again attempted to charge at the officers saying he was going to kill them. Clewis placed himself between Jorgensen and the officers to physically keep Jorgensen from advancing.

Additional officers arrived on scene, created distance, and continued to attempt to deescalate the situation. While Jorgensen was distracted and continuing to threaten the officers, Clewis went into Jorgensen's room and removed the machete, a knife, and a bat so Jorgensen wouldn't be able to go back in and re-arm himself. Eventually, about

12 minutes from the initial encounter with Jorgensen, officers were able to take Jorgensen into custody.

This incident was documented in SFPD report 220491592.

I reached out to Officers Vidulich, Shaheed, and Mathiesen who all agreed that Clewis placed himself in harm's way and that Clewis' actions kept the situation from likely escalating to a use of deadly force by the officers against Jorgensen.

The SFPD does not encourage citizens to place themselves in dangerous and harrowing situations. However, in this situation, I believe that Clewis evaluated the risks and acted in a measured manner. I would like to recognize **Anthony Clewis** for selflessly putting himself in danger to protect the officers from a potentially lethal assault and also preventing the suspect from forcing the officers to use lethal force to protect their lives. It should be noted that

I recommend this memorandum be forwarded to the Chief of Police and Police Commission for recognition of this outstanding citizen.