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CHEEKTOWAGA OFFICERS RECOUNT ARREST OF ALLEGED DOLLAR GENERAL SHOOTER

By Mark Goshgarian | November 16, 2017 @5:11 PM

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CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. — Cheektowaga police officers Dominic Schwartz and Lt. Anthony Filipski recounted how they tackled and arrested 29-year-old Travis Green Tuesday as seen in a dashcam video.

"As I saw him run, his hands were obviously empty, so I made a determination at that point not to shoot him," said Officer Dominic Schwartz, Cheektowaga Police.

They described the events leading to Green's capture as chaotic.

"You don't want to go to work thinking that you might have to kill someone. It's in the back of your head, when you pull up to a situation like that," said Schwartz.

"Very rewarding to know that nobody really got hurt or killed. We were overwhelmed the first five minutes because we're getting reports from witnesses there were more shooters, there's more people in the parking lot, there's more people down," said Lt. Anthony Filipski, Cheektowaga Police.

Police say Green opened fire into the Dollar General near Union Road, shooting one man in the shoulder inside, and shattering the store-front glass. Officers credit their use of force training with preventing the situation from getting worse.

"When I look back, it was like in slow motion almost. You think of all the training that you received. 'How am I going to approach this, what am I going to do if I engage the suspect?'" said Schwartz.

"We're not judge, executioner, jury. Our job is to make people safe, get people into custody, get them in front of a judge and let the system run its course," said Filipski.

The department is now working with the district attorney's office to see if any additional weapons charges will be filed because of a possible Safe Act violation. And while police continue to search for a motive, they believe Green went to the store to apply for a job.

"[He] was told to do it online and apparently he felt that he was disrespected. He felt apparently that was his way of handling things," said Asst. Chief James Speyer, Cheektowaga Police.

Police also say Green's mom revisited the Dollar General as well as Daryll's Car Audio Thursday, causing a scene, telling people her son is a good boy. Police were called and she was asked to leave the area and not return.



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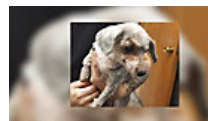
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