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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

DUSTIN A. LOUIE,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
C/O FOO, SGT. BLIVEN, and  
C/O THOMAS W. FRANTZ,  
  
Defendants.

NO. 2:16-CV-0336-TOR  
  
ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT; DENYING  
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR  
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

BEFORE THE COURT are Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 33) and Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 41). These matters were submitted for consideration without oral argument. The Court has reviewed the record and files herein, and is fully informed. For the reasons discussed below, Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 33) is **GRANTED** and Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 41) is **DENIED as moot.**

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1 **BACKGROUND**

2 Plaintiff Dustin A. Louie, a prisoner currently housed at the Washington  
3 State Penitentiary, is proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis*. ECF No. 16 at 1.  
4 On March 15, 2017, Plaintiff filed his unverified First Amended Complaint  
5 alleging violations of his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights in violation of  
6 42 U.S.C. § 1983. ECF No. 15. Plaintiff seeks declaratory relief against  
7 Defendants Spokane County Detention Services, Corrections Officer Foo, and  
8 Sergeant Bliven. *Id.* at 1-3. The Court dismissed Plaintiff’s claims against  
9 Spokane County Detention Services with prejudice, but his claims against  
10 Defendants Foo and Bliven remain, for which they were served. ECF Nos. 16 at 3;  
11 18 at 1.

12 On December 27, 2017, Plaintiff filed an unverified Second Amended  
13 Complaint to add Officer Thomas W. Frantz. ECF No. 32.<sup>1</sup> Yet, Plaintiff failed to  
14 assert a short and plain statement showing that he is entitled to relief and his  
15 Second Amended Complaint (ECF No. 32) appears as a mere supplement to the  
16 First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 15). The Court instructed Plaintiff that he  
17 must file a second amended complaint that would operate as a complete substitute

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff incorrectly spelled Officer Frantz last name using an “s” rather than  
20 a “z”.

1 for the prior complaint. *See* ECF No. 31. Plaintiff failed to correctly file the  
2 Second Amended Complaint as instructed. In any event, since Plaintiff is  
3 proceeding *pro se* and the Court has the obligation to screen prisoner complaints,  
4 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the Court will simultaneously review the parties' motions for  
5 summary judgment and screen the allegations against Officer Frantz even though  
6 he has not been properly added or served at this time.

7 On January 26, 2018, Defendants filed a Motion for Summary Judgment,  
8 seeking a complete dismissal of Plaintiff's claims with prejudice. ECF No. 33. On  
9 February 6, 2018, the Court filed the required *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952 (9th  
10 Cir. 1998) notice instructing Plaintiff on the summary judgment rule requirements.  
11 ECF No. 40. Plaintiff did not timely respond to Defendants' Motion, but filed his  
12 own Motion for Summary Judgment on March 8, 2018. ECF No. 41. Defendants  
13 reply that Plaintiff's Memorandum in Support of Plaintiff's Summary Judgment  
14 (ECF No. 41) does not include any affidavits, provide a statement of disputed  
15 facts, offer any facts that were not plead in the First Amended Complaint, and was  
16 not timely. ECF No. 42 at 1-2.

## 17 **FACTS**

18 The following are the undisputed facts unless otherwise noted. For purposes  
19 of summary judgment, "[i]f a party fails to properly support an assertion of fact or  
20 fails to properly address another party's assertion of fact as required by Rule 56(c),

1 the court may ... consider the fact undisputed.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e)(2). Plaintiff  
2 did not address Defendants’ assertion of facts (ECF No. 34), as he did not file a  
3 response. In Plaintiff’s unverified Motion for Summary Judgment, he asserted  
4 similar facts to those found in his unverified First Amended Complaint. *See* ECF  
5 Nos. 41 at 5-6; 15. The following facts are undisputed or deemed so due to  
6 Plaintiff’s failure to properly address Defendants’ facts and his complete failure to  
7 support his assertions of fact with admissible evidence.

8 **1. July 27, 2016 Incident**

9 On July 27, 2016, Officer Foo and Officer Frantz were working transport to  
10 superior court video. ECF No. 34 at ¶ 1. Plaintiff was escorted with eight other  
11 inmates into the video courtroom and once seated, he began talking to another  
12 inmate. *Id.* at ¶ 5. Officer Foo instructed Plaintiff that he was to stop talking when  
13 the judge took the bench, but Plaintiff continued to talk when the judge was on the  
14 bench. *Id.* at ¶¶ 6, 8. Officer Foo instructed Plaintiff to stop talking and the court  
15 clerk also told him to stop talking. *Id.* at ¶¶ 9-10.

16 After the third instruction, Plaintiff did not stop talking and Officer Foo told  
17 him to stand up and leave the courtroom, but Plaintiff refused to stand up.<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at

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19 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiff claims Officer Foo threw his sandal/slipper towards the side of the  
20 room and Plaintiff then stood as told by Officer Foo. ECF Nos. 15 at 5; 41 at 5.

1 ¶¶ 11-13. Officers Foo and Frantz walked over and stood in front of Plaintiff,  
2 Officer Foo again instructed Plaintiff to stand up and come with him. *Id.* at ¶ 16.  
3 Officer Foo told Plaintiff that if he did not get out of the chair, he would take him  
4 out of the chair, but Plaintiff again refused to stand up. *Id.* at ¶¶ 17-18. Officer  
5 Foo took Plaintiff's right arm and Officer Frantz took Plaintiff's left arm. They  
6 pulled him out of the seat to remove him from the courtroom. *Id.* at ¶ 20. Plaintiff  
7 locked his hands together in front of him, and in the door he began to pull and twist  
8 away from the officers. *Id.* at ¶¶ 21-22. The officers were unable to control him  
9 and Officer Foo took Plaintiff to the floor using a hair hold technique. *Id.* at ¶¶ 25-  
10 26. Plaintiff continued to resist on the ground and the officers instructed him to  
11 stop resisting. *Id.* at ¶¶ 27-28. Officer Frantz delivered a fist strike to the lower  
12 left back area of Plaintiff and instructed him to give Officer Frantz his hands, but  
13 Plaintiff would not release his hands from their locked position under his body. *Id.*  
14 at ¶¶ 29-31. Officer Frantz delivered a knee strike to the lower left back area and  
15 Plaintiff released his grip. *Id.* at ¶ 32. Officer Frantz was then able to get  
16 Plaintiff's left hand behind his back. *Id.* Officer Foo was also able to gain control  
17 of Plaintiff's right arm behind his back.<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 33.

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19 <sup>3</sup> Plaintiff insists that his arm was pinned underneath him because Officer Foo  
20 had the majority of his weight on Plaintiff's shoulder blade. ECF Nos. 15 at 5; 41

1 Plaintiff was then handcuffed and escorted from the courtroom, but began  
2 resisting by twisting his body in the hallway. *Id.* at ¶ 35. Sergeant Bliven heard a  
3 call from transport stating they needed an elevator. He went to the elevator and  
4 observed several staff escorting Plaintiff. *Id.* at ¶¶ 36-37. Officers Frantz and Foo  
5 escorted Plaintiff to housing where he was then searched and the handcuffs were  
6 removed through the food slot. *Id.* at ¶ 39. Sergeant Bliven requested medical to  
7 see Plaintiff, but Plaintiff refused to come to the door or talk to the RN. *Id.* at ¶ 42.  
8 Plaintiff was seen approximately two weeks later for neck and side pain, but stated  
9 that the pain was better.<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 43.

10 On July 27, 2016, Plaintiff was charged with violation of Major 14 –  
11 Refusing lawful order; Major 19 – Threat to staff; and Minor 12 – Inmates shall  
12

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 at 5. Plaintiff states that Officer Foo then adjusted his position so that Plaintiff's  
15 arm was no longer pinned down. ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 5.

16 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiff contends that he wrote to the medical personnel because he had lost  
17 feeling in his toes and it took three weeks for him to receive the needed attention.  
18 ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 5. Plaintiff admits that he believes Sergeant Bliven told  
19 the nurse to come back and check on Plaintiff's medical condition once he was  
20 taken to segregated housing. ECF No. 41 at 5.

1 not interfere with staff members. *Id.* at ¶ 70. Plaintiff waived his right to a hearing  
2 and received placement in restrictive housing for seven days. *Id.*

### 3 **2. August 13, 2016 Incident**

4 On August 13, 2016, Officer Vanatta was assigned duties as the break relief  
5 officer. *Id.* at ¶ 44. Plaintiff was screaming/singing loudly out his door and  
6 Officer Vanatta kicked his door and told him to knock it off. *Id.* at ¶¶ 47-48.  
7 Plaintiff claims a fellow inmate requested a prayer song and Plaintiff was singing.  
8 ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 5. Defendants assert that Plaintiff was yelling out his door  
9 to another inmate and Officer Vanatta again told Plaintiff to stop yelling, but he  
10 continued to yell. ECF No. 34 at ¶¶ 51-54. Officer Vanatta notified Sergeant  
11 Bliven via radio and requested Plaintiff be moved for not following directions and  
12 inciting. *Id.* at ¶ 55. Sergeant Bliven learned that the inmate was Plaintiff when he  
13 arrived. *Id.* at ¶ 56. Plaintiff was ordered multiple times to “cuff up” and after  
14 approximately three minutes he was handcuffed.<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 58-59.

15 Plaintiff was defiant during the escort and tried to pull away so he was  
16 walked doubled over. *Id.* at ¶ 60. Plaintiff attempted to stand up against staff and

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18 <sup>5</sup> Plaintiff contends that after he was told to “cuff up,” he grabbed his legal  
19 work and on the way to the door saw Officer Foo and Sergeant Bliven. ECF Nos.  
20 15 at 6; 41 at 6.

1 he was placed on the floor without force. *Id.* at ¶¶ 61-62. Plaintiff was given  
2 directives not to resist and to cooperate. Plaintiff acknowledged the directives and  
3 he was stood to his feet.<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 63-64. Once in the cell, Plaintiff was searched  
4 and the cuffs were removed through the food slot. *Id.* at ¶ 66. During med pass,  
5 Plaintiff allegedly apologized to Officer Vanatta.<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 69.

6 On August 13, 2016, Plaintiff was charged with violation of Major 14 –  
7 Refusing lawful orders and Minor 1 – Whistling, loud singing and shouting  
8 prohibited. *Id.* at ¶ 71. Plaintiff waived his right to a hearing and moved to more  
9 restrictive housing until August 16, 2016. *Id.*

## 10 DISCUSSION

### 11 I. Standard of Review

12 Summary judgment is appropriate when “there is no genuine dispute as to  
13 any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed.

14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 <sup>6</sup> Plaintiff states that “it seemed I had a target on my back from the incident  
16 that occurred on 7/27.” ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 6. Plaintiff contends he was  
17 walked bent forward and when he attempted to straighten his stance, he was  
18 forcefully taken to the ground. ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 6.

19 <sup>7</sup> Plaintiff asserts that he received lacerations to both wrists and no medical  
20 attention. Plaintiff states he has scars from the incident. ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 6.



1 R. Civ. P. 56(a). For purposes of summary judgment, a fact is “material” if it  
2 might affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law. *Anderson v. Liberty*  
3 *Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A material fact is “genuine” where the  
4 evidence is such that a reasonable jury could find in favor of the non-moving party.  
5 *Id.* The moving party bears the initial burden of showing the absence of any  
6 genuine issues of material fact. *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323  
7 (1986). The burden then shifts to the non-moving party to identify specific facts  
8 showing there is a genuine issue of material fact. *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 256.

9 In ruling on a motion for summary judgment, the court views the facts, as  
10 well as all rational inferences therefrom, in the light most favorable to the non-  
11 moving party. *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S. 372, 378 (2007). The court must only  
12 consider admissible evidence. *Orr v. Bank of America, NT & SA*, 285 F.3d 764  
13 (9th Cir. 2002). There must be evidence on which a jury could reasonably find for  
14 the plaintiff and a “mere existence of a scintilla of evidence in support of the  
15 plaintiff’s position will be insufficient.” *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252.

## 16 **II. Excessive Force under 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

17 Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a cause of action may be maintained “against any  
18 person acting under color of law who deprives another ‘of any rights, privileges, or  
19 immunities secured by the Constitution and laws’ of the United States.”  
20 *S. California Gas Co. v. City of Santa Ana*, 336 F.3d 885, 887 (9th Cir. 2003)

1 (quoting 42 U.S.C. § 1983). The rights guaranteed by § 1983 are “liberally and  
2 beneficially construed.” *Dennis v. Higgins*, 498 U.S. 439, 443 (1991) (quoting  
3 *Monell v. Dep’t of Soc. Servs. of City of New York*, 436 U.S. 658, 684 (1978)). “A  
4 person deprives another ‘of a constitutional right, within the meaning of section  
5 1983, if he does an affirmative act, participates in another’s affirmative acts, or  
6 omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do that causes the  
7 deprivation of which the plaintiff complains.” *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 633  
8 (9th Cir. 1988) (brackets and emphasis omitted) (quoting *Johnson v. Duffy*, 588  
9 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978)).

10 In the Ninth Circuit, “[w]e analyze all claims of excessive force that arise  
11 during or before arrest under the Fourth Amendment’s reasonableness standard, as  
12 guided by the Supreme Court’s decision in *Graham v. Connor* ....” *Coles v.*  
13 *Eagle*, 704 F.3d 624, 627 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386,  
14 394 (1989)). Here, Plaintiff alleges violations of his Eighth and Fourteenth  
15 Amendment rights. ECF No. 15 at 5. Plaintiff was a pretrial detainee during the  
16 incidents and the Court thus considers his excessive force claim under the Fourth  
17 Amendment. *See* ECF No. 33 at 4.

18 In evaluating a Fourth Amendment claim of excessive force under 42 U.S.C.  
19 § 1983, a court must determine “whether the officers’ actions are ‘objectively  
20 reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.” *Graham*,

1 490 U.S. at 397. This inquiry “requires a careful balancing of the nature and  
2 quality of the intrusion on the individual’s Fourth Amendment interests against the  
3 countervailing governmental interests at stake.” *Id.* at 396 (internal quotation  
4 marks and citations omitted). The following considerations bear on the  
5 reasonableness of the force used:

6 [T]he relationship between the need for the use of force and the  
7 amount of force used; the extent of the plaintiff’s injury; any effort  
8 made by the officer to temper or to limit the amount of force; the  
9 severity of the security problem at issue; the threat reasonably  
perceived by the officer; and whether the plaintiff was actively  
resisting.

10 *Kingsley v. Hendrickson*, 135 S.Ct. 2466, 2473 (2015); *see also Graham*, 490 U.S.  
11 at 396. “[T]he most important *Graham* factor is whether the suspect posed an  
12 immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others.” *Mattos v. Agarano*, 661  
13 F.3d 433, 441 (9th Cir. 2011) (internal quotations marks and citation omitted).

14 The reasonableness analysis is not limited to these factors; rather, “we  
15 examine the totality of the circumstances and consider ‘whatever specific factors  
16 may be appropriate in a particular case, whether or not listed in *Graham*.’” *Bryan*  
17 *v. MacPherson*, 630 F.3d 805, 826 (9th Cir. 2010) (citation omitted). At bottom,  
18 the question is whether the officer’s actions were objectively reasonable in light of  
19 the facts and circumstances confronting him or her. *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 397.

1           This calculus must account for the fact that police officers are often “forced  
2 to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and  
3 rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular  
4 situation.” *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396-97. Consequently, the objective  
5 reasonableness of an officer’s use of force must be judged from the perspective of  
6 a reasonable officer on the scene, “rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.”  
7 *Id.* at 396 (citing *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1, 20-22 (1968)). “Not every push or  
8 shove, even if it may later seem unnecessary in the peace of a judge’s chambers  
9 violates the Fourth Amendment.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation  
10 omitted).

11           Here, Plaintiff’s excessive force claims cover two separate incidents and the  
12 Court addresses each incident below.

13           **A. Liability of Officer Foo – July 27, 2016 & August 13, 2016 Incidents**

14           First, the Court considers the July 27, 2016 incident, which involved both  
15 Officers Foo and yet to be served Officer Frantz. In regards to the need for force,  
16 the amount of force used, and efforts made to temper the severity of the force,  
17 Defendants emphasize that force was not used until Plaintiff refused to comply  
18 with numerous verbal orders and warnings and the use of force ended as soon as  
19 Plaintiff was under control. ECF No. 33 at 9. Defendants contend that Plaintiff  
20 would not stop talking in the courtroom and he received multiple warnings to be

1 quiet. ECF Nos. 33 at 8; 34 at ¶¶ 5-11. Plaintiff refused to stand and leave the  
2 courtroom at the instruction of Officer Foo. ECF No. 34 at ¶¶ 12-17. Plaintiff was  
3 pulled out of his seat to be removed and he resisted. ECF Nos. 33 at 8; 34 at ¶¶ 20-  
4 33. Defendants insist that Officer Foo first used the lowest level of force, verbal  
5 orders. ECF Nos. 33 at 8; 34 at ¶¶ 12-17. Defendants state when Plaintiff refused  
6 and resisted, the officers' use of the takedown, fist strike, and knee strike were the  
7 lowest level of force that could be used to control Plaintiff. The force ended when  
8 Plaintiff released his grip and the officers were able to handcuff him. ECF No. 33  
9 at 8-9.

10 As to the extent of Plaintiff's injury, Defendants note that Plaintiff refused  
11 medical care and when he was later seen by medical for neck and side pain, he  
12 stated the pain was better. ECF Nos. 33 at 8; 34 at ¶¶ 42-43. Plaintiff insists that  
13 he wrote to medical personnel and it took three weeks for him to receive the  
14 needed attention. ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 5. Yet, Plaintiff concedes that he  
15 believes Sergeant Bliven told the nurse to check on Plaintiff's medical condition  
16 once he was taken to segregated housing. ECF No. 41 at 5. Therefore, the Court  
17 does not find Plaintiff's assertion that it took three weeks for medical staff to see  
18 him persuasive when he admits that a nurse was instructed to see him once he was  
19 taken to segregated housing. Plaintiff was assigned to segregated housing on the  
20 same day as the incident. ECF No. 34 at ¶ 70. Moreover, Plaintiff has not alleged

1 or shown that these Defendants were in any way responsible for the alleged three-  
2 week delay in medical attention.

3 In regards to the nature of the threat reasonably perceived by the officers,  
4 Defendants argue that Plaintiff was in a courtroom with eight other unsecured  
5 inmates, court staff, and attorneys. ECF No. 33 at 9. Defendants insist that  
6 refusing to follow orders and resisting escort means that other inmates are not  
7 subject to control or supervision by the officers, potentially leading to a dangerous  
8 situation. *Id.* Therefore, Defendants assert that the factors outlined above weigh in  
9 Officer Foo's favor that the force was objectively reasonable. *Id.*

10 The Court finds that Plaintiff has not presented evidence from which a  
11 rational jury could find the force applied to him was in excess of what would have  
12 been objectively reasonable under the circumstances. Plaintiff repeatedly defied  
13 Officer Foo's verbal instructions to be silent and then to stand up and leave the  
14 courtroom. The type and amount of force was likely reasonable, as Officer Foo  
15 only resorted to force upon Plaintiff's refusal to cooperate and active resistance by  
16 locking his hands and twisting his body. Officer Foo ceased his use of force upon  
17 securing Plaintiff. The Court finds that any injury to Plaintiff was minimal and  
18 medical staff was instructed to promptly attend to any medical condition.

19 The Court determines that Plaintiff refused to be compliant in a situation  
20 where other unsecured inmates, staff, and attorneys were present. This situation

1 weighs in favor of finding that a reasonable officer would have physically subdued  
2 Plaintiff in the manner conducted by Officer Foo. It was reasonable for an officer  
3 to think that Plaintiff posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers and  
4 others in the courtroom. *See Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 520, 547 (1979) (“Prison  
5 officials must be free to take appropriate action to ensure the safety of inmates and  
6 corrections personnel ... [and] even when an institutional restriction infringes a  
7 specific constitutional guarantee ... the practice must be evaluated in the light of  
8 the central objective of prison administration, safeguarding institutional security.”).

9       Accordingly, the Court concludes that the level of intrusion on Plaintiff’s  
10 person was minimal and there is no genuine issue of fact as to whether a  
11 reasonable level of force was used. Thus, summary judgment in favor of Officer  
12 Foo is appropriate for this incident.

13       Defendants assert that Officer Foo was not present during the alleged use of  
14 force on August 13, 2016 and did not personally participate, direct, nor observe  
15 any of the alleged violations of Plaintiff’s rights. ECF No. 33 at 4. While Plaintiff  
16 contends he saw Officer Foo as he was leaving his cell, Officer Foo declared he  
17 was not present during the alleged incident. ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 6; 34 at ¶ 68;  
18 36 at ¶ 26. The Court finds that Officer Foo is not liable for any alleged violations  
19 for the August 13, 2016 incident because he was not present, according to his  
20 sworn affidavit. ECF No. 36 at ¶ 26; *see also Leer*, 844 F.2d at 633. Plaintiff has

1 failed to raise a material issue of fact concerning Officer Foo's participation in the  
2 August 13, 2016 incident. Accordingly, summary judgment for Officer Foo is  
3 appropriate.

4 **B. Liability of Sgt. Bliven – July 27, 2016 & August 13, 2016 Incidents**

5 Defendants contend that Sergeant Bliven was not present during the alleged  
6 use of force on July 27, 2016 and did not personally participate, direct, nor observe  
7 any of the alleged violations of Plaintiff's Eighth Amendment rights. ECF No. 33  
8 at 4. The Court finds that Sergeant Bliven is not liable for any alleged violation on  
9 July 27, 2016, as the uncontested evidence shows he merely observed officers  
10 escorting Plaintiff from the elevator to the cell. Sergeant Bliven was not present  
11 for any use of force and cannot be held liable under § 1983. *See* ECF No. 34 at ¶  
12 40; *see also Leer*, 844 F.2d at 633. As concerns Sergeant Bliven, the Court  
13 therefore only considers the August 13, 2016 incident below.

14 Defendants contend that Plaintiff would not stop yelling and refused to obey  
15 a directive from Officer Vanatta to be quiet. ECF Nos. 33 at 11; 34 at ¶¶ 47-52.  
16 Defendants state that the lowest level of force was used, verbal orders, but Plaintiff  
17 refused to be quiet. ECF Nos. 33 at 11-12; 34 at ¶¶ 58-60. Plaintiff was defiant  
18 during escort and was then walked bent over. Plaintiff attempted to stand up  
19 against staff and he was then placed on the floor without force. ECF Nos. 33 at 12;  
20 34 at ¶ 61-62. Defendants insist that there was no injury to Plaintiff. ECF No. 33



1 at 12. Plaintiff argues that he has scars from lacerations to both wrists and did not  
2 receive medical attention. ECF Nos. 15 at 6; 41 at 6.

3 Defendants argue that the nature of the threat was reasonably perceived by  
4 the officers because Plaintiff would not follow orders, was inciting other inmates  
5 with his screaming/loud singing, and was defiant during escort. ECF Nos. 33 at  
6 12; 34 at ¶¶ 47-61. Defendants emphasize that efforts were made to temper the  
7 severity of the forceful response by verbal orders. ECF No. 33 at 12. Defendants  
8 insist that the force of walking bent over and then put on the ground was minimal  
9 to nonexistent. *Id.* Defendants thus argue that Sergeant Bliven's use of force was  
10 objectively reasonable. *Id.*

11 The Court determines that Plaintiff has not presented evidence from which  
12 a rational jury could find the force applied to Plaintiff was in excess of what would  
13 have been objectively reasonable under the circumstances. Plaintiff refused to  
14 obey a direct order by Officer Vanatta, leading to a potentially unsafe security  
15 problem with other inmates. A reasonable officer would have physically subdued  
16 Plaintiff in the same manner. Minimal force of walking bent over and being placed  
17 on the floor was used to gain control of Plaintiff after he actively resisted. The  
18 Court is not persuaded by Plaintiff's allegation of injuries from this minimal force.  
19 Accordingly, the Court finds that the level of intrusion on Plaintiff's person was  
20

1 minimal and there is no genuine issue of fact as to whether a reasonable level of  
2 force was used.

### 3 **C. Liability of Officer Frantz – July 27, 2016 Incident**

4 The Court has considered Plaintiff’s unverified Second Amended Complaint  
5 wherein Plaintiff contends, Officer Frantz “was involved and/or participated in the  
6 act of police brutality, which deprived the Plaintiff of his constitutional rights.”  
7 ECF No. 32 at 2. No other facts are alleged against Officer Frantz in either the  
8 First or Second Amended Complaints. ECF Nos. 15, 32. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s  
9 complaints do not pass the required screening, 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, they do not  
10 state a claim upon which relief may be granted. Accordingly, they must be  
11 dismissed as they concern Officer Frantz.

12 “[A] district court should grant leave to amend even if no request to amend  
13 the pleading was made, unless it determines that the pleading could not possibly be  
14 cured by the allegation of other facts.” *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127 (9th  
15 Cir. 2000) (en banc). Normally, Plaintiff would once again be given the  
16 opportunity to amend, but in this case he was freely given that opportunity twice,  
17 despite that the Court’s scheduling order required “Any motion to amend the  
18 pleadings or add parties shall be filed no later than October 6, 2017.” ECF No. 27  
19 at 2. No “good cause” has been shown to once again exceed or ignore the Court’s  
20 scheduling order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4).

1 In addition to being late and failing to state a claim for relief, Plaintiff's  
2 claims against Officer Frantz obviously arise out of the operative facts that the  
3 parties briefed with respect to Officer Foo. As the Court found with Officer Foo,  
4 Plaintiff has not presented evidence from which a rational jury could find the force  
5 applied to him was in excess of what would have been objectively reasonable  
6 under the circumstances.

7 Accordingly, the Court concludes that the level of intrusion on Plaintiff's  
8 person was minimal and there is no genuine issue of fact as to whether a  
9 reasonable level of force was used. Thus, any further amendment of Plaintiff's  
10 complaints would be futile.

11 The Court has fully considered the claims in Plaintiff's Motion for Summary  
12 Judgment (ECF No. 41) in deciding the issues presented in this Order. Plaintiff's  
13 Motion for Summary Judgment not only does not show with admissible evidence  
14 that judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff, it does not demonstrate any  
15 disputed issue of material fact for trial. Accordingly, Plaintiff's claims are  
16 dismissed.

### 17 **III. Revocation of In Forma Pauperis Status**

18 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), "[a]n appeal may not be taken *in forma*  
19 *pauperis* if the trial court certifies in writing that it is not taken in good faith." The  
20 good faith standard is an objective one, and good faith is demonstrated when an

1 individual “seeks appellate review of any issue not frivolous.” *See Coppedge v.*  
2 *United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). For purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 1915, an  
3 appeal is frivolous if it lacks any arguable basis in law or fact. *Neitzke v. Williams*,  
4 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989).

5 The Court finds that any appeal of this Order would not be taken in good  
6 faith and would lack any arguable basis in law or fact. Accordingly, the Court  
7 hereby revokes Plaintiff’s *in forma pauperis* status. If Plaintiff seeks to pursue an  
8 appeal, he must pay the requisite filing fee.

9 **ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

10 1. Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 33) is

11 **GRANTED.**

12 2. Plaintiff’s Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 41) is **DENIED as**  
13 **moot.**

14 3. Plaintiff’s claims against all Defendants are **DISMISSED with**  
15 **prejudice.**

16 4. The Court certifies pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal of  
17 this Order would not be taken in good faith and would lack any arguable  
18 basis in law or fact. Plaintiff’s *in forma pauperis* status is hereby

19 **REVOKED.**

1           The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order, furnish copies to  
2 the parties, and enter judgment in favor of Defendants. The deadlines, hearings  
3 and trial date are **VACATED**. Each party to bear its own costs and expenses.

4           **DATED** March 30, 2018.



*Thomas O. Rice*  
7           THOMAS O. RICE  
8           Chief United States District Judge  
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