1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7	UNITED STATES DIS	TRICT COURT
8	WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE	
9		
10	PETE IBARRA III,	CASE NO. C16-0317JLR
11	Plaintiff,	ORDER DENYING SECOND
12	V.	MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
13	SNOHOMISH COUNTY, et al.,	
14	Defendants.	
15	I. INTRODU	CTION
16	Before the court is Marshal Kathy Marino and Marshal James Simoneschi's	
17	(collectively, "the Marshals" or "Defendants") second motion for summary judgment.	
18	(2d MSJ (Dkt. # 43).) The court has considered	the motion, Plaintiff Pete Ibarra III's
19	opposition to the motion (Resp. (Dkt. # 45)), Det	fendants' reply in support of their motion
20	(Reply (Dkt. # 48)), the relevant portions of the record, and the applicable law. Being	
21	//	
22	//	

fully advised,¹ the court DENIES Defendants' motion for summary judgment for the 1 2 reasons set forth below.

16

17

II. BACKGROUND

This case arises from an encounter between Mr. Ibarra and Snohomish County ("the County") law enforcement.² (See Compl. (Dkt. # 1) ¶¶ 11-19; 2d Ibarra Decl. (Dkt. #47) ¶¶ 3-9.) On April 15, 2015, Mr. Ibarra was at the County courthouse complex in Everett "to obtain the court clerk's signature on some anti-harassment materials for a case." (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 3; see also 2d Bides Decl. (Dkt. # 44) ¶ 3, Ex. A ("Marino 9 Rep.") at 3-4.) He contends that he was on his way out of the building when two uniformed marshals informed him that their supervisor, Marshal Marino, wanted to speak 10 11 with him. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 4-5; see also Marino Rep. at 3.) Marshal Marino arrived and explained to Mr. Ibarra that an attorney in trial at the courthouse complex, Cassandra 12 Lopez de Arriaga, had reported that Mr. Ibarra was stalking her.³ (See 2d Ibarra Decl. 13 ¶ 6; Marino Rep. at 3-4.) Mr. Ibarra asserts that after briefly discussing why she stopped 14 15

¹ Neither party requested oral argument, and the court concludes that oral argument would not be helpful to its disposition of the motion. See Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4).

 2 In moving for summary judgment a second time, Defendants rely on the evidence 18 provided in connection with their first motion and submit additional evidence. (See 2d MSJ at 2-3 ("Defendants incorporate the facts in the prior filings, and supplement herein.").) Accordingly, the court considers the evidence Defendants and Mr. Ibarra have submitted in 19 connection with both motions for summary judgment.

20 ³ Ms. Lopez represented Mr. Ibarra in a matter during the fall of 2014. (Lopez Decl. (Dkt. # 12) ¶ 3; see also Marino Rep. at 3.) Mr. Ibarra contends that he did not stalk Ms. Lopez, 21 but contacted her to get materials related to the case in which Ms. Lopez represented Mr. Ibarra. (See 2d Bides Decl. ¶ 5, Ex. C ("Ibarra Dep.") at 58:11-14, 61:4-5, 62:13-14; 2d Ibarra Decl. 22 ¶17.)

1 him, Marshal Marino ordered him to leave the courthouse and never return. (See 2d

2 || Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 7-8; *see also* Marino Rep. at 4 ("... I told him he needed to leave.").)

3 At this point, the parties' accounts of the incident diverge. Mr. Ibarra asserts that 4 Marshal Marino said, "Do not come back to this courthouse little man, or you're going to go to jail."⁴ (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 8.) Mr. Ibarra responded, "I might be a little man, but at 5 least I do not have to portray being a man."5 (Id.; Ibarra Dep. at 62:19-24.) According to 6 7 Mr. Ibarra, his comment caused Marshal Marino to "snap," come down the stairs to 8 where Mr. Ibarra was standing, grab his shirt and arm, force his left arm behind his back, 9 and kick his shins. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 9; Ibarra Dep. at 63:1-5, 7-9.) Mr. Ibarra also asserts that a male officer-who Defendants assume to be Marshal Simoneschi based on 10 11 Mr. Ibarra's account—then came up behind Mr. Ibarra and grabbed his hair, which lifted Mr. Ibarra off his feet. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 9; Ibarra Dep. at 63:11-13; 2d MSJ at 18 12 ("Assuming without conceding, . . . that Marshal Simoneschi was the person grabbing 13 [Mr. Ibarra's] hair").) The Marshals then escorted Mr. Ibarra to another area of the 14 15 courthouse (Ibarra Dep. at 67:6-9) where Mr. Ibarra and the Marshals were "all standing 16

17

⁴ This statement differs somewhat from the statement Mr. Ibarra previously attested that Marshal Marino made. (*Compare* 1st Ibarra Decl. (Dkt. # 18) ¶ 5 (Marshal Marino "said 'do not come back in this courthouse little man."), *with* 2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 8 ("Do not come back to this courthouse little man, or you're going to go to jail.").)

⁵ In its August 9, 2016 order (8/9/16 Order at 4 n.3), the court disregarded the portion of Mr. Ibarra's declaration—in which he stated that Marshal Marino said "do not come back in this courthouse little man" and he responded "at least I do not have to portray being a man" (1st Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5)—that contradicted an allegation in Mr. Ibarra's complaint—that Marshal Marino said "not to come back to this courthouse little man, at least I do not have to portray being a man" (Compl. ¶ 13). The court concluded that Mr. Ibarra improperly recast Marshal Marino's statements in an attempt to survive summary judgment. (See 8/9/16 Order at 4 n.3.)

there trying to catch [their] breath for a second" when "some other officer" approached 1 2 (*id.* at 67:17-18, 20).

According to Mr. Ibarra, that officer asked, "does [Mr. Ibarra] need to go down?" 3 4 (*Id.* at 67:25; 2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 10.) Mr. Ibarra does not state whether the Marshals 5 responded, but contends that the unidentified officer quickly took Mr. Ibarra "down face 6 first" and kicked his legs out from under him. (Ibarra Dep. at 68:4-6; 2d Ibarra Decl. 7 ¶ 10.) Mr. Ibarra contends that the officer then grabbed Mr. Ibarra's wrist, "stuck his 8 knee" in Mr. Ibarra's back, and grabbed Mr. Ibarra by the ear. (Ibarra Dep. at 68:7-11; 9 2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 10.) The officer then struck Mr. Ibarra's head on the ground several 10 times. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 10; see also Ibarra Dep. at 68:10-11.) Mr. Ibarra contends that 11 he defecated in his pants during this assault. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 15; Ibarra Dep. at 68:19-21.) 12

13 The Marshals describe a different set of facts beginning from the time Marshal 14 Marino told Mr. Ibarra to leave the courthouse. After Marshal Marino told Mr. Ibarra to leave, the Marshals say that Mr. Ibarra began walking down the stairs but then stopped, turned around, squared up to Marshal Marino, and stared at her.⁶ (Marino Decl. (Dkt. 16 #15) ¶¶ 7-8.; see also Simoneschi Decl. (Dkt. #13) ¶ 4.) Marshal Marino interpreted 18 this stance as a "pre-attack" posture and approached Mr. Ibarra to escort him out. (Id.

19

15

⁶ As the court noted in its August 9, 2016, order, Marshal Marino made no mention of 20 Mr. Ibarra's allegedly aggressive posture when she composed her report shortly after the courthouse incident. (Compare Marino Rep. at 3, with Marino Decl. ¶ 8; see also 8/9/16 Order 21 at 20 n.12.) The court concluded that based on this inconsistency, a jury could reasonably find Marshal Marino's statements about Mr. Ibarra's alleged aggressive stance not credible. (8/9/16 22 Order at 20 n.12.)

1 ¶ 8.) She again ordered Mr. Ibarra to leave, but he "refused to leave and stood in the 2 stairwell partially blocking the traffic." (Id.) She and Marshal Simoneschi then took Mr. 3 Ibarra by the arm, but he resisted. (Id.) He grabbed the handrail, screamed, and tensed 4 his muscles to prevent the Marshals from moving him. (Id.) Marshal Marino stood 5 below Mr. Ibarra on the stairs and was in danger of falling backwards down the stairs 6 because of where she was standing and Mr. Ibarra's resistance. (Id.; Simoneschi Decl. 7 \P 4; Scott Decl. (Dkt. # 14) \P 4.) With the assistance of a corrections officer, the 8 Marshals brought Mr. Ibarra down to the ground floor where they put him face down on 9 the carpet and handcuffed him. (Marino Decl. ¶ 9; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 4; Scott Decl. ¶ 4.) Defendants deny that Marshal Marino called Mr. Ibarra a "little man" or that the 10 11 Marshals pulled Mr. Ibarra's hair, kicked him, threw him to the ground, kneed him, or slammed his head into the ground. (See Marino Decl. ¶ 10; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 5; Scott 12 13 Decl. ¶ 5.) They also deny that Mr. Ibarra defecated in his pants. (See Marino Decl. 14 ¶ 10; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 5; Scott Decl. ¶ 5.)

After handcuffing Mr. Ibarra, Marshal Marino transported him to the County jail and booked him for disorderly conduct. (Marino Decl. ¶ 9.) Nurse Autumn Kostelecky interviewed and assessed Mr. Ibarra when he arrived at the jail. (*See* Kostelecky Decl. (Dkt. # 11) ¶¶ 2-4.) Although Ms. Kostelecky avers that she "did not observe any contusions, erythema, edema, or abrasions to [Mr. Ibarra's] shin or head" (*id.* ¶ 5), Mr. Ibarra asserts that he told Ms. Kostelecky that the Marshals had injured him (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 14). Ms. Kostelecky states that she did not observe that Mr. Ibarra defecated in his pants and that he did not inform her he had done so. (Kostelecky Decl. ¶ 5.) Mr.
Ibarra explains, "I did not tell the nurse that I pooped in my pants because I was too
embarrassed." (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 15.) After approximately five hours, Mr. Ibarra posted
bond and was released from jail. (*Id.* ¶ 16.) The County did not file charges against him.
(*Id.* ¶ 18.)

6 Two weeks later, Mr. Ibarra visited a physician's assistant named David Bender. 7 (1st Bides Decl. (Dkt. # 16) ¶ 4 ("Claim Form Attach. 3") at 1.) Mr. Bender diagnosed 8 Mr. Ibarra with the following injuries: (1) head contusion, (2) multiple leg contusions, 9 and (3) lumbar strain. (Id. at 2.) Mr. Bender's notes do not indicate the extent to which 10 he examined Mr. Ibarra (see id. at 1-4), and neither side has submitted deposition 11 testimony or a declaration from Mr. Bender or any other medical providers (see Dkt.). Since the incident, Mr. Ibarra contends that he lives with "continuous neck, head, and 12 13 back pain" for which he has seen his regular physician and a neurologist, changed the "medication dosage" for his fibromyalgia, and "received injections." (2d Ibarra Decl. 14 15 ¶ 19.) He also contends that he has difficulty sleeping due to the incident. (Id. ¶ 20.) 16 Mr. Ibarra filed this lawsuit on March 3, 2016. (Compl. at 1.) He asserted federal 17 claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for unlawful seizure and arrest without probable cause in 18 violation of the Fourth Amendment; excessive force in violation of the Fourth 19 Amendment; and retaliatory arrest in violation of the First, Fourth, and Fifth 20 Amendments. (Id. at 5-8.) He sought to hold the County liable for these alleged 21 violations under Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978). (Id. at 8-10.) In addition, he asserted state law claims for false arrest and imprisonment, assault 22

ORDER - 6

and battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. (*Id.* at 10-11.) He sought to
 hold the County vicariously liable for the alleged state law violations. (*Id.* at 12.)

3 On August 9, 2016, the court granted summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra's federal 4 claims for unlawful seizure and arrest, retaliatory arrest, and local government liability 5 and his state claims for false arrest and imprisonment and intentional infliction of 6 emotional distress. (See 8/9/16 Order at 29.) The court denied summary judgment on 7 Mr. Ibarra's federal excessive force and state law assault and battery claims. (See id.) 8 The court later denied Mr. Ibarra's motion for reconsideration of the court's grant of 9 summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra's state law false arrest and imprisonment and 10 retaliatory arrest claims. (11/4/16 Order (Dkt. # 31).)

11 On February 14, 2017, Defendants filed this second motion for summary judgment. (See generally 2d MSJ.) Defendants contend that since filing their first 12 13 motion for summary judgment, "discovery has been completed, which has narrowed and 14 clarified [Mr. Ibarra's] allegations" and "new case law regarding qualified immunity has 15 been published by the United States Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit." (Id. at 1.) 16 Defendants seek summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra's federal excessive force claim 17 because, in their view, the doctrine of qualified immunity bars that claim. (Id.) 18 Defendants also request that if the court grants summary judgment on the federal claim, 19 the court decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Mr. Ibarra's remaining state 20 law assault and battery claim. (Id. at 21.) The court now considers Defendants' motion. 21 // 22

1	III. ANALYSIS
2	A. Legal Standard
3	Summary judgment is appropriate if the evidence shows "that there is no genuine
4	dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law."
5	Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); see Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986); Galen v.
6	Cty. of L.A., 477 F.3d 652, 658 (9th Cir. 2007). A fact is "material" if it might affect the
7	outcome of the case. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A
8	factual dispute is "genuine' only if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable fact
9	finder to find for the non-moving party." Far Out Prods., Inc. v. Oskar, 247 F.3d 986,
10	992 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing Anderson, 477 U.S. at 248-49).
11	The moving party bears the initial burden of showing there is no genuine issue of
12	material fact and that he or she is entitled to prevail as a matter of law. <i>Celotex</i> , 477 U.S.
13	at 323. If the moving party does not bear the ultimate burden of persuasion at trial, it can
14	show the absence of a dispute of material fact in two ways: (1) by producing evidence
15	negating an essential element of the nonmoving party's case, or (2) by showing that the
16	nonmoving party lacks evidence of an essential element of its claim or defense. Nissan
17	Fire & Marine Ins. Co. v. Fritz Cos., 210 F.3d 1099, 1106 (9th Cir. 2000). If the moving
18	party will bear the ultimate burden of persuasion at trial, it must establish a prima facie
19	showing in support of its position on that issue. UA Local 343 v. Nor-Cal Plumbing, Inc.,
20	48 F.3d 1465, 1471 (9th Cir. 1994). That is, the moving party must present evidence that,
21	if uncontroverted at trial, would entitle it to prevail on that issue. Id. at 1473. If the
22	moving party meets its burden of production, the burden then shifts to the nonmoving

party to identify specific facts from which a fact finder could reasonably find in the
 nonmoving party's favor. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324; *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252.

The court is "required to view the facts and draw reasonable inferences in the light 3 most favorable to the [non-moving] party." Scott v. Harris, 550 U.S. 372, 378 (2007). 4 5 The court may not weigh evidence or make credibility determinations in analyzing a 6 motion for summary judgment because these are "jury functions, not those of a judge." 7 Anderson, 477 U.S. at 249-50. Nevertheless, the nonmoving party "must do more than 8 simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts Where 9 the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the 10 nonmoving party, there is no genuine issue for trial." Scott, 550 U.S. at 380 (internal 11 quotation marks omitted) (quoting Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986)). 12

13 Furthermore, the court may consider only materials that are capable of being 14 presented in an admissible form. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(2); Orr v. Bank of Am., NT & 15 SA, 285 F.3d 764, 773 (9th Cir. 2002). "Legal memoranda and oral argument are not 16 evidence and do not create issues of fact capable of defeating an otherwise valid summary judgment." Estrella v. Brandt, 682 F.2d 814, 819-20 (9th Cir. 1982); see also 17 18 *Rivera v. Nat'l R.R. Passenger Corp.*, 331 F.3d 1074, 1078 (9th Cir. 2003) ("Conclusory" 19 allegations unsupported by factual data cannot defeat summary judgment."). Nor can the 20 plaintiff "defeat summary judgment with allegations in the complaint, or with 21 unsupported conjecture or conclusory statements." Hernandez v. Spacelabs Med. Inc., 343 F.3d 1107, 1112 (9th Cir. 2003). 22

1

B.

Motion for Summary Judgment

2 As a threshold matter, Mr. Ibarra contends that the court should decline to 3 consider this second motion for summary judgment because "the instant motion is based 4 on virtually the same facts as [Defendants'] first motion for summary judgment, and there 5 has not been any change in the law affecting the excessive force claim." (Resp. at 2.) 6 Mr. Ibarra also argues that there is at least a genuine dispute of material fact about 7 whether the level of force the Marshals employed during the incident violated Mr. 8 Ibarra's constitutional rights and whether those constitutional rights were clearly established at the time of the incident. (Id. at 11-14.) Mr. Ibarra also argues that the 9 10 court should retain jurisdiction over his state law assault and battery claim if the court grants Defendants summary judgment. (Id. at 14.)

11

12

1. Second Motion for Summary Judgment

13 District courts have discretion to entertain second motions for summary judgment. 14 Hoffman v. Tonnemacher, 593 F.3d 908, 909 (9th Cir. 2010); Knox v. Sw. Airlines, 124 15 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1997) (holding that a district court may permit successive motions for summary judgment on the issue of qualified immunity). The Ninth Circuit 16 17 has stated that "allowing a party to file a second motion for summary judgment is logical, 18 and it fosters the 'just, speedy, and inexpensive' resolution of suits." Hoffman, 593 F.3d 19 at 911 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 1); see also id. at 912 ("Allowing a successive summary 20 judgment motion potentially can save all concerned the far greater expenses of a trial."). 21 However, the Ninth Circuit also cautioned that district courts should "weed out frivolous or simply repetitive motions." Id. at 911. In exercising its discretion on this question, a 22

1 district court may consider the following factors: "(1) an intervening change in 2 controlling law; (2) the availability of new evidence or an expanded factual record; and 3 (3) [the] need to correct a clear error or prevent manifest injustice." Brazill v. Cal. 4 Northstate Coll. of Pharm., LLC, No. CIV. 2:12-1218 WBS GGH, 2013 WL 4500667, at 5 *1 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 22, 2013) (quoting Whitford v. Boglino, 63 F.3d 527, 530 (7th Cir. 1995)). 6

7 Although Defendants frame their motion as a "renewed" motion (see, e.g., 2d MSJ 8 at 1), it is in fact a second motion for summary judgment. Mr. Ibarra "recognizes that a 9 court ... has the discretion to hear successive motions for summary judgment," but 10 contends that "the instant motion is based on virtually the same facts as [D]efendants' first motion for summary judgment[,] and there has not been any change in the law affecting the excessive force claim." (Resp. at 2.) Defendants argue that both parties 12 have put new evidence before the court and the motion "introduces new facts and law 13 14 that were not available at the time of the first motion for summary judgment." (Reply at 15 5.)

16 The court will consider Defendants' second motion in the interest of judicial 17 efficiency. The parties have now completed discovery (see Sched. Order (Dkt. # 9) at 1), 18 and the motion is before the court on an expanded factual record, Brazill, 2013 WL 19 4500667, at *1. Even though many of the underlying facts and issues remain the same, 20 there is no indication that Defendants' motion is patently frivolous or simply repetitive. 21 See Hoffman, 593 F.3d at 911.

22 //

2. Excessive Force Claim

a. Integral Participation

The parties next dispute what acts of force the court should consider in evaluating Mr. Ibarra's claim. Defendants contend that they are entitled to qualified immunity based on Mr. Ibarra's allegations that Marshal Marino and Marshal Simoneschi grabbed Mr. Ibarra by the arms and hair, pulled him off the stairs, kicked his shins, and took him to the floor to place handcuffs on him. (See 2d MSJ at 3-5.) They argue, however, that because Mr. Ibarra fails to identify the third officer, the court should not consider that officer's use of force—grabbing Mr. Ibarra by the ear, kneeing his back, and striking his head against the floor several times. (See id. at 5; see also Reply at 4.) Mr. Ibarra, on the other hand, asserts that the Marshals are liable for the unnamed third officer's actions because the Marshals set in motion the third officer's unconstitutional actions and integrally participated in those actions.⁷ (See Resp. at 12-13.) Defendants counter that

14 15

//

⁷ Generally, "[a] plaintiff must show that an officer personally participated in the alleged violation of the plaintiff's constitutional rights." Jones v. Williams, 297 F.3d 930, 934 (9th Cir. 2002). The doctrine of integral participation "extends liability to those actors who were integral participants in the constitutional violation, even if they did not directly engage in the unconstitutional conduct themselves." Hopkins v. Bonvicino, 573 F.3d 752, 770 (9th Cir. 2009);

see also Boyd v. Benton Cty., 374 F.3d 773, 780 (9th Cir. 2004). "Integral participation requires some *fundamental involvement* in the conduct that allegedly caused the [constitutional]

violation." Monteilh v. Ctv. of L.A., 820 F. Supp. 2d 1081, 1089 (C.D. Cal. 2011). Officers are fundamentally involved when they "provide some affirmative physical support at the scene of the alleged violation" and "are aware of the plan to commit the alleged violation or have reason 20

to know of such a plan, but do not object." Id. In addition, "[a] supervisor may be held liable under § 1983 if he or she was personally involved in the constitutional deprivation or a sufficient 21 causal connection exists between the supervisor's unlawful conduct and the constitutional

violation." Lolli v. Ctv. of Orange, 351 F.3d 410, 418 (9th Cir. 2003). However, Mr. Ibarra does 22 not assert a supervisory theory of liability. (See generally Compl.; 2d MSJ Resp.)

Mr. Ibarra failed to plead an integral participation theory of liability and therefore cannot
 rely on the theory in response to summary judgment. (2d MSJ Reply at 4.)

3 "A party need not plead specific legal theories in the complaint, so long as the 4 other side receives notice as to what is at issue in the case." Am. Timber & Trading Co. 5 v. First Nat'l Bank of Or., 690 F.2d 781, 786 (9th Cir. 1982) (noting that the plaintiffs 6 conducted discovery on the theory at issue). However, "summary judgment is not a 7 procedural second chance to flesh out inadequate pleadings." Wasco Prods., Inc. v. 8 Southwall Techs., Inc., 435 F.3d 989, 992 (9th Cir. 2006). When a plaintiff "fail[s] to 9 assert any factual allegations in its complaint" to support a theory, the plaintiff's 10 "provision of affidavits and declarations supporting [that theory] at the summary 11 judgment stage is ineffectual." La Asociacion de Trabajadores de Lake Forest v. City of Lake Forest, 624 F.3d 1083, 1088-89 (9th Cir. 2010); see also Pickern v. Pier 1 Imports 12 13 (U.S.), Inc., 457 F.3d 963, 969 (9th Cir. 2006) (concluding that the complaint did not give 14 "notice of the specific factual allegations presented for the first time in [the party's] 15 opposition to summary judgment"); Corona v. Time Warner Cable, Inc., No. CV 13-5521 PSG (VBKx), 2014 WL 11456535, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 16, 2014) (finding that the 16 17 plaintiff's complaint did not encompass the theory raised in response to a motion for 18 summary judgment). The rationale for this rule rests primarily on the threat of prejudice 19 from a late change in the plaintiff's theory, but the court need not make a finding of 20 prejudice to reject the new theory. In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig., No. 21 M 07-1827 SI, 2012 WL 5411590, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2012) (rejecting argument 22 //

1 based on factual allegations not in the complaint without making a finding of prejudice); 2 *City of Lake Forest*, 624 F.3d at 1088-89.

3

The court first examines Mr. Ibarra's complaint to determine whether it put 4 Defendants on notice of an integral participation theory of liability. Mr. Ibarra's complaint alleges that an unidentified officer "threw" Mr. Ibarra "to the ground and 5 began smashing his face into the floor." (Compl. ¶ 15.) Mr. Ibarra asserts his excessive 6 7 force claim against the Marshals and alleges that "[t]he actions of [D]efendants and 8 unknown officers in physically assaulting, pushing[,] and striking [Mr. Ibarra] when no 9 force whatsoever was necessary or appropriate violated" Mr. Ibarra's Fourth Amendment right to be free from excessive force. (*Id.* \P 35.) 10

These statements are the only allegations that can be construed as supporting an integral participation theory of liability. Although Mr. Ibarra need not specifically plead legal theories in his complaint, his allegations must give Defendants notice of what is at issue in this case. See Am. Timber & Trading, 690 F.2d at 786. The court concludes that Mr. Ibarra's complaint did not sufficiently notify Defendants that Mr. Ibarra sought to hold them liable for the unidentified officer's conduct on an integral participation theory.⁸

17

11

12

13

14

15

⁸ Nor does any other filing before the court suggest that Defendants knew Mr. Ibarra 18 intended to assert this theory of liability. Mr. Ibarra argued in opposition to Defendants' first motion for summary judgment that "three law enforcement officers, including two of the defendants, grabbed [Mr. Ibarra] by the shirt, hair[,] and arms and took him down to the ground; 19 a third officer repeatedly slammed [Mr.] Ibarra's face onto the floor" and that "[t]he force they used under these circumstances was unreasonable as a matter of law." (1st MSJ Resp. (Dkt. 20 # 17) at 6.) In addition, in its order on Defendants' first motion for summary judgment, the court

noted the unidentified officer's alleged force-throwing Mr. Ibarra to the ground, kneeing him in 21 the back, lifting him by his ear, and slamming Mr. Ibarra's head into the floor-in its excessive force analysis. (8/9/16 Order at 19, 21.) However, no party raised the integral participation 22 theory of liability at that time (see generally 1st MSJ; 1st MSJ Resp.; 8/9/16 Order), or asserted

See City of Lake Forest, 624 F.3d at 1088-89; Pickern, 457 F.3d at 969. For this reason,
 the court does not consider the unidentified officer's actions in deciding the qualified
 immunity question to which the court now turns.

4 5

b. Excessive Force & Qualified Immunity

The court next addresses whether qualified immunity absolves the Marshals of liability for their alleged excessive force. (See generally 2d MSJ.) When evaluating 6 7 Fourth Amendment claims of excessive force, courts ask "whether the officers' actions are 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them." 8 9 Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 397 (1989). This inquiry "requires a careful balancing" 10 of the nature and quality of the intrusion on the individual's Fourth Amendment interests 11 against the countervailing governmental interests at stake." Id. at 396. "The calculus of 12 reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to 13 make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly 14 evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." Id. at 396-97. Reasonableness is evaluated "from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the 15 scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight." Glenn v. Wash. Cty., 673 F.3d 16 17 864, 871 (9th Cir. 2011) (citing Graham, 490 U.S. at 397). Police officers "need not 18 avail themselves of the least intrusive means of responding"; rather, they need only act 19 //

that the unidentified officer's conduct could be imputed to the two named Marshals. Further,
 there is no indication that Mr. Ibarra pursued discovery on this theory. *Cf. Am. Timber*, 690 F.2d
 at 786 (noting that the plaintiffs conducted discovery on the theory at issue).

"within that range of conduct [identified] as reasonable." *Billington v. Smith*, 292 F.3d
 1177, 1188-89 (9th Cir. 2002).

3 The excessive force analysis involves three steps. First, a court must "assess the 4 severity of the intrusion on the individual's Fourth Amendment rights by evaluating the type and amount of force inflicted." Glenn, 673 F.3d at 871. Second, a court must 5 6 "evaluate the government's interest in the use of force." Id. At a minimum, three factors 7 inform the government's interest: "(1) how severe the crime at issue is, (2) whether the 8 suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and (3) whether 9 the suspect was actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." Lal v. 10 California, 746 F.3d 1112, 1117 (9th Cir. 2014); see also Mattos v. Agarano, 661 F.3d 11 433, 441 (9th Cir. 2011) (noting that these factors are not exclusive and that courts consider "whatever specific factors may be appropriate in a particular case"). Of these 12 13 factors, the most important is whether the suspect immediately threatened the safety of 14 the officers or others. Lal, 746 F.3d at 1117; see also Glenn, 673 F.3d at 872. Finally, a 15 court must "balance the gravity of the intrusion on the individual against the 16 government's need for that intrusion." Id.

Mr. Ibarra brings his federal claim for excessive force under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
(*See* Compl. at 5-10.) In the context of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims, "[t]he doctrine of
qualified immunity protects government officials 'from liability for civil damages insofar
as their conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of
//
//

which a reasonable person would have known.""9 Stanton v. Sims, --- U.S. ---, 134 S. Ct. 1 3, 4-5 (2013) (per curiam) (quoting Pearson v. Callahan, 555 U.S. 223, 231 (2009)). 2 3 "Qualified immunity gives government officials breathing room to make reasonable but 4 mistaken judgments" and "protects all but the plainly incompetent or those who 5 knowingly violate the law." Ashcroft v. al-Kidd, 563 U.S. 731, 743 (2011) (quoting 6 Malley v. Briggs, 475 U.S. 335, 341 (1986)). Accordingly, an officer will be denied 7 qualified immunity in a Section 1983 action "only if (1) the facts alleged, taken in the 8 light most favorable to the party asserting injury, show that the officer's conduct violated 9 a constitutional right, and (2) the right at issue was clearly established at the time of the 10 incident such that a reasonable officer would have understood her conduct to be unlawful 11 in that situation." Green v. City & Cty. of S.F., 751 F.3d. 1039, 1051-52 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting Torres v. City of Madera, 648 F.3d 1119, 1123 (9th Cir. 2011)). The court "may 12 13 exercise discretion in deciding which of the two prongs to address first," Ames v. King 14 Cty., 846 F.3d 340, 347 (9th Cir. 2017), and "considers only the facts that were knowable 15 to the defendant officers," White v. Pauly, --- U.S. ---, 137 S. Ct. 548, 550 (2017).

16

17

18

19

20

i. Violation of a Constitutional Right

Viewing the facts in the light most favorable to Mr. Ibarra and drawing all reasonable inferences in his favor, the court first turns to the type and amount of force used. According to Mr. Ibarra, while on the stairs, the Marshals grabbed Mr. Ibarra by his arm and shirt, forced his left arm behind his back, pulled him down the stairs, lifted

⁹ The court must not equate "the excessive force question on the merits . . . with the qualified immunity question." *Brooks v. Clark Cty.*, 828 F.3d 910, 922 (9th Cir. 2016).

him off the ground by his hair, and kicked his shins. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 9.) The
Marshals' force was non-trivial in both kind and amount. (*See* 2d Bides Decl. ¶ 4, Ex. B
("Bragg Rep.") at 5 ("Transitory pain can be associated with the above tactics"—
including joint manipulation and hair holds—"[although] the potential for injury is
minimal.").)

6 In contrast, the government interest in the use of force was minimal. The crimes 7 at issue—stalking, disorderly conduct, and possibly obstruction—are nonviolent misdemeanors and thus not particularly severe.¹⁰ See, e.g., Blankenhorn v. City of 8 9 Orange, 485 F.3d 463, 481 (9th Cir. 2007) (misdemeanor trespass); White, 137 S. Ct. at 10 550 (considering only the facts knowable to the officers at the time). Indeed, Defendants 11 appear to acknowledge that the crimes at issue were not severe. (Compare 1st MSJ at 16-17, with 2d MSJ at 17-21; see also Resp. at 7 (acknowledging that Defendants "tone 12 13 down their language in their second motion" after "using terms such as 'Class B Felony' and harassment" in their first motion).) 14

The most important factor in evaluating the government's interest, however, is whether Mr. Ibarra posed an immediate threat to the safety of the Marshals or others. *See Lal*, 746 F.3d at 1117. Under the version of events most favorable to Mr. Ibarra, Mr. Ibarra posed little or no immediate threat to anyone's safety.¹¹ Although Mr. Ibarra may

19

20

15

16

17

¹⁰ See RCW 9A.46.110(a) (defining misdemeanor stalking); RCW 9A.84.030(1)(c) (defining disorderly conduct); RCW 9A.76.020 (defining obstruction of a law enforcement officer).

 ^{21 &}lt;sup>11</sup> There is a genuine dispute between the parties as to whether Mr. Ibarra's actions put
 22 Marshal Marino in danger. (*Compare* 2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 9-10, *with* Marino Decl. ¶ 8, *and* Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 4.)

1 have been stalking Ms. Lopez while at the courthouse, at the time the Marshals used 2 force on him, he was standing alone on a stairway surrounded by at least two marshals 3 and a corrections officer. (See 2d Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 5-9; Marino Decl. ¶¶ 7-9; Simoneschi 4 Decl. ¶ 5; Scott Decl. ¶ 4.) And, according to Mr. Ibarra's version of the facts, no one 5 from the public was present at the time of the incident (Ibarra Dep. 55:13-14), and Mr. 6 Ibarra did not threaten the Marshals or make any attempt to get past them and make his 7 way toward Ms. Lopez (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 5-9, 11). Finally, Mr. Ibarra posed little 8 physical danger because he is only five feet and three inches tall, weighs only 145 9 pounds, and was unarmed at the time of the incident. (Marino Rep. at 4; see Ibarra Dep. at 53:18-20.) 10

11 In addition, according to Mr. Ibarra's version of facts, he did not physically resist 12 or attempt to evade the Marshals by flight. Viewing the evidence in the light most 13 favorable to Mr. Ibarra, a fact-finder could conclude that in the moments before the 14 Marshals began using force against him, Mr. Ibarra passively—not actively—resisting 15 their commands to leave the building by standing pat on the staircase and speaking back 16 to Marshal Marino. (See id. ¶¶ 8-9 (stating that Mr. Ibarra stopped on the stairway and spoke back); Bragg Rep. at 4 (describing Mr. Ibarra's resistance as "static resistance," 17 18 which is characterized by "muscular tension generated by the violator in opposition to the 19 commands of the officer and can often be a precursor to an escalation of resistance").) 20 He attests that even after the Marshals pinned his left arm behind his back, lifted him up 21 by his hair, and kicked his shins, he resisted only by grabbing the railing to steady 22 himself. (See 2d Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 5-6.) Based on these facts and all reasonable inferences

drawn from them, a reasonable jury could conclude that Mr. Ibarra posed no immediate
 threat to the Marshals, Ms. Lopez, or anyone else.

In Ames v. King County, the Ninth Circuit held that a hair hold, a knee to the back, and head slams were reasonable uses of force. See 846 F.3d at 344-46. Defendants argue that Ames shows that the Marshals' use of force was reasonable. (See 2d MSJ at 12-13.) However, Defendants fail to fully acknowledge the unique circumstances that led to the Ninth Circuit's conclusion, none of which are present here. In Ames, law enforcement arrived at the scene of a medical emergency and encountered the distraught mother of a young man who had attempted suicide. Id. at 343-44. After a disagreement with the authorities on the scene, the mother attempted to load her unconscious son into her truck and drive away from the scene. *Id.* at 344-45. The deputy then pulled the mother from the truck, "employed a hair hold to distract" her, took her "down to the ground in a prone handcuffing position," pushed a knee into her back, and "slammed [her] head into the ground three times." *Id.* at 347. The Ninth Circuit held that the deputy's force was reasonable because the government had a substantial interest in the "ongoing emergency" and the deputy needed to act "in her community caretaking capacity." Id. at 348. For the reasons the court identified above, and viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Mr. Ibarra, no such emergency circumstances justified the Marshals' use of force against Mr. Ibarra. Accordingly, Ames does not demonstrate that the Marshals' force was reasonable as a matter of law.

Lastly, balancing the governmental interest in the use of force against the amount of force the Marshals employed against Mr. Ibarra, and viewing the facts in the light most 1 favorable to Mr. Ibarra, a reasonable jury could find the Marshals' use of force 2 unreasonable.

ii. Clearly Established Constitutional Right

Even though there is a genuine dispute of material fact regarding whether the Marshals' use of force violated Mr. Ibarra's constitutional right, the Marshals are entitled to qualified immunity if that right was not clearly established at the time of the incident. "A clearly established right is one that is sufficiently clear that every reasonable official would have understood that what he is doing violates that right."¹² Mullenix v. Luna, --- U.S. ---, 136 S. Ct. 305, 308 (2015) (internal quotation marks omitted). The Supreme Court recently "reiterate[d] the longstanding principle that 'clearly established law' should not be defined 'at a high level of generality." White, 137 S. Ct. at 552 (quoting Ashcroft v. al-Kidd, 563 U.S. 731, 742 (2011)). Instead, "the clearly established law must be 'particularized' to the facts of the case." Id. (quoting Anderson v. Creighton, 483 U.S. 635, 640 (1987)). Although the case law does not "require a case directly on point for a right to be clearly established, existing precedent must have placed the ... constitutional question beyond debate." Id. at 551 (internal quotation marks omitted). "[I]t is never enough simply to recite the general proposition that the Fourth

¹² In determining whether a constitutional right was clearly established at the time of the alleged violation, the court considers "binding precedent" from either the United States Supreme Court or the Ninth Circuit. Boyd, 374 F.3d at 781. "If the right is clearly established by decisional authority of the Supreme Court or this Circuit, [the court's] inquiry should come to an end." Id. When there are relatively few cases on point and none of them are binding on the court, the court "look[s] to whatever decisional law is available to ascertain whether the law is clearly established ..., including decisions of state courts, other circuits, and district courts." *Id.* 22 (internal quotation marks omitted).

1 Amendment prohibits officers from using an amount of force that is objectively 2 unreasonable." *Brooks*, 828 F.3d at 919.

3 Here, the court concludes that Mr. Ibarra's constitutional right was clearly 4 established at the time of the incident. The Ninth Circuit has held that "the right to be 5 free from the application of non-trivial force for engaging in mere passive resistance was clearly established prior to 2008,"13 Gravelet-Blondin v. Shelton, 728 F.3d 1086, 1093 6 7 (9th Cir. 2013), and that it is also clearly established that the force used was non-trivial, 8 see id. at 1095. Courts have also held that uses of force similar to those Mr. Ibarra asserts 9 are excessive when the person only passively resists, has committed or is suspected of 10 committing a misdemeanor crime, and poses no immediate threat. See Gravelet-Blondin, 11 728 F.3d at 1093; Winterrowd v. Nelson, 480 F.3d 1181, 1184-85 (9th Cir. 2007); Meredith v. Erath, 342 F.3d 1057, 1061 (9th Cir. 2003) (concluding that it was clearly 12 13 established that grabbing the plaintiff by the arms was unconstitutional in light of the fact 14 she was being investigated for nonviolent offenses and posed no safety risk); Savage v. City of Twin Falls, No. 1:13-CV-00179-EJL-REB, 2015 WL 1635252, at *11 (D. Idaho 15 Apr. 13, 2015) (stating that "[t]he right to be free from the application of non-trivial force 16 for engaging in passive resistance has been clearly established for nearly fifteen years"); 17 18 see also Young v. Cty. of L.A., 655 F.3d 1156, 1168 (9th Cir. 2011) (stating that

19

¹³ Defendants suggest that earlier Ninth Circuit precedent defines constitutional rights too 20 21

generally when concluding that those rights were clearly established. (See 2d MSJ at 8-9, 16-17 (describing an "intra-circuit split").) Although the court recognizes that the Supreme Court has repeatedly cautioned courts not to define a clearly established constitutional right at too general of a level, see White, 137 S. Ct. at 552, the court must follow this Circuit's precedent unless it is expressly overruled.

1 Headwaters Forest Def. v. Cty. of Humboldt ("Headwaters II"), 276 F.3d 1125, 1131 (9th 2 Cir. 2002), established that officers use excessive force "when they use pepper spray 3 upon an individual who is engaged in the commission of a non-violent misdemeanor and 4 who is disobeying a police officer's order but otherwise poses no threat to the officer or 5 others"); Onvenwe v. City of Corona, 637 F. App'x 370, 371 (9th Cir. 2016) (citing 6 *Winterrowd*, 480 F.3d at 1184-85, for the proposition that "it would have been clear to a 7 reasonable officer that the force applied"-slamming the plaintiff against a car and kicking him—"was unlawful" in light of the fact that the plaintiff was arrested for "a 8 9 minor crime" and "was not resisting arrest").) In addition, simply talking back to an offer 10 or refusing to fully comply with an officer's orders does not constitute active resistance. 11 See Nelson v. City of Davis, 685 F.3d 867, 882 (9th Cir. 2012) (holding that "active resistance is not to be found simply because of a failure to comply with the full extent of 12 13 an officer's orders").

14 Viewing the facts in the light most favorable to Mr. Ibarra, Mr. Ibarra merely 15 passively resisted the Marshals at the time they used force on him. Mr. Ibarra attests that 16 he turned away from the Marshals to proceed down the stairs and leave the courthouse 17 (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 8), but then stopped on the stairs and spoke back to Marshal Marino. 18 Under Mr. Ibarra's version of events, Marshal Marino then immediately came down the 19 stairs, grabbed Mr. Ibarra's arm, twisted his left arm behind him, and kicked his shins, 20 and Marshal Simoneschi grabbed him by the hair. (Id. \P 9.) Thus, according to Mr. 21 Ibarra, he at most passively resisted Marshal Marino's order to leave the courthouse, to 22 //

1	which the Marshals responded with non-trivial force. ¹⁴ In addition, the circumstances
2	surrounding the incident—that Mr. Ibarra was suspected of committing a misdemeanor,
3	that no one else was near the stairs at the time of the incident, and that Mr. Ibarra had
4	otherwise indicated that he was proceeding to exit the courthouse—indicate that little if
5	any force was justified. (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 8, 11; Ibarra Dep. at 55:13-14; Marino Decl.
6	\P 5.) Further, prior to the incident, the Ninth Circuit had held that the kind of force the
7	Marshals used on Mr. Ibarra is non-trivial. See, e.g., Meredith, 342 F.3d at 1061;
8	Winterrowd, 480 F.3d at 1184-85. Thus, the law gave Defendants fair notice that it is
9	unconstitutional to use non-trivial force in the face of passive resistance and no
10	immediate threat. See Boyd, 374 F.3d at 781; Gravelet-Blondin, 728 F.3d at 1093.
11	The court also finds Defendants' reliance on Brooks v. Clark County misplaced.
12	In <i>Brooks</i> , the Ninth Circuit held that there was no clearly established constitutional right
13	to be free from being grabbed and forcefully pushed out of a courtroom after causing a
14	disturbance. 828 F.3d at 920-21. In recounting the facts, the Ninth Circuit noted that
15	before the bailiff shoved the plaintiff, the plaintiff "had at least twice defied the judge's
16	order to leave; had continued to resist [the bailiff's] verbal instructions to leave;
17	and two of [the plaintiff's] compatriots had similarly disrupted the court." <i>Id.</i> at 921.
18	On these facts, the Court concluded that "it is simply not 'beyond doubt' that [the bailiff]
19	

¹⁴ The court recognizes that Defendants' expert, Officer Robert Bragg, opines that an officer could reasonably believe Mr. Ibarra actively resisted the Marshals' commands by turning around on the stairs, assuming an aggressive posture, and staring at Marshal Marino. (*See* Bragg Rep. at 4.) Although these facts may suggest a different outcome on the clearly established inquiry, the court must credit Mr. Ibarra's version of the facts—in particular, his claim that he did not resist the Marshals—on this motion for summary judgment.

employed an unreasonable amount of force." *Id.* Here, viewing the facts in the light
 most favorable to Mr. Ibarra, Mr. Ibarra passively resisted the Marshals and did not
 engage in the kind of active resistance the Ninth Circuit describes in *Brooks*.

4 Further, the court is not persuaded by the Defendants' argument that even if the 5 right was clearly established before *Brooks*, the case has since cast doubt on the Ninth 6 Circuit's earlier excessive force cases. Without expressly deciding how far *Brooks* 7 reaches, the court notes that the Ninth Circuit decided *Brooks* in 2016—several months 8 after the April 15, 2015, incident between the Marshals and Mr. Ibarra. See Brooks, 828 9 F.3d at 914; (2d Ibarra Decl. ¶ 3.) Because the court must determine if the right to be free 10 from non-trivial force when exhibiting only passive resistance was clearly established at 11 the time of the incident, the fact that *Brooks* may cast doubt on earlier precedent does not 12 demonstrate that the right was not clearly established as of April 2015.

Based on the foregoing analysis and the procedural posture of this case, the court concludes that Defendants fail to establish they are entitled to qualified immunity and denies summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra's excessive force claim.

13

14

15

16

3. Assault and Battery Claim

Mr. Ibarra also brings a state law assault and battery claim against the Marshals
(Compl. ¶¶ 48-51), which the court declined to dismiss on Defendants' first motion for
summary judgment (*see* 8/9/16 Order at 27). Because the court denies summary
judgment on Mr. Ibarra's federal excessive force claim, the court does not address
Defendants' argument that the court should decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction
over Mr. Ibarra's remaining state law claim. (*See* 2d MSJ at 21); 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3)

ORDER - 25

1	(stating that a district court "may decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over a
2	claim if the district court has dismissed all claims over which it has original
3	jurisdiction").
4	IV. CONCLUSION
5	For the foregoing reasons, the court DENIES Defendants' second motion for
6	summary judgment (Dkt. # 43).
7	Dated this 3rd day of April, 2017.
8	\bigcirc
9	(Jun R. Klut
10	JAMES L. ROBART United States District Judge
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	