**Decisions for Patrol Officers**

**(Expert Responses)**

1. The experts strongly agree that you should report the suspect vehicle’s location and direction and continue to the house to address the call of a possible burglary **(b),** as your priority is to protect the potential victims and resolve the more important issue of a possible crime in progress—even if it means letting a potential criminal escape. Any delay to your response to the residence may further endanger the family if the burglary is still in progress.  Go to the house.
2. The experts agreed that withdrawing to the porch **(b)** is the best option here.  Creating time and space by increasing distance can de-escalate a tense situation.  Approaching the suspect (a), even when showing your palms to appear non-threatening, can escalate tension and provoke a confrontation by decreasing time and space.  Moreover, it puts you at greater risk.  Immediately attempting  to disarm the suspect, in any lethal/nonlethal combination (c)(d), without making any attempt at negotiation, could very likely lead to a case of officer-created jeopardy in which you are forced to use lethal force to protect yourself.
3. The experts agreed that the better decision is to detain the suspect for questioning **(a)**.  On the surface this may seem to contradict the experts’ feedback in SBXL 1 to let the suspect go and to drive directly to the scene instead.  In that situation, the homeowner was reporting an intruder in the home and so was still in potential danger.  In that case, the priority must be protecting the potential victim, even if it means letting a potential suspect escape.  In this situation, the reporting person (RP) has indicated that the suspect has already left the home, so she is no longer in imminent danger.  On top of that, the RP has provided a detailed description of her assailant, which this suspect matches.  Also, another officer is responding to the scene to attend to the victim.  Based on those differences in the fact pattern, the experts reached a different conclusion.
4. While officers have the authority to control the driver and passengers on a traffic stop, in this case it is hard to articulate a reason to have the driver exit other than to escalate the situation, reinforcing the concerns the driver has expressed. The experts agreed that to avoid escalation, the best option is to finish the citation and end the stop **(c)**.  It is not necessary to “win” the encounter by forcing the driver to exit the car.
5. The experts agree that this situation calls for slowing things down and working for a negotiated resolution **(d)**.  There is no reason to force the situation toward a resolution (a)(b).  The suspect has already told you he wants you to kill him, so that is the likely outcome if you force the situation.  Evening pushing forward to negotiate (c) could lead to a potentially deadly confrontation. Increasing time and space decreases tension.
6. Again, although the officer has the authority to control the driver at a traffic stop, trying to finish the stop (c)(a) will escalate the situation as the driver is already agitated. Only three blocks away, you can call for an ambulance and help the driver check on the welfare of his mother **(b)**. If she is okay the ambulance can be waved off. The focus should be on the potential medical emergency with the citation resolved later, if at all.