



Press Release

For Immediate Release
Friday, September 18, 2015
Contact: Opal Mauldin-Robertson
City Manager
(214) 500-1383
(972) 275-0919 fax
orobertson@lancaster-tx.com

Police Chief Administrative leave

Lancaster, TX – Thank you for coming today. As a community we are committed to protecting and serving the citizens, public safety officers and guests of our community.

On **August 17, 2015** at approximately 4:30AM, Lieutenant Michael Fine stopped a pedestrian identified as Alexander Tucker in the 900 block of W. Pleasant Run Road. Force was used during this encounter which required a mandatory Use of Force report which was forwarded up the chain of command.

August 18, 2015 – Mandatory evaluation of Use of Force report and video by Internal Affairs was conducted. IA investigators had concerns about the stop and advised Administration of concerns about the reasonable suspicion for the stop. Police Department Administration initiated investigation.

Chief Wilson, Asst. Chief Bolton, Asst. Chief Urbanski along with City Manager and Assistant City Manager met with Bob Hager, City Attorney to discuss the incident. At that time, the Police Chief expressed that the incident was egregious, serious, and appeared to, at a minimum, violate policy.

August 19, 2015 – Lt. Fine was reassigned pending the administrative review of use of force.

August 22, 2015 – Mr. Tucker filed written complaint with the City of Lancaster Internal Affairs Division, Sgt. M. Taulton.

September 1, 2015 – The Internal Affairs Division requested the internal Department Taser Instructor review the video and use of the Taser. Department Taser Instructor advised the officer's use of the Taser was appropriate.

September 3, 2015 – Chief Wilson met with the Mayor and the City Manager. The video was viewed by all parties. Chief Wilson was instructed to keep the City Manager informed of the progress and results of the internal affairs investigation.

September 8, 2015 – The Assistant Chief made contact with the City Attorney and was advised to contact the Texas Rangers to determine whether there was any criminal liability.

Chief Wilson then directed the internal affairs investigator to contact the Dallas County District Attorney in reference to this incident.

September 9, 2015 – The IA Investigator made contact with Texas Ranger David Armstrong and scheduled meeting.

The IA Investigator also contacted Dallas County District Attorney's office and was referred to Assistant District Attorney, Intake Division.

September 10, 2015 – The IA Investigator made contact with the Assistant District Attorney Intake Division and forwarded a copy of the offense report for evaluation. After evaluating the offense report, the Assistant District Attorney advised the reasonable suspicion for the stop was good and the officer had valid reason for the stop.

At 2:00PM the IA Investigator met with Texas Ranger David Armstrong who watched the video and reviewed the offense report. After reviewing the offense report, Ranger Armstrong advised he believed that the officer acted appropriately and saw no criminal violations in the actions of the officer.

September 11, 2015 – Chief Wilson placed the officer back on his assigned duties prior to completion of the investigation, which was September 14, 2015. This is inconsistent with agreed upon directives.

September 16, 2015 – I was informed by the Chief that the officer was exonerated of all charges and placed back on his previous duties.

September 17, 2015 – Police Chief Cheryl Wilson was placed on Administrative leave with pay pending the completion of an independent investigation by the Texas Rangers, the FBI and a separate Municipal organization. This leave is in an effort to avoid any questions or concerns regarding inappropriate conduct or the appearance of any inappropriate behavior or involvement in the investigation by the Chief. The Chief will remain on leave until the investigations are concluded.

Given the Chief's initial reaction on August 18th that this incident resembles that of other local and national incidents and the appearance at a minimum that policy was violated and then less than 2 weeks later the officer was returned to work without any actions or recourse which causes questions and concerns regarding the completeness and independent review of this matter.

Next Steps...

All information regarding the incident is being forwarded for formal written and response on the determination on whether or not there is any criminal or civil liability based on the incident of August 17, 2015 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Texas Rangers through the Texas Department of Public Safety – Public Integrity Unit. An

administrative review of the internal affairs investigation is being conducted by another police agency.

The images in this video are disturbing enough that the city would want to take a more proactive approach in having this matter investigated. This is a matter of public and officer safety. The city plans to augment, supplement, and reinforce all internal training processes and procedures.

We ask that the public allow the city to conduct the investigation and reserve judgement until the third party reviews are complete and received. We support the Public and Lancaster Police Department and are committed to their safety and well being within our community.

###