

**PRESS RELEASE:** Martinsville Police Officer's involvement with 10-year old Juvenile

**RELEASE DATE:** Effective 03/31/10 @ 3:30 P.M.

**FROM:** Office of the Mayor  
Martinsville Police Department

THE MARTINSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE UNDUE RESTRAINT BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN ANSWER TO A COMPLAINT BY A LOCAL DAY-CARE PROVIDER INVOLVING A 10-YEAR OLD JUVENILE THAT WAS OUT OF CONTROL.

OFFICERS HAD BEEN CALLED ON PREVIOUS TIMES, REGARDING THE SAME SUBJECT, WITH REPORTS OF OUT OF CONTROL BEHAVIOR AND REPORTS OF THE JUVENILE BEING COMBATIVE AND ATTEMPTING TO DO HARM TO OTHER CHILDREN AND CARETAKERS AT THE DAY CARE FACILITY.

WHEN OFFICERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, THE SUBJECT JUVENILE APPEARED TO BE OUT OF CONTROL AND WAS STRIKING OUT, KICKING AND HITTING THOSE IN CONTROL, AND REFUSING TO OBEY ORDERS OF THE POLICE OFFICERS.

IN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE SUBJECT JUVENILE, AFTER REPEATEDLY REFUSING TO OBEY ORDERS FROM THE OFFICERS, THE OFFICERS ALLEDGELY USED THE DEPARTMENT'S ISSUED TASER GUN, AND ALLEDGELY SLAPPED THE JUVINILE, TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND CONTAIN THE ALLEDGED OFFENDER FROM FURTHER INJURY TO HIMSELF AND OTHERS.

WHILE THIS DEPARTMENT WILL NOT CONDONE THE UNNECESSARY TREATMENT OF ANY SUBJECT, REGARDLESS OF AGE, IN AN APPREHENSION SITUATION, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS WILL NOT BE MADE PENDING RESULTS OF THE FINAL INVESTIGATION.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF, DAN RIFFEL, STATED THE TWO OFFICERS HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED, WITH PAY, AND PLACED ON ADMINSTRATIVE DUTY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR COMPLETE INVESTIGATION.