



## **LYNCHBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE**

**August 26, 2015**



### **Media Inquiry into November 21, 2014 Incident Involving Linkhorne Middle School Student**

**This information is being provided on the conclusion of a Lynchburg Police Department internal investigation of a media-reported allegation of inappropriate conduct on the part of a Lynchburg Police Officer.**

**On November 21, 2014 Lynchburg Police Officer David Dill, assigned as the School Resource Officer at Linkhorne Middle School, assisted school staff in addressing a matter deemed to pose a potential threat to student safety. In accordance with student records privacy regulations set forth under the Federal Family Rights and Privacy Act, detailed information related to this incident will not be released.**

**Based on this incident and other related information known to him, Officer Dill obtained Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court petitions charging a student with Disorderly Conduct in a School Facility and with Assault on a Police Officer. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court proceedings will not be detailed; however, the Lynchburg Police Department has been supportive of these charges being taken under advisement and no sanction imposed, so long as the student demonstrates more appropriate conduct during a time period set by the Court.**

**In keeping with standard Lynchburg Police Department policy, Officer Dill's supervisor began an in-depth review of Officer Dill's actions in this November 21, 2014 incident immediately after the incident occurred. The scope of the review included speaking with the student and the student's mother, interviewing persons who witnessed Officer Dill's interaction with the student, and interviewing persons who witnessed the student's conduct prior to Officer Dill's arrival at the incident scene. In keeping with standard LPD policy, documentation of that review was subsequently examined by every member of Officer Dill's chain of command, including the Chief of Police. The incident review found that Officer David Dill's actions in this incident were appropriate to the situation the officer encountered, were within Lynchburg Police Department policy, and were legally authorized under state and local code.**

**On January 30, 2015 the Lynchburg City School System received a media inquiry about this November 21, 2014 incident. The School System and the Police Department released a joint media statement on February 2, 2015.**

**In April 2015, a media affiliate reported statements by the student's mother indicating that Officer Dill's actions in the November 21, 2014 incident appeared to the mother to have been inappropriate. Although the student's mother never contacted the Lynchburg Police Department to express concern over Officer Dill's actions, the LPD command staff interpreted the mother's remarks to the media as an allegation of officer misconduct, and assigned an LPD Professional Standards supervisor to conduct a second investigation into the November 21, 2014 incident. During the course of that investigation, Officer Dill and all witnesses to the incident were re-interviewed and all available incident information was re-examined. The investigating supervisor offered to also speak with the student's mother and with the student, on the mother's approval and in the mother's presence. The student's mother declined this offer, as she was entitled to do. The LPD Professional Standards investigation was therefore concluded without the student's mother or the student being interviewed directly. In keeping with standard LPD policy, documentation of the Professional Standards investigation was examined by every member of Officer Dill's chain of command, including the Chief of Police.**

**The second Lynchburg Police Department investigation of this November 21, 2014 incident at Linkhorne Middle School confirmed the findings of the LPD's original incident review, and specifically found that Officer David Dill's actions were appropriate to the situation the officer encountered, were within Lynchburg Police Department policy, and were legally authorized under state and local code.**

**The Lynchburg Police Department is committed to working in collaborative partnership with the Lynchburg City School System to maintain a safe and secure school environment within which all students have the opportunity to learn and to develop into productive members of our community. Although School Resource Officers may occasionally be required to take enforcement action in order to keep school students and staff safe, the primary role and focus of every Lynchburg Police Department SRO is to foster positive, mentoring relationships with students in all circumstances.**

**Press Release completed by Lieutenant Malcolm Booker  
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