



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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HPD CASE 08-14126

Suitable For Public Dissemination

On September 23rd, 2008, at around 11:30 am, a Hawthorne Police Officer responded to a radio call of a Middle School student that was out of control on campus and that the student had assaulted staff and a security officer.

The officer located the student (who is developmentally disabled) and school staff on the school grounds. There also was a large gathering of students (approximately 200) watching the incident. The school staff were attempting to calm the student down. The student did not listen or comply with any attempts to calm down, instead assaulting the security guard and a teacher with his feet, fists, and objects (construction cones, sunglasses, candy).

The officer was standing near the student when the student suddenly turned on the officer and kicked him in the groin. He attempted to kick the officer again but the officer was able to block the kick.

The student took off running towards the watching students nearby a school entry/exit gate. In the meantime, teachers were trying to move the students away from the incident. The student showed no signs of calming down or cooperating. He continued to have clenched fists, was in "full rage" and was cursing. He continued to swing and kick at the teachers and threatened to kill them. The student started to turn and run towards the students and the exit of the school.

Based on the situation, the Officer deployed his Taser to overcome the student's combative actions. The student was handcuffed and taken to a local hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

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