

City of

# HURST TEXAS

POLICE DEPARTMENT



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: October 8, 2013  
Issued by: Richard Winstanley, Assistant Chief  
Time: 11:30  
Topic: TASER

The Hurst Police Department values human life, dignity, and legal protections. It is imperative that all employees authorized to use force in response to resistance act within the boundaries of law, professional ethics, good judgment, reasonableness, and accepted best practices. They are prepared by training, leadership, and direction to act wisely whenever using any level of force. The use of force is permitted only when that force used is **objectively reasonable** because it is *necessary* to overcome resistance offered in a *lawful* police action. Force will be used at the lowest level objectively reasonable to safely resolve a situation, accomplish lawful objectives and to gain *control* of the suspect(s).

We have not removed the use of TASER's. However, because of the concerns recently brought to discussion, we have asked our legal representatives to *again* conduct an overall review of the department's response to resistance practices and policies. Before any employee is authorized to carry the TASER, the employee receives training on its use, demonstrates their proficiency, and is issued and instructed on the department's response to resistance policy. At least annually, agency personnel trained and authorized to carry the TASER again receives training on the policy and again demonstrates their proficiency in its use. Annually, an analysis of all response to resistance incidents, policies and practices, manufacturer recommendations as well as legal updates is conducted. We have previously been informed of TASER Internationals recommendations and through training, practices and policies, as well as legal review on the use of TASER's; we believe we have made appropriate changes.

We will continue to be vigilant in our review and analysis of the law, our practices and policies, as well as any recommendations from the manufacturer to ensure the safety of our officers and the community, striving to maintain an ethical balance of the protection of human life, dignity, and legal protections.

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