

## **FAQ**

### **What scene was being rehearsed?**

"Lie of the Mind" by Sam Shepard. According to the police report: "...He was practicing a scene that consisted of physically restraining complainant, who's character is his sister in the play." "advised [female] was supposed to be in distress as she is playing a mentally disabled character but his character tries to help her but she pulls away from his grasp as he grabs her arms and back while she is screaming."

### **How did the student react when approached by police?**

According to police reports, the students complied with the police commands and informed the officers they were rehearsing a scene. They were visibly shaken (crying/shaking) following the incident. The lead officer explained why UHPD was called out and why he unholstered his service weapon upon response. The officer's weapon was in the "low and ready position" and he did not point the weapon at any individual.

### **Who decided to give vests out to students?**

On Monday, Nov. 14, the School of Theatre & Dance faculty held a planning meeting with a staff representative from UHPD, with the intent of determining strategies that would protect students and prevent this from happening again. After a few suggestions presented by faculty were discussed, including sectioning off practice areas and signage, brightly colored vests for all students was determined to be the best course of action to ensure proper visibility. This was a solution that was arrived at with the best of intentions on all sides, but it was not the right course of action nor was it vetted or approved by Police Chief Ceaser Moore.

### **Why weren't the students given an indoor location with appropriate designation to rehearse?**

There is a limited amount of classroom and rehearsal space in the School of Theatre and Dance, and rehearsals (those that are part of formal class meetings as well as those that are informal, on students' own time as part of their homework outside of class) often take place in public spaces inside the building as well as in public spaces outdoors. Acting students have always been instructed by the faculty in the School of Theatre and Dance to exercise common sense when rehearsing outdoors.

### **Why was there not a UH Alert issued about this incident?**

UH Alerts are distributed when there is a threat to campus safety. In this incident, there was no crime committed and no threat to the campus community.

### **How did the officers respond to the students once they realized they were student actors?**

According to police reports, the lead officer tried to comfort/console the students and explained to them why UHPD was called and why he had his weapon unholstered.

### **How long did the incident last? Was anyone detained?**

The dispatch call was approximately four minutes long. Officer arrived at approximately 3:46 (three minutes, 46 seconds) into the call, and responded that it was a Code 4 (under control) approximately 10 seconds later. No one was detained. No crime was committed.

**What training must UHPD officers complete before patrolling campus?**

UHPD is an IACLEA accredited police department which is achieved by less than 2% of all police agencies. Officers must have completed Basic Police Officer training before being hired. Once hired, officers complete a 16-week field training program to learn university policies, the campus, and the community.

**Why did UH officers draw their weapons? What is the protocol for officers to be able to draw their weapons on students on campus?**

Police officers are trained to pull their duty weapons if there is a perceived threat to their life or to someone else's life. In this case, there was an active report that a woman was being assaulted by a man in an alley. Ultimately, the report included that he had a knife.

**Is there a need for UHPD to update its response protocols as a result of this?**

No. The officers responded appropriately and according to protocol regarding the information provided by the witness at the scene. Officers were responding to an assault in progress with a reported weapon.

**Chief Moore is videotaped saying he did not have prior knowledge of the green vests. When did he first learn about the green vests?**

Tuesday, Jan. 24

**Chief Moore is videotaped saying he didn't know about the green vests, did not agree with the idea, and did not approve of the green vest idea.**

Correct.

**The Daily Cougar states that: "Despite his procedural objections, Moore recommended students wear the vests for the time being." Is this true?**

No. The Chief of Police did not recommend that students wear vests. He adamantly opposed the idea. The college has since retracted its recommendation for students to wear vests and the Police Chief continues to agree that it is not the right course of action.

**The Daily Cougar states the UHPD officer "pointed his weapon at a student". Other account state that the officer unholstered his gun but did not actually point the gun at the student. What are the facts?**

The police reports state the weapon was pointed in a low and ready position but not directly at the individuals.

**The Daily Cougar states that "When he [male actor] saw the officer bearing down on him with his gun drawn, he knew immediately it was a matter of life or death." The question is did the officer bear down on the student or rush toward him with his gun drawn?**

The police reports do not reference how quickly the individuals were approached. The entire encounter was brief. It took 10-11 seconds from when the lead officer arrived to when he called a Code 4 (under control) on his radio and let other responders know it was a rehearsal.

**Did the initial officer believe the supposed weapon to be a 3D printed weapon as the DC asserts?**

The police reports and witness report that the object appeared to be a knife. The actors were not using a prop weapon. The male actor was holding a rolled-up paper script in his hand.

**Is there a person of color on the school of Theatre and Dance faculty?**

At this time there is one person of color on the School of Theatre and Dance faculty (Hispanic).

**It has been alleged that there were discrepancies in the police reports.**

There are no discrepancies in the reports.

**Has the college found appropriate space for the students to rehearse?**

The McGovern College of the Arts is currently working with the University Registrar and University Facilities to identify additional space in other buildings on campus and to reserve and provide students access to such spaces. At this time, two potential classrooms have been identified.