



OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

OPBA Stands with Parma Officers — Public Deserves the Whole Story

Cleveland, OH – The Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association stands firmly behind the Parma Police Officers now facing unfounded citizen accusations arising from an August 2025 encounter with a 13-year-old juvenile.

The Parma Officers involved were seasoned employees who acted consistently with their training and experience. The inflammatory anti-police narrative surrounding this case leaves out the facts that matter most.

This was not a compliant child. He had a record of unruly and erratic behavior. On this occasion, officers were called to Walters Grove Park because of a fight. During their investigation, this juvenile:

- Threw a large stick that struck officers
- Fled from police
- Resisted arrest
- Screamed and tried kicking out the windows and cage while in the cruiser
- Threatened to run
- And continued kicking officers as they attempted to bring him into the station

Sadly, the juvenile's own mother could not control his behavior. Body-camera footage from the park captures the juvenile vulgarly berating her as she tells him, "You have court tomorrow! What do you think I'm telling the judge? **To put your little ass on house arrest.**"

His behavior did not stop outside the police department. Inside the juvenile holding cell, he threw chairs, damaged City property, repeatedly banged his head against the wall, and continued acting violently enough that medical personnel were eventually called.

CLEVELAND OFFICE:

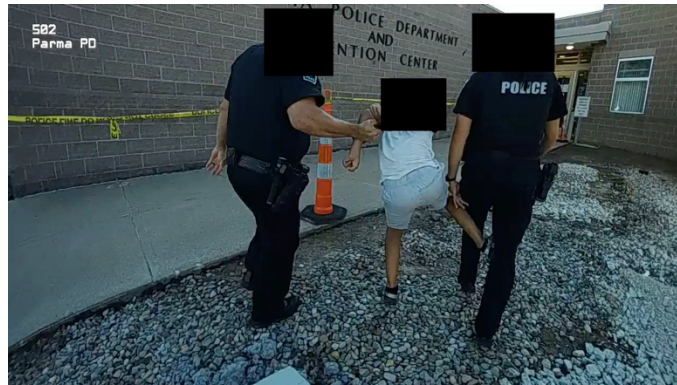
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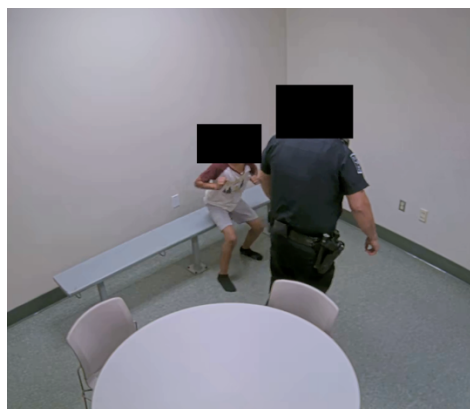
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The most important fact of the entire situation has been omitted from the public narrative: after his handcuffs were removed, the juvenile stood from the bench, **squared up at an Officer with clenched fists**, and made an aggressive movement toward him.



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The involved Officer responded using the level of force reasonably permissible to stop what he reasonably perceived as an imminent assault. **Police officers are not required to wait to be punched.**

All three officers acted appropriately. They did not create this confrontation. They responded to it. And they relied on decades of training and experience to bring an out-of-control juvenile under control.

The OPBA rejects any attempt to turn police officers doing their jobs into criminals through selective video and inflammatory rhetoric.

We stand behind our members.

The OPBA will hold a press conference next week at its Cleveland office to address this incident. Additional details will be announced Monday.

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