



Press Release

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"Serving Our Community"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kilgore P.D. Completes Internal Review (Follow up)

Kilgore, TX -- The Kilgore Police Department has recently completed a comprehensive administrative investigation and review of the incident which occurred on Monday, November 29th, 2010 in front of the Kilgore High School involving several Kilgore High School students and a Kilgore Police Department Traffic Officer. The following facts were established by digital video, witness statements and statements from involved parties:

After a consensual contact with a group of five students in the parking lot area of the high school, KPD Traffic Officer John Rowe requested the group of students utilize the cross walk upon returning to class. While still in the area, Officer Rowe witnessed the same group of students not only fail to utilize the cross walk but run across the street in front of oncoming traffic. Officer Rowe attempted to address the traffic violation and safety concerns with the group of students and called them back to him. The group of students refused to obey his repeated directions to return to Officer Rowe's location. Officer Rowe caught up to the group of students who continued to ignore him and clutched one by the arm. The student resisted Officer Rowe, protested his detention and refused to cooperate with Officer Rowe and subsequently resisted efforts to be handcuffed. Other students did interfere with the arrest either physically or verbally. Due to this student's actions of attempting to evade detention and resisting, Officer Rowe made an arrest of that student only. In light of the lack of cooperation and compliance on behalf of other students and safety concerns in regards to failing to utilize the crosswalk and entering the wet roadway in front of traffic, traffic citations were issued by Officer Rowe. Further, the physical confrontation and its aftermath prevented Officer Rowe from addressing any other students other than the group he was able to detain.

The investigation further revealed during the month of November 2010 several of the students involved in this incident along with many other high school students had been previously warned by School Resource Officers to utilize the cross walks for their safety. These steps were taken by School Resource Officers as a result of another student reporting being struck by a vehicle while attempting to cross Longview Street and recent accounts of pedestrian accidents occurring in Longview, Texas. The student was not harmed and the vehicle could not be located.

Based on all of the known facts uncovered during the investigation, Officer Rowe's actions were found to be lawful and proper within the framework of departmental policy and state law.