



City of Corpus Christi

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Response to Internet Video

On August 16, 2014 at 3:41 a.m., Corpus Christi Police Officers were called to the Whataburger restaurant parking lot, located at 1121 Waldron Road, to back up an off-duty officer. The off-duty officer was not a Corpus Christi Police Officer, but assigned to the Nueces County District Attorney's Office (NCDA).

A review of the incident shows that Senior Officer Jerry Lockhart arrived to assist in what had been a fight involving ten people that was no longer in progress. Officer Lockhart started to assist the off-duty NCDA officer in the investigation of the fight. He was directed to Ms. Espinosa by the off-duty NCDA officer because she had been involved in the altercation.

Ms. Espinosa refused to identify herself to CCPD Officer Lockhart or the off-duty NCDA officer.

Ms. Espinosa was restrained by the off-duty NCDA officer and detained by Officer Lockhart for "Interference with Public Duties". The detention was based on the incident (that she had been involved in the fight, which she admitted), and not due to the fact that Ms. Espinosa was videotaping the officers.

Officer Lockhart did not witness the altercation that had occurred prior to his arrival. The off-duty NCDA officer did not charge anyone with a crime and released everyone at the scene, including Ms. Espinosa. Our officers cleared the location at 4:17 a.m.

The Corpus Christi Police Department prides itself in transparency and respects the public's right to photograph and record in public. Our officers are trained to be respectful during police/citizen contacts and de-escalation techniques.

Furthermore, members of the Corpus Christi Police Department do not interfere with citizens who wish to photograph or record our officers in the public space.

