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Tallahassee Democrat



Tallahassee police officer placed on leave after video shows questionable takedown of suspect



Jeff Burlew, Tallahassee Democrat

Mon, March 28, 2022, 3:56 PM · 3 min read



A Tallahassee Police Department officer was placed on administrative leave after [video taken by a bystander](#) surfaced on social media showing him using questionable force on a suspect who allegedly left the scene of a traffic crash.

The encounter happened early Friday evening on the sidewalk at Saint Francis Street and Railroad Avenue. A 43-second video posted on Instagram shows Officer Shawn Wright pick up the suspect, a 27-year-old man, and flip him upside down before taking him down head-first and pinning him on the ground.

The bystanders who shot the video appeared shocked by what they saw. "Oh my God. They just threw him on the floor head first," one person said. Another observed, "He wasn't even fighting them."



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In this screenshot from a video on social media, a Tallahassee Police officer lifts up a suspect before bringing him to down the ground.

In an interview with the Tallahassee Democrat, Police Chief Lawrence Revell said that it appeared from the footage that the suspect never "hit the concrete ground at all."

"Anytime I see use of force — we've said repeatedly use of force (doesn't) look pretty — I'm always concerned," Revell said. "But my concern is simply to make sure that what we are seeing is within policy and procedure and state statute and meets the constitutional requirement of reasonableness."

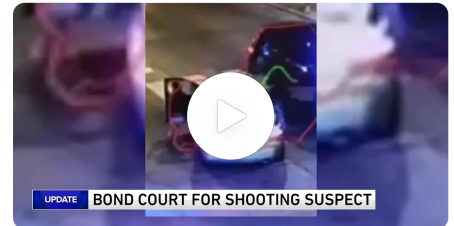
TPD later issued a statement saying the suspect was involved in a minor collision and left the scene. Witnesses gave officers video footage of the suspect and his vehicle and found him walking in the area.

"Upon attempts to detain the suspect, he resisted arrest and physical control was utilized to take him into custody," the department said. "No injuries were reported."

Revell said the department takes use-of-force issues "very seriously" but that he would reserve judgment on whether proper force was used "until I have all the facts in front of me."

Body camera video posted

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WGN - Chicago



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Officer shot, second pinned between cars

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seen [here](#) and [here](#).

Wright ordered the suspect to put his hand behind his back, but he responded by asking "Why?" Wright warned

Story continues



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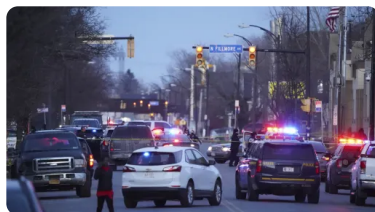
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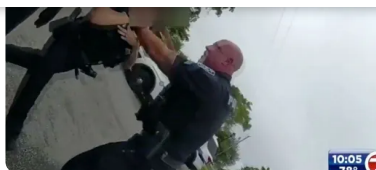
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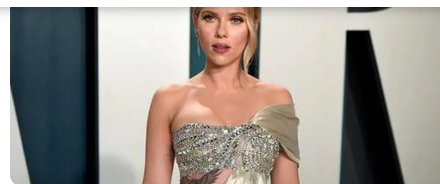
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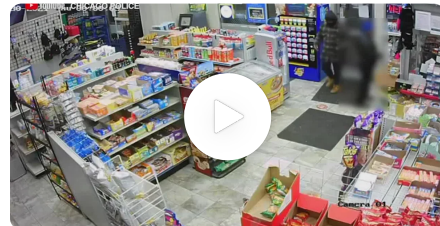


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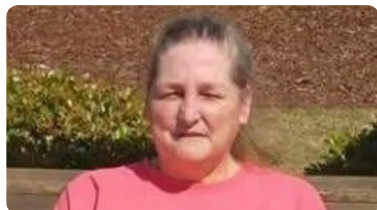


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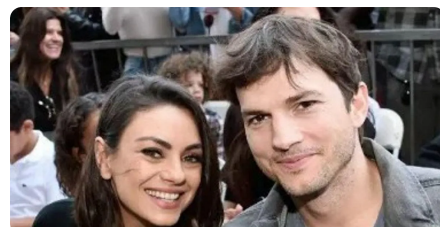
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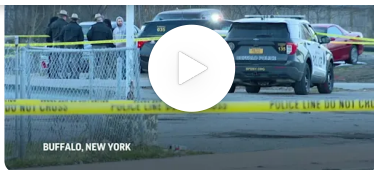


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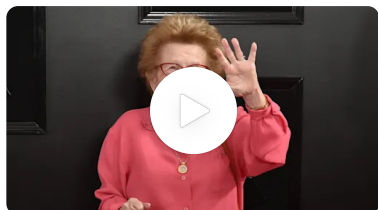


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