



Pleasant Grove

POLICE

Dear Taser International,

On February 19th 2010, Officers of the Pleasant Grove Police Department responded to a residence in Pleasant Grove to investigate a suspect in a theft detail. The individual under suspicion was a twenty four year old male who also had several warrants out for his arrest, one being a felony assault warrant. Officers were told the individual was in his basement bedroom. Officers gained lawful entry into the home and knocked on the bedroom door. The individual responded to the officers by stating he had a gun. Officers backed off to a point of cover behind a cinderblock wall and attempted to negotiate with the individual.

The individual immediately exited the bed room with a knife. He then began to commit suicide in front of the officers. He plunged the fixed blade knife into his abdomen six times and slashed across his throat twice. In an attempt to stop the individual, officers deployed a Taser X26. Both prongs struck the individual and stopped the suicidal actions. As soon as the five second Taser cycle stopped, the individual pulled the prongs out. A second Taser X26 was deployed and the individual was incapacitated and taken into custody.

In his attempts to end his life, he missed his carotid artery in his neck by millimeters; he punctured and collapsed both lungs, punctured his liver, punctured his pancreas, and lost massive amounts of blood. Due to the immediate response of the offices in getting this individual into custody, he has able to receive medical attention that saved his life.

We wanted to take a minute to thank you for your products. It seems that the majority of time anyone cares to speak about Taser International , especially the media, it is to accuse Taser or the police for the death of someone that they in their ignorant prospective believe was caused by Taser deployment. There is no question that the deployment of a Taser in this incident saved the life of a twenty four year old male. Without the Taser X26 the officers involved would have had little options other than to watch an unnecessary death or resort to deadly force if they had tried to physically intervene and he turned the knife on them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Captain Michael Smith
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