



West Valley City

POLICE



A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

Office of Chief Colleen Jacobs

3575 South Market Street, West Valley City, Utah, 84119

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As Chief of the West Valley City Police Department, I have extremely high expectations of my officers. I expect the highest levels of professionalism in their conduct and I will not accept anything less. Day in and day out, these expectations are not only met, but often exceeded by the men and women of this police department. To ensure these high expectations are consistently met, West Valley City Police Supervisors regularly review actions taken by our officers, including things such as, response to resistance and forced entry. Recently, we became aware of an incident that posed concern and prompted us to immediately launch an internal investigation.

To give you some background on this case, on February 24, 2018, West Valley City Police were contacted by the Unified Police Department regarding the death of a 2-month-old infant. The infant had apparently been taken to a clinic in the UPD jurisdiction to be examined for respiratory problems. While at the clinic, the infant passed away and the infant's family left the clinic and returned home.

As is standard protocol in an unattended death, police, in this case UPD, were notified of the infant's passing. Because the infant resided in West Valley City, UPD contacted West Valley City Police to conduct the follow up investigation into the infant's death. An investigation of this nature would typically consist of an initial response by a patrol officer to gather witness statements regarding the death, as well as gather information about the events that led up to the death. This investigation would also include determining if the home was the scene of a crime, or if anything occurring in the home contributed to the cause of the baby's death.

To fulfill this obligation, two West Valley City Police Officers responded to the family home located on the 2800 block of Sussex Place in West Valley City to conduct this investigation. One officer knocked on the door which was then opened by a man in a highly agitated state. The man shouted expletives at the officer and

closed the door. At that point, the officer struck the door two times with his foot. The man inside the house then opened the door and the officer forced entry into the home.

While inside the home, there was a confrontation between the officer and 26-year-old Tevin Evans. Evans struck the officer in the face causing him to become unconscious and fall on the stairs.

In addition to our internal investigation, and in line with our commitment to transparency, we are preparing to have this case presented to the Professional Standards Review Board, a panel made up of citizens, for their independent review. While this administrative investigation is underway, the officer's duties have been modified and he will not have interaction with the public while this case is under review.

To give you some understanding of what this administrative investigation process looks like, it includes, among other things, understanding what happened at the hospital, what the hospital reported to police, what another agency told our officer, what our officer understood regarding the baby's death. We also need to gather statements from the infant's family, which we have requested, but have not yet been able to obtain. We understand that the thorough nature of an investigative process can feel like it moves slowly at times, but we can assure you that being thorough now is the best way to ensure that we end up with a result that is just.

As Chief of this police department, I am committed to doing what is right. We review our work to ensure we are doing our jobs to the best of our abilities and when someone doesn't measure up, we hold each other accountable. If there is an incident that raises concern, we will know about it; and not only will we know about it, we will do something about it. We can assure you, we will gain a full understanding of this incident, how it happened, why it happened and how we can ensure that only the highest levels of professionalism are displayed by West Valley City Police Officers.

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