

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2016-0082

HONOR



COURAGE



INTEGRITY

OFFICER SUSPENDED

On Thursday, November, 19th, 2015 Harlingen Police Officer Alan Ramos and a private Citizen became engaged in a rolling argument as they both traveled northbound on Highway 77 Between Brownsville and Harlingen. After an internal investigation, it was found that during the mutual exchange that the Citizen made a threatening gesture to Ramos who was in full uniform and in his private vehicle coming to work. In an effort to de-escalate the situation Officer Ramos illuminated his dome light to show the other driver he was an officer instead of calling 911 for an on-duty officer to handle. The Citizen followed Ramos to Harlingen Police Headquarters where a police supervisor spoke to the citizen involved in the incident declined to file a complaint; however, in keeping with the professionalism of HPD and maintaining the public trust, this case was forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit by Chief of Police Jeffrey Adickes. On January 28th, 2016 a Disciplinary Review Board sustained conduct violations, and Officer Ramos has served agreed suspension of 25 days without pay and additional communications training.

Chief Adickes said "Officer Ramos took full responsibility for his conduct in this case and had he not taken full responsibility and assured his chain of command, myself, and the Citizens of Harlingen that after this discipline and re-training he would continue to be an asset to the Citizens of Harlingen and HPD our responsibility would have been to dismiss him. The badge we wear belongs to the Community of Harlingen and it is a privilege to wear, not a right. If we betray that privilege the Community has the right to take that badge back and should. I am glad Officer Ramos has turned this incident into an opportunity for a positive next step".



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