

Response to Denton Police Department Media Release 5/11/18

“Disorderly Conduct”

From: Robert and Emily Brown

We are deeply saddened by the events outlined in the above referenced response of the Denton Police Department. We, as parents of the child in question, have worked very hard to be a collaborative member of our child’s education. Our child is at Lee Elementary, because “they were better equipped to handle children with our child’s specific disability (Autism) and behavioral needs”.

The fact of the matter is that our child was injured at Lee Elementary School. Denton ISD reported to us that Denton Police Officer [REDACTED] School Resource Officer, restrained our child and caused injuries. Denton Police acknowledge Officer [REDACTED] involvement, and their news media release states that Denton ISD employees also participated in the events. All that we can say to a certainty at this point is that Officer [REDACTED], Denton ISD employees [REDACTED] (Behavior Specialist) and [REDACTED] (Special Education Teacher) were in the room and either were active participants and/or witnesses to the true events that occurred. We can also validate that our child was injured, allegedly by Officer [REDACTED], per a report provided to us by Denton ISD.

We called the Denton Police Department to report that our child was injured at school to a point that he exhibited severe bruising on his head, wrists, back, and knees. We also notified Child Protective Services of the incident so that the events could be documented by a disinterested third party. To the best of our knowledge, CPS is investigating the actions of school personnel; however, they reported that they will not investigate the actions of the Denton Police Officer.

As any concerned parent, we are seeking the truth to what happened to our child. Where the school and police want to make him responsible for his actions, shouldn’t the same be true of our public employees? The Denton Police Dept. possesses the only true illustration of the events from that day but have declined to share it with us despite multiple requests. We are extremely disappointed in the lack of transparency by both agencies and this obvious breach of our trust.

We are thankful that the Denton Police Department has provided information regarding their decision not to pursue criminal charges, as we feel that our child has already suffered more than enough physical, emotional, and psychological harm based on what little information that we have. We reported to them that our child was injured and the only response that we have heard is when WFAA reporter asked them for a comment on a proposed story.

We are keenly aware that maladaptive behaviors exist as a result of our child’s disability and will diligently continue with every effort to extinguish those behaviors, so that he can be a productive member of our society. However, we cannot in good conscience send our child to this school.

We remain confused that the information from each agency involved contradicts the events as reported by each of them separately. It is a shame that when a child shows up for school that they have to be fearful for their safety. It’s even more disheartening that the school bully turns out to be the school resource officer.