



Tuscaloosa Police Department

Media Release

To: All Local Media
From: Stephanie Taylor
Date: Oct. 21, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We are aware of the public's interest regarding an incident that occurred during a school awards program at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School Tuesday.

Per school policy, all external doors of the school are locked once programs begin. Several people were able to enter the lobby when another person exited. One of those individuals then began knocking on the locked door to the auditorium where the program was taking place. A TPD officer inside the auditorium cracked the door and informed him that he could not enter.

The man continued to knock on the glass window of the auditorium door. The officer then stepped out into the lobby to remove him from the school property. The individual was not compliant, and actively resisted the officer.

During the course of the incident, the officer followed standard de-escalation protocols, which included multiple verbal warning and the display of a Taser. The Taser was not deployed.

The officer followed standard procedures to ensure the safety and order of the school environment. No arrest was made.

Our priority is and always will be the safety and security of our students and staff.