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## Press Release

Earlier this afternoon Lehigh County District Attorney James Martin released a statement regarding the independent investigation conducted by his office into the incident, which occurred outside of St. Luke's Hospital (Sacred Heart Campus) in the 400 Block of W. Chew Street on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

I have reviewed the District Attorney's decision. It was important to allow for an independent examination of this incident. Our internal review by the Office of Professional Standards, as well as our Use of Force review process has determined, along with the District Attorney's independent findings, that there is no basis for any discipline of the officers involved.

Review of the video that is posted on our department website <https://www.allentownpa.gov/Police> shows that the officers pointed the individual in the direction of the emergency room entrance. The individual did not follow the verbal and visual instructions provided by the officers. The individual stumbled into the street, and based on a duty of care, officers took action to remove the individual from danger and provide him with medical assistance.

When the parties fell to the ground, the individual was not fully secured in handcuffs. I would like to reiterate that at no time did either officer place their knee on the neck of the individual in this incident. There was never a point when a chokehold was applied to this individual. This was corroborated by a review of the available video evidence as well as interviews conducted with eyewitnesses, including the medical professionals present at the time of the incident. As seen at the conclusion of the above listed surveillance video, officers and medical staff walked the individual into the hospital where he was treated and subsequently released.

The men and women of the Allentown Police Department remain committed to protecting the public and we take that responsibility seriously. I pledge to continue to work closely with community stakeholders and members of our department to ensure the safety and quality of life of the residents of the City of Allentown.



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