

Investigators with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau have concluded the department's internal investigation into the injury of Tanisha Williams. During the course of this investigation detectives interviewed witnesses, reviewed video and audiotape of the incident and gathered evidence with regard to the event. At the conclusion of this investigation, an Independent Chain of Command Review Board was held to review the facts and evidence. The Review Board determined that the officers did not violate department directives.

The investigation revealed:

\*Ms. Williams was in the rear of the patrol vehicle and was repeatedly striking her head against the safety glass of the vehicle. In order to prevent Ms. Williams from injuring herself, officers went to retrieve a restraining device from another vehicle parked in the immediate area. By the time the officers retrieved the device Ms. Williams had stopped banging her head against the glass and the device was no longer needed.

\*It was during this period of time in which officers were retrieving the restraining device that Ms. Williams deliberately wrapped the vehicles shoulder harness around her neck. Investigators determined it took less than 13 seconds for Ms. Williams to wrap the shoulder harness around her neck.

\* At various times officers opened the rear door of the car to ask Ms. Williams questions and to check on her well being. Ms. Williams did not respond to questions however officers did observe her breathing. Due to dark night time conditions and Ms Williams' hair, officers were unable to detect that Ms. Williams had wrapped the shoulder harness around her neck. Officers continued to ask Ms. Williams questions and after not getting a response from her, officers shined a flashlight on Ms. Williams' face and were able to see that the shoulder harness was wrapped around her neck.

\* When officers recognized that the shoulder harness was wrapped around Ms. Williams' neck they immediately cut the shoulder harness and removed her from the car and rendered appropriate medical attention. In addition, they placed a priority call to MEDIC.