

Police to conduct internal review following mall arrest

Group protests after video of mall arrest goes viral

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MADISON, Wis. -

Protesters gathered outside the Public Safety Building Tuesday night in response to a video of an 18-year-old getting arrested at East Towne Mall that went viral.



Madison police confirms to News 3 Wednesday that the department will conduct an interval review. The department also scheduled a news conference at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Madison police were sent to the food court area of East Towne Mall around 5:15 p.m. after receiving reports that mall security said a woman was “out of control and making threats.”

Officers who arrived at the mall said 18-year-old Genele H. Laird was agitated and animated, according to a release. Laird allegedly confronted an employee at Taco Bell, claiming her phone had been stolen, and then displayed a knife and threatened the employee.

When mall security responded, they said Laird refused to leave until she got her phone back, officials said. Laird made numerous threats to kill the security staff, so they called 911.

Madison Police Department officers attempted to arrest Laird, who actively resisted all of their attempts, fought with officers, spit in one of the officer’s face, and tried to kick and scratch both officers, according to the release. Laird was eventually arrested outside the mall with the use of a stun gun.

A [video was taken during the arrest and posted to Facebook](#). That video went viral Tuesday night, which led to the protest outside the Public Safety Building. The video was later taken down from that Facebook account. However, the same [video was posted and is available on YouTube](#). The video was provided with permission from Dan Patrykus.

Family and friends of Laird and state and city officials spoke with MPD Chief Mike Koval Tuesday night, who said they would get to the bottom of the situation.

“The chief will investigate internally and the DA will be investigating and so it will take a few days for all the

evidence to be gathered and witnesses to be interviewed,” said alder Marsha Rummel.

“You have four alders here - a state rep - so from a medical perspective we want to understand what happened, what happened to police officers what happened to this young lady what the process is going to be,” Boys and Girls CEO Michael Johnson said. “I think it was important tonight to let the family know there was due process.”

Madison police confirmed to News 3 that the department will conduct an interval review of the incident.

The two officers were taken to the hospital for their injuries, according to the release. They were treated and released.

Laird was arrested on tentative charges of disorderly conduct while armed with a knife, resisting police causing injury, battery to a police officer and discharge of bodily fluid.

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