

Woman Sues Off-Duty Houston Police Department Officer; Holds Gun in Woman's Mouth and Tasers Her for 90 Seconds at Walmart

(Houston Texas, December 16th, 2021) In early 2021, Ashly Abelar (31) was suspected of shoplifting at a Houston area Walmart when she was detained by a Houston Police Officer working off-duty for Walmart.

Ms. Abelar alleges in her lawsuit (*Cause No. 2021-78301*, Harris County, Texas, 80th District Court) that she voluntarily accompanied a Houston Police Officer and two Walmart employees to a store office where a gun was subsequently held to her mouth by the officer and, while the gun was in her face, the Houston Police Officer pulled out a taser and tased Ms. Abelar in the chest. The lawsuit alleges that Abelar fell to the ground and was then tased continuously by the officer for 90 seconds. Ms. Abelar suffered permanent medical injuries that included electrical burns between her thighs from arcing electrical Taser currents.

The Houston Police Department Internal Affairs department interviewed Ms. Abelar but has refused to cooperate further in releasing any information or findings related to Ms. Abelar, including the identity of the Houston Police Officer that threatened her with a gun to the face and then tased her.

Abelar's Attorney, Paul Anderson stated, "Despite months of attempts to determine the basic facts related to the January 9th, 2021 vicious taser assault on Ashley Abelar at a Walmart, including the name of the officer that assaulter her, almost no information has been forthcoming from Walmart or the City of Houston Police Department. We want to know who did this, whether they still have a job, and Houston Police Department's use of force policy pertaining to this kind of violent criminal conduct." Anderson said, "A taser may only be deployed when a police officer is confronted with an exigency that creates an immediate safety risk and that is reasonably likely to be cured by using the taser. Courts don't approve of officers using tasers on suspects who weren't actively resisting arrest or trying to evade arrest by flight, much less those who are compliant with guns in their faces."

Paul Anderson is the principal attorney in a Nacogdoches, Texas civil rights law firm specializing in custodial death, public corruption, fraud and law enforcement abuse. If you have information about this case, or any matter involving official oppression, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, corruption, or public fraud, call 936.305.5600 or submit a confidential consultation request via the firm's website: <http://paulandersonlaw.com/page-6.html>.