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# **NEWS release**

# **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Date:** March 5, 2015

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 To members of the news media:

Our department previously indicated its intent to release the dash-cam video of the incident involving Mr. Ruben Garcia Villalpando. We believe the dash-cam video, as well as information that has already been in the media, clearly demonstrates that Officer Clark was doing everything in his power, including the use of strong language, to keep Mr. Villalpando at a safe distance until back-up arrived and an arrest safely accomplished.

Members of the media have also been diligent in reporting some of the possible explanations for Mr. Villalpando’s actions on the night of February 20th, including a previous high-speed chase and a prior arrest for DWI, and a fear that he would be deported.  Officer Clark had no way of knowing Mr. Villalpando’s nationality at the time the traffic stop was initiated and it may not have been evident on a highway in the late evening.

The Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office has requested that the video not be publicized at this time in the following request:

“Due process requires that evidence not be released to the public while an investigation is ongoing; therefore, the Criminal District Attorney’s Office requests that in this case, as in all cases, no evidence be released to the public while the investigation is pending.”

An impartial, objective, and transparent investigation of this matter is being conducted by the Euless Police Department and we expect their findings being submitted to the District Attorney’s Office upon completion. Consistent with standard protocol for these cases, this incident will be submitted to and reviewed by a Tarrant County Grand Jury. In order to ensure the integrity of these processes, from start to finish, the Grapevine Police Department will honor the request from the District Attorney’s Office.

While we understand the interest of the community in the requests to release the video, we must balance those needs with the direction from the District Attorney’s Office and the respect for the judicial process.

We recognize that much of the sentiment being expressed is based on the understandable grief concerning Mr. Villalpando’s death. We appreciate the support of our citizens and the fact that they are keeping an open mind and waiting for the results of a complete and thorough investigation.