

Officer Terence Duren's Long History of Violence

Officer Duren began his career as a police officer with the Long Beach Police Department. They fired him before he completed his training. While the LBPD has claimed not to have records of his tenure, documents from UCLA PD indicate that Officer Duren was involved in two separate shooting incidents while at Long Beach.

A few years later, he hired onto the El Camino College Police Department and was involved in a shooting incident there. He quit while that shooting was still under investigation.

UCLA PD hired him in 1988, and he quickly developed a reputation for volatility. In a memo to an assistant chief, a Sargent with the department wrote: "Based on my observation of Ofc. Duren it seems that he has an extremely volatile temper and goes off on the littlest thing. I feel that he could possibly be a danger to himself and others within the department along with the citizens of this community."

In 1990, he received a 90 day suspension without pay and an order to redo his training, for an incident in which, according to witnesses, he choked a student unconscious because the student did not follow an order to get off the sidewalk quickly enough. The department initially intended to fire him, and the Chief wrote that he would be terminated due to his "lack of control of [his] temper... lack of truthfulness and [his] continued denial of any problems or deficiencies."

Following his reinstatement after the suspension, Officer Duren has had several lawsuits filed against him for excessive use of force, false arrest, and other abuses of his authority. Additionally, the UCLA PD has received numerous complaints against him for his dishonesty, his inability to control his temper and his use of excessive force.

In 2000, he attacked a man in a Denny's Restaurant after inserting himself into a verbal argument between that man and the manager of the restaurant. In 2003, he attacked a man in a UCLA study hall as the man was attempting to leave, because the man had not showed him an ID. Officer Duren escalated the attack to the use of his baton, smashing the man across the legs by his knees at least two times, then chasing him into a bathroom. The conflict ended when Officer Duren shot the man.

The pattern in nearly all of these incidents is that Officer Duren loses his temper if a civilian does not immediately submit to his authority. Once he loses his temper, he escalates the violence, with tragic results for his victims. The UCLA PD is well aware of his history and has failed to take appropriate actions to protect the public.

Officer Duren's repeated, brutal use of his taser against Mostafa Tabatainejad, a student who was simply trying to leave the library, fits his longstanding pattern of violence.