

# HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

December 16, 2020

Deputy John Wilke  
Crime Scene Unit; Investigations  
1245 Shenandoah Lane  
Plymouth, MN 55447

## ORAL REPRIMAND

Deputy Wilke

On November 9, 2020, you had an unintentional deployment of your TASER in the garage Spark Test area of the Crime Scene Unit garage at the Emergency Communications Facility. On 12/16/20 I spoke with you regarding the incident; you declined union representation.

You stated that morning, you'd received an email saying it was time to change your Taser battery, so you retrieved your duty belt and Taser from your locker, went to the corner of the garage designated for spark testing, and when you took out your Taser, you first changed the battery. At that time, you decided to also conduct your function testing. With the new Taser, you must depress the two buttons, then flip up the safety and then pull the trigger. On this morning, you stated you must have forgotten to depress the buttons because when you pulled the trigger a cartridge deployed. You stated you were alone in the garage and no one was injured. You then notified a supervisor of this incident.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Policy states in part:

### **309.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING OF THE TASER**

(e) Deputies are responsible for the safe handling and security of their assigned Taser.

For the violation stated above and because you have no other violations of this nature in your record, you are being issued this Oral Reprimand. In the future, it is imperative that you are mindful of your actions while carrying out the procedures of spark testing your Taser. Any further violations relating to your Taser may result in progressive discipline up to and including dismissal.



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If you wish to appeal this action, your rights and the procedures are contained in your union contract: Agreement between Hennepin County and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Deputies Association (JJ).

Sincerely,

*Lt. Kristen Tomlinson*

Lieutenant Kristen Tomlinson  
Investigative Division

Cc: Divisional file  
Internal Affairs  
Sheriff's Office Personnel file  
County Personnel file

