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MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF RUBEN MARTÈ TERMINATES CORRECTIONS OFFICER AFTER USE OF FORCE REVIEW FOLLOWING JAIL INCIDENT
Sheriff releases body camera footage of fight and announces ongoing training for all corrections officers

BLOOMINGTON, IN – Today, Monroe County Sheriff Ruben Martè [announced](#) he has terminated the employment of a corrections officer following a use of force review. The sheriff also released the [body camera footage](#) from the incident to the public. The use of force review happened after an inmate was belligerent and fought with officers on January 31st.

The inmate, whose name is Marcus Ford, had complained about health issues and was evaluated by the jail's onsite nurse. After evaluation, the nurse determined that Ford should be transferred to a medical observation cell at the jail. Ford was taken to a nearby holding cell while the medical observational cell was prepared for him. When officers asked Ford to walk a few feet from where he was into the observational cell, he refused and threatened the officers with violence. Officers spent several minutes unsuccessfully pleading with inmate Ford to go peacefully into the observational cell next to him. At one point, Ford told an officer, "as soon as you touch me, I'm [going to] knock your teeth out." After continued refusal to move to the medical observation cell and numerous other verbal threats of serious bodily injury, several officers then entered the cell and were immediately attacked by Ford.

As the public can see in the body camera footage released, corrections officers spent nearly two minutes fighting with Ford and trying to gain control. During the struggle, one of the corrections officers suffers a split lip and Ford suffered a fractured nose and orbital bone.

After the mandatory use of force review was conducted by the Jail Commander, a certified use of force expert, Sheriff Martè ordered an internal investigation and asked the Indiana State Police to conduct an independent investigation to determine whether any crimes were committed during the struggle.

"When I ran for Sheriff, I vowed that accountability and transparency would always be a top priority," Monroe County Sheriff Ruben Martè said. "I immediately requested an independent investigation and am releasing the body camera footage to ensure the public will have confidence in the decisions they trust me to make."

After the internal investigation was complete, Sheriff Martè decided to fire a corrections officer who, in an admittedly difficult situation, failed to follow the high standards of the office that require de-escalation whenever possible. Prior to this

incident, training on use of force and de-escalation for all corrections officers were already planned.

“No corrections officer wants to have to use force when they come to work,” Martè continued. “But even when my staff is forced to use force due to a combative inmate, they must continue to follow our policies requiring de-escalation whenever the situation allows it.”

On February 9th, the Indiana State Police presented their findings to the Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Erika Oliphant. Prosecuting Attorney Oliphant decided that no criminal charges would be filed. The Sheriff’s Office had no role in that investigation and deferred to the sound judgment and discretion of the Prosecuting Attorney in determining whether to file criminal charges.