

September 9, 2020

Citizen Review Board
PO Box 1946
Key West, FL 33040

Thomas Pakenas,

This reply is in review of the KWPD response to the incident involving my son, Nicholas Aydent.

This is the SECOND time Nicholas has been protected, and I use that word lightly, by the KWPD. I filed a complaint in March of 2018 because of the excessive use of force on Nick during a seizure. My filing and report to the Board had me believing that the KWPD would put a training in place to assist officers in their reactions and responses to assisting with a seizure victim. As well as knowing how to handle a victim. I left the Review Board meeting, with the Board's support, feeling that I had made a difference for my son and anyone else that may have epilepsy.

Sadly, since that time, nothing has changed!

The KWPD has stated in paragraph one of their response that "Mr. Aydent believes the use of the taser is harmful due to his son's condition." This is very true and very real, not only as my "belief" but also documented widely by the Epilepsy Foundation.

This past Spring it was brought to the community that the KWPD has instituted training for its officers on the subject of Autism Awareness. Applause! Why can't the same be done for Epilepsy Awareness?

Our small community of Key West has numerous Neurologist practicing in town. This makes Epilepsy a greater concern for me and should be for the KWPD. This affects people of all ages. These two incidents regarding my sons treatment have me saddened for him and the younger children of Key West who will one day be of age and on their own and fall victims to the KWPD for not knowing what to do in an epileptic emergency situation. This may be Key West, but suffering an epileptic emergency is NOT a drunk and disorderly situation.

In keeping Nicholas safe, as they claim, is an insult to me and the entire community. The KWPD cannot Protect and Serve without the understanding of what the protection needs are based on each individual.

Since the KWPD knew it was responding to my son's seizure, their actions should have been handled very differently.

There are tools available for training from the Epilepsy Foundation that could bring a new awareness to the ignorance of Epilepsy. I think it is time for this training to be mandated in Key West.

Jack Aydent