Overview of DPS and Understanding the Stun Gun Law
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Our Vision
Pursuing excellence in public safety while moving forward building community.

Our Mission
- To create a safe and secure learning and working environment by providing proactive police, parking and risk management services, and a high level of preparedness for the university community. The philosophy of community-oriented customer service is instrumental to the manner in which the department functions and operates. Our team is committed to maintaining a high level of professionalism.

Our Core Values: RICHES
- Respect
- Integrity
- Caring
- Honor
- Excellence
- Service

DPS Staff

42 State Certified Police Officers
Understanding Change in Iowa Stun Gun Law

- In 2019 the Iowa Legislature pass legislation that preempts state universities & community colleges from prohibiting possess of 'nonprojectile high-voltage pulse weapons designed to immobilize' on campus by those who could otherwise lawfully possess them

- The purpose of this portion of the presentation is to help address confusion and concern by faculty and staff

Iowa Law & Possession vs. Carry

- Iowa Code § 724.8A (Weapons)
- Iowa Code § 260C.14A (Community Colleges)

- Possession vs. Carry
  - Iowa Code § 762.7 (Dangerous Weapons) – includes "any portable device or weapon directing an electric current, impulse, wave, or beam that produces a high-voltage pulse designed to immobilize a person."

  - Iowa Code § 724.4 (Carrying weapons) – requires a citizen to have a valid Permit to Carry Weapons to carry a dangerous weapon

- While community members may possess a "stun gun", few can legally carry them. They must be 21 years of age and have a valid permit to carry weapons

Stun Gun - specifics

- "nonprojectile high-voltage pulse weapons designed to immobilize"

- Clarification between a Projectile and Non-projectile stun gun
  - A non-projectile stun gun requires physical contact with a person to work
    - Historically poor performance against committed attackers as the electrical current is localized to the body part that is contacted, working strictly on pain compliance. An assailant can fight through the pain, or simply move to avoid contact

  - A projectile stun gun, like police carry, is prohibited on campus except by law enforcement
Comparative Images

Projectile based stun gun (Taser brand) – CANNOT carry / possess on campus

Non-projectile based stun gun – can possess on campus

Concern over possession

Non-projectile "Stun guns" are simply not "guns". While they are regulated as dangerous weapons under State law, they do not fire any projectiles and are historically ineffective as a self-defense tool. Unfortunately TV has misled the public into believing stun guns will consistently and effectively incapacitate a person; this is simply not true.

For years, students, faculty, and staff have been able to legally possess and carry pepper spray on campus. We have had no issues with incidents with improper use of pepper spray and we therefore have no basis to suspect issues with a stun gun will become a problem for us, though we are aware of the potential and are working through a platform of education on this issue.

Carrying a stun gun – concerns for our students

- The potential exists that students may not understand State law and the requirement to have a valid Permit to Carry Weapons to legally carry a stun gun

- We are aware of this and working to address these concerns through education and outreach

Questions