Statement – November 15, 2018

Austin-Travis County EMS (ATCEMS) and the Austin Fire Department (AFD) sends our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Mr. Herman Titus for their loss.

The surfacing of this video, as with any concern that is brought to our attention, has resulted in the opening of a clinical investigation by the Office of the Medical Director. Due to this fact, ATCEMS is unable to speak to any clinical components of this call.

This said, what the video clearly illustrates are the professional men and women of ATCEMS and the AFD working very hard to resuscitate Mr. Titus on one of the most physically and emotionally challenging call types we respond to on a daily basis.

ATCEMS historically maintains one of the highest, out-of-hospital, Cardiac Arrest resuscitation rates in the country. This is not by accident, as much of that success is not only due to pre-responder arrival recognition of Cardiac Arrest and CPR initiation, but also to the clinical sophistication and continued evaluation of our practice of medicine.

Austin-Travis County EMS possess two distinct investigative channels, “clinical” (medical in nature) and “operational” (policy/procedure in nature).

Clinical Investigations are performed by the Office of the Medical Director and Operational Investigations are performed by the ATCEMS Office of Professional Conduct.

Any time a purported concern is brought to our attention it is directed to the appropriate investigative body or both, depending on the item(s) in question.

Introducing an item into either investigative process is not indicative or suggestive of any believed or perceived wrong-doing, it is simply our practice to ensure that the item in question is afforded due-process or a fair right of review.