



**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
GOVERNOR

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
*Department of Public Safety and Corrections*  
*Public Safety Services*

May 28, 2021  
4750/0501/MMG/21-23582  
HQ-01-494

Trooper George Harper  
Louisiana State Police- Troop F

**VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY**  
IA #21-009; OLA #072323

**Re: TERMINATION**

Trooper Harper:

I am in receipt of your response to the intended termination letter delivered to you. After due consideration, I find that your termination is warranted. Pursuant to the authority granted by State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, you are hereby notified that you are terminated from the state police service effective Friday, June 4, 2021, at 1630 hours for the following reasons:

After a criminal investigation by Louisiana State Police Criminal Investigation Division (CID) into the use of force against Mr. Antonio Harris by you and other troopers, you were arrested on February 8, 2021. I ordered an administrative investigation to be conducted into the incident. As a result of the criminal and administrative investigations, I have determined that the following occurred:

On Saturday, May 23, 2020, at approximately 1725 hours, former Trooper Jacob Brown stopped a Hyundai Sonata, driven by Mr. Antonio Harris, after observing him commit an Improper Lane Usage violation on I-20 eastbound in Richland Parish. During the traffic stop, former Trooper Brown learned that Mr. Harris' driver's license was suspended and there were possible outstanding warrants relating to weapons charges and escape. While waiting for confirmation of the warrants, former Trooper Brown sent a group message via his Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) to Trooper Dakota DeMoss, TFC Larry Shappley, and you for assistance. While former Trooper Brown waited for back up to arrive, Mr. Harris returned to his vehicle and fled. Mr. Harris was actively pursued for 29 miles at high speeds through Richland Parish and into Franklin Parish. The pursuit ended on U.S. 425 just south of Baskin, LA, after Deputy Aaron Touchet of the Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office (FPSO), successfully deployed spike strips on Mr. Harris' vehicle. Mr. Harris' vehicle subsequently veered off the right side of the highway, and while rolling slowly along a small ditch, Mr. Harris exited the passenger side of the vehicle and laid prone in the grass.

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You, Trooper DeMoss, TFC Shappley, and former Trooper Brown were all equipped with Body Worn Cameras (BWC) on May 23, 2020, and your state police vehicles were equipped with In-Car Cameras (ICCs), which recorded in whole or in part the stop, pursuit and arrest of Mr. Harris. In addition, Deputy Touchet was equipped with a BWC that recorded the event. These videos were considered in arriving at my decision.

Trooper DeMoss was the first law enforcement officer to arrive at Mr. Harris' location and he immediately ran to Mr. Harris to take him into custody. TFC Shappley was second to arrive and immediately ran to the location of Trooper DeMoss and Mr. Harris and you arrived within seconds of TFC Shappley, and former Trooper Brown arrived seconds later. In addition, FPSO Deputies Touchet and Lance arrived seconds after former Trooper Brown.

Your BWC and ICC recorded both your right and your left hands as you exited your unit and ran towards Mr. Harris' location. Both of your hands were empty when they are first visible in the cameras' view. A black flashlight then appears in your left hand in the cameras' view.

When you reached Mr. Harris and the troopers, you positioned yourself on your knees on the right side of Mr. Harris near his head/neck area. As TFC Shappley grabbed Mr. Harris' left wrist/arm, your BWC fell off of the magnetic mount on your chest and landed face up on the ground, and was subsequently turned over. At almost the same time, Trooper DeMoss' camera was powered off. Trooper DeMoss grabbed Mr. Harris' right wrist and pulled Mr. Harris' right arm behind his back and up towards his shoulder and Mr. Harris screamed. As troopers yelled and cursed at Mr. Harris, former Trooper Brown, the fourth trooper, arrived at Mr. Harris' location and his BWC captured your left forearm pressed down on the side of Mr. Harris' neck area while holding onto his hair/dreadlocks with your left hand, and your right hand is visible holding your flashlight. Former Trooper Brown dropped to his knees, punched Mr. Harris in the head, and his BWC fell off.

As former Trooper Brown and Trooper DeMoss grabbed Mr. Harris' hair/dreadlocks, Deputy Lance drive stunned Mr. Harris in the back with his Taser and Mr. Harris screamed. You then punched Mr. Harris in the head with your right fist while holding your flashlight in it. Both of Mr. Harris' hands were under control by law enforcement officers at this time. You pushed down on Mr. Harris' head while holding your flashlight, as Deputy Lance held his Taser against Mr. Harris' back, with former Trooper Brown, Trooper DeMoss, TFC Shappley and Deputy Touchet on the scene as well.

You then leaned toward Mr. Harris' head and shouted, "You know how many fucking people you coulda killed you dumb mother fucker?" As law enforcement officers were handcuffing Mr. Harris, Trooper DeMoss held Mr. Harris' hair/dreadlocks with his left hand, and you punched Mr. Harris in the head two more times with your right fist while holding your flashlight.



After Mr. Harris was handcuffed, you retrieved your BWC from the ground while it was still recording and re-attached it to your chest mount. After Mr. Harris was searched, he was lifted to his feet, and placed in the rear of TFC Shappley's unit. As you reached into the unit to place the seatbelt on Mr. Harris, you told him, "You cut up if you fucking want to." Your BWC fell to the ground again while recording.

After a brief discussion with other law enforcement officers, you returned to TFC Shappley's unit, opened the rear door and stated to Mr. Harris, "You stupid Mother Fucker! I hope you act up when we get to the fucking jail. I'm gonna punish you! Dumb bitch! What the fuck's wrong with you stupid mother fucker?" You then picked your BWC up off of the ground.

On June 10, 2020, after reviewing the videos of the arrest of Mr. Harris, Sgt. Bruce Robinson and Lt. William Brinkerhoff met with you. When you were asked why your flashlight was out during the arrest of Mr. Harris you advised them that, prior to former Trooper Brown calling in the pursuit, you were on a separate traffic stop searching a vehicle and you used your flashlight to look inside the quarter panels. When you heard the pursuit, you jumped in your unit and threw your flashlight on the dashboard. As you were driving towards the pursuit, the flashlight was rolling on the dashboard, so you grabbed it and stuck it between your legs. When you arrived at the scene, you grabbed the flashlight from between your legs and ran towards the troopers.

During an administrative investigation into the incident, on March 29, 2021, you were placed under oath and questioned by IA investigators Trooper Qualyndrea Jones and Master Trooper Kevin Ducote, with your attorneys present. You were shown several videos relating to the arrest of Mr. Harris, including from your BWC. When you were asked why you had your flashlight out while running towards Mr. Harris, you offered that when you arrived on the scene you saw a black male subject exiting the vehicle. The vehicle was still rolling and you perceived there was a chance someone was still inside the vehicle and you may have had to breach the window to remove them. You acknowledged that you never checked to see if anyone was inside the vehicle. When IA investigators asked you if you recalled the reason you gave to Sgt. Robinson and Lt. Brinkerhoff for having your flashlight out, you advised that you could not remember and did not want to say something that was not the exact account Sgt. Robinson gave. However, you then recounted for IA investigators that you told Sgt. Robinson and Lt. Brinkerhoff you had searched a vehicle prior to the pursuit and as a result, had your flashlight in your lap.

During the administrative investigation, IA investigators reviewed the audit logs for your BWC and ICC video recordings for your shift on March 23, 2020. They did not find any recordings to support your statement that you searched a vehicle prior to the pursuit of Mr. Harris. Nor did they find any radio communications or MDT messages to support your explanation that you had used it to search a vehicle prior to the pursuit.

IA investigators showed you video from TFC Shappley's BWC with your fist holding the flashlight against Mr. Harris' head. You explained you did that to keep Mr. Harris stabilized in a safe position so he would not get hurt. When you were asked to explain the first strike you



delivered to Mr. Harris' head, you disagreed that you hit Mr. Harris and stated that it looked like you punched the ground. With regards to the two additional head strikes you are seen delivering on TFC Shappley's BWC, you explained that you were attempting to distract Mr. Harris and gain compliance through pain. You advised that you intended to deliver strikes six inches between Mr. Harris' shoulder and back, not his head, but you missed. You categorized the strikes as a "grazing blow."

When you were shown video from Deputy Touchet's BWC of the head strikes you delivered to Mr. Harris, you again advised IA investigators that you intended to deliver the strikes six inches in between Mr. Harris' shoulder and back but missed.

You agreed with IA investigators that you used force against Mr. Harris. When you were asked why you did not complete a use of force report, you advised IA investigators that you were unaware that you were supposed to complete a use of force report. You explained that you thought the arresting officer, in this case, former Trooper Brown, was supposed to write the use of force report.

IA investigators consulted with Sgt. Scott Davis, a certified Strategic Self-Defense and Gun Fighting Tactics (SSGT) instructor and use of force instructor at the Louisiana State Police Training Academy. After watching the pertinent ICC and BWC videos of the arrest of Mr. Harris and uses of force, and reviewing your statements to IA investigators regarding your uses of force, Sgt. Davis advised IA investigators that you did not articulate reasonable justification for the force you used. Sgt. Davis advised that the strikes to Mr. Harris' head while you held your flashlight in your fist were not objectively reasonable under the circumstances – Mr. Harris was under control, he was not acting violent, he was not reaching for a weapon, and there were numerous other law enforcement officers present. Sgt. Davis further advised that as an SSGT instructor, your training and knowledge are factored into the control techniques you use. Sgt. Davis advised that any strike could be considered a "distraction strike." He explained that a knee strike to someone's leg is a different level of force than a strike to the head with a fist while holding a flashlight due to the risk of injury. Based on his training and experience, and after considering the video evidence and your statements, Sgt. Davis concluded that your strikes to Mr. Harris' head were not reasonable under the circumstances and were excessive.

Following a criminal investigation into the May 23, 2020 use of force on Mr. Harris, you were arrested on February 8, 2021 and charged with one count of Simple Battery (misdemeanor), a violation of R.S. 14:35, and one count of Malfeasance in Office (felony), a violation of R.S. 14:134. As of the date of this letter, those charges have not been resolved.

Your actions in the performance of your duties as a Louisiana State Trooper on May 23, 2020, striking Mr. Harris in the head several times, while holding your flashlight in your fist, as Mr. Harris was on the ground, surrounded by three other troopers and two deputies from the FPSO, were not reasonable under the circumstances, and were in violation of the following:

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- 1) Louisiana Revised Statute 14:35- Simple Battery, which states in pertinent part:
  - A. Simple battery is a battery<sup>1</sup> committed without the consent of the victim.  
...
- 2) Louisiana Revised Statute 14:134 – Malfeasance in Office, which states in pertinent part:
  - A. Malfeasance in office is committed when any public officer or public employee shall:  
...
    - (2) Intentionally perform any such duty in an unlawful manner;...
- 3) Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901- Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 25 - Use of Force, which states in pertinent part:
  - i) Commissioned officers shall not use more force that is reasonably necessary under the circumstances.
  - ii) Officers shall use force in accordance with applicable law, Department guidelines, and training.

By performing your duties during the arrest of Mr. Harris as a Louisiana State Trooper contrary to law as detailed above, you violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 3 – Conformance to Laws, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall conform to, and abide by, the laws of the United States, the State of Louisiana, all other states of the United States and subdivisions thereof.

Even though you used force against Mr. Harris on May 23, 2020, you failed to complete a Use of Force Report documenting your use of force, in violation of Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 238 – Use of Force, Section 11 – Use of Force Reporting, which states in pertinent part:

- i) The officer(s) involved shall complete an electronic Use of Force Report as soon as practicable when the officer(s):  
...
  - (d) Applies deadly or non-deadly force.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> La. R.S. 14:33 defines “battery” as “the intentional use of force or violence upon the person of another; or the intentional administration of a poison or other noxious liquid or substance to another.

<sup>2</sup> On May 23, 2020, LSP P.O. No. 238 defined “deadly force” as “force that would lead a reasonable officer to objectively conclude that its use poses a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury to its human target, regardless of whether or not death, serious injury, or any harm actually occurs.” It defined “non-deadly force” as

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While Mr. Harris was handcuffed and seated in the rear seat of TFC Shappley's unit, you re-opened the door and made the statements of a threatening nature to him of, "I hope you act up when we get to the fucking jail. I'm gonna punish you, dumb bitch." Your actions were in violation of Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 32 – Treatment of Prisoners in Custody, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall not mistreat persons who are in their custody.

By using profane language towards Mr. Harris as outlined in this letter, including calling him "stupid mother fucker," "dumb bitch," and "dumb mother fucker," as well as telling him you were going to "punish" him, you violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 23 – Courtesy, which states in pertinent part:

- i) Courtesy to the public will be strictly observed. A commissioned officer's conduct and deportment shall always be civil, orderly and courteous. He shall be diplomatic and tactful in the performance of his duties, controlling his temper and exercising patience and discretion.

...

- iv) Officers shall at all times, while on-duty or in uniform, refrain from using coarse, violent, profane, or insolent language. ...

You told Sgt. Robinson and Lt. Brinkerhoff that you had your flashlight in your hand when you were on the stop with Mr. Harris because you had used it to search a vehicle prior to former Trooper Brown initiating the pursuit, and it was in between your legs when you arrived and grabbed it. There is no evidence of such a vehicle search in any department records, including your BWC or ICC recordings, radio logs or recorded communications, MDT, desk log, or any report prepared by you to support these statements, leading me to conclude they were false. Additionally, you offered a different justification to IA investigators of needing your flashlight to potentially breach Mr. Harris' vehicle, further supporting that your statement to Sgt. Robinson and Lt. Brinkerhoff was false, and in violation of Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 15 – False Statements, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall make no false statement or falsify any written report to a superior officer knowing such information to be incorrect or misleading.
- ii) No commissioned officer shall willfully and/or intentionally withhold an information from a report or statement, knowing such information to be relevant to the report or statement.

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"force that is not likely to result in or produce serious bodily injury or death. This includes any physical effort to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another."

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All of your above described actions and inactions in violation of law and policy violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 4 – Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall conduct himself at all times, both on and off-duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on himself and the Department.
- ii) Unbecoming conduct is defined as conduct which:
  - a) Brings the Department or any of its subdivisions into disrepute.
  - b) Reflects discredit upon the officer as a member of the Department.
  - c) Impairs the operations or efficiency of the Department, the officer, or state services.
  - d) Detrimentally affect the morale of the Department's personnel.
  - e) May reasonably be expected to destroy public respect for State Police Officers and/or confidence in the Office of State Police.

Any questions you may have regarding your retirement benefits should be directed to the Louisiana State Police Retirement System. Their telephone number is (225) 295-8400, and their address is 9224 Jefferson Hwy Baton Rouge LA 70809. Questions regarding your final paycheck or other benefits may be addressed to the Department of Public Safety Human Resources Office. Their telephone number is (225) 925-6067 and their address is 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

You have the right to appeal this action to the Louisiana State Police Commission. The time limits and procedure for appealing are contained in Chapter 13 of the State Police Commission Rules. A copy of Chapter 13 can be obtained from the State Police Commission. Their current mailing address is P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6555. Their current telephone number is (225) 925-7057 and their fax number is (225) 925-7058.

Sincerely,



Colonel Lamar A. Davis  
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

c: Lt. Col. M. Doug Cain, II  
Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon  
Major Wayne Vidrine  
Captain Eric Cuenca  
Internal Affairs  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Human Resources Management

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