



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

KEVIN W. REEVES, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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

March 20, 2020
4750/0501/JPR/20-22984
HQ2-1829-20

SERGEANT JOHN TRAHAN
GAMING

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY
IA #N19-116, OLA #067051

Re: EIGHT (8) HOUR SUSPENSION

Dear Sgt. Trahan:

I am in receipt of your response to the intended eight (8) hour suspension letter delivered to you. After due consideration, I find that the order given to you by Lt. Lauret was not unlawful, and you did not have the right to refuse to follow the order given to you by your superior officer because you disagreed with it. I therefore find that your suspension is warranted. In accordance with State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, you are hereby notified that you are suspended from duty for eight (8) hours without pay and allowances. Your suspension will begin at 0700 hours on Thursday, April 2, 2020, and will end at 1530 hours on that date. You shall report back to your assigned duty station at 0700 hours on Friday, April 3, 2020. You are suspended for the following reasons:

On November 12, 2019, Lt. Charles Lauret requested that you complete an incident report detailing an incident which occurred at Cypress Bayou Casino on November 8, 2019. In this Incident Report, you stated that "the casino administration" asked you why Lt. Lauret had visited the casino property twice while you were on leave. On November 25, 2019, Lt. Lauret followed up with three questions related to your Incident Report. One of these questions asked which casino administration member(s) asked you about the nature of Lt. Lauret's visits to the casino, to which you replied, "In my opinion the disclosure of this information is not relevant to the incident."

You were interviewed by Lt. Saleem El-Amin on January 6, 2020. During this recorded interview, you admitted to Lt. El-Amin that you refused to give Lt. Lauret the name of the casino administrator(s) as Lt. Lauret requested.

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By failing to provide Lt. Lauret, your superior officer, with information he specifically asked you for, as detailed above, you violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order 901- Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 13- **Lawful Orders**, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall promptly obey and execute any and all lawful orders of a superior officer. A "lawful order" is any order or assignment issued either verbally or in writing by a superior or ranking officer.

...

Any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe discipline, up to and including termination, and this suspension can be used to support the severity of future discipline.

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,



Lt. Col. Mike Noel
Assistant Superintendent/ Chief of Staff
Louisiana State Police

c: Colonel Kevin Reeves
Lt. Col. Adam White
Major Chuck McNeal
Captain Kenny Van Buren
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management

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