

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Lamar A. Davis, Colonel
Deputy Secretary

State of Louisiana

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

December 29, 2020 4750/0501/JPR/20-23340 HQ-01-432-20

MASTER TROOPER KORY YORK TROOP F IA#20-018, OLA#070163 VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

Re: FIFTY (50) HOUR SUSPENSION

Dear M/T York:

In accordance with Louisiana State Police Commission ("LSPC") Rules 12.1 and 12.2, you are hereby notified that you are suspended from duty without pay and allowances for fifty (50) hours. It should be noted that in accordance with LSPC Rule 12.19, this investigation was completed upon the determination of the appointing authority at the time to institute disciplinary action against you, which decision was made on October 27, 2020, prior to me becoming the appointing authority. Although I agree with the findings of the investigation, I would have imposed more severe discipline. However, to avoid a potential violation of the LSPC Rules relating to completion of investigations and risk any reduction, reversal, or modification to the imposed discipline for such a potential violation, I believe it is more important to impose the discipline as decided by the prior appointing authority to be in compliance with the Rules. Your suspension will begin at 0700 hours on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, and will end at 1700 hours on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. You shall report back to your assigned duty station at 0700 hours on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. You are suspended for the following reasons:

On May 10, 2019, you responded to a call for backup from another trooper who was involved in a pursuit. The evidence audit trails for your Axon Body 2 body-worn camera ("BWC")¹ and in-car camera ("ICC")² show you deactivated both cameras while in route to assist and you did not reactivate either camera after you arrived on scene. The BWC footage from Lt. John Clary³ and Trooper Dakota DeMoss⁴ shows the following:

You arrived on scene approximately five minutes after the driver, Mr. Ronald Greene, had been handcuffed. After you arrived on scene, you walked over to Mr. Greene, who was handcuffed and lying on the ground, and placed your left foot on his right shoulder. After you took your left foot off his shoulder, you lightly kicked his right thigh with your right foot, and then placed your left foot on Mr. Greene's buttocks to push him down to lie flat on the ground. Shortly thereafter,

¹ On May 10, 2019, you were using an Axon Body 2 camera with serial number X81131068.

² On May 10, 2019, you were using an Axon Fleet 2 camera with serial number X54010314.

³ On May 10, 2019, Lt. Clary was using an Axon Body 2 camera with serial number X81141206.

⁴ On May 10, 2019, Trooper DeMoss was using an Axon Body 2 camera with serial number X81118493.

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another trooper placed leg shackles on Mr. Greene. The footage later shows Mr. Greene had rolled slightly on his left side. You told Mr. Greene not to turn over and to lay on his belly, and then grabbed the leg shackles and yanked him backwards. You then moved to Mr. Greene's left side and told him, "You're gonna lay on your fucking belly like I told you!" A short time later, after Mr. Greene had been sat up to be read his Miranda rights, you laid him back down on the ground and told him, "Quit fucking pushing against me."

You were interviewed by IA investigators S/T Michael Talley and Sgt. James Jefferson on September 15, 2020. During this recorded interview, you were shown footage from Trooper DeMoss' BWC showing you yanking Mr. Greene's leg shackles, and you acknowledged you were the person who yanked the shackles. You also admitted to investigators that you turned your BWC and ICC off while responding to the pursuit. The reason you offered for doing so was that you were not actively involved in the pursuit and your BWC was beeping which made it difficult for you to hear your Louisiana State Police radio. When you were asked why you didn't reactivate either camera after arriving on scene, you said, "I didn't think about it. My mind was on other things."

You moved Mr. Greene by dragging him on his stomach by the leg shackles placed on his ankles, and used profanity toward Mr. Greene, who was handcuffed and in custody. Your actions violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order 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.

You deactivated your BWC and ICC while responding to assist another trooper in a pursuit. You then failed to reactivate your BWC while you interacted with and were in the immediate presence of Mr. Greene, who had been arrested. Your actions violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 1117—Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 5—Activation, which states in pertinent part:

. . .

officers equipped with the BWC or in-car camera system recording equipment shall record all traffic stops, foot pursuits, arrests and / or incidents. Officers shall also record other events, situations, and circumstances including, but not limited to: armed encounters, acts of physical violence and felonious activity. Officers are not required to record informal, non-law enforcement related contact with the public, but shall activate the recording if the encounter becomes adversarial. The BWC and / or in-car camera system shall remain activated until the event is complete per this policy, the contact moves into an area restricted by this policy, or a supervisor authorizes the officer to cease recording. The operator is authorized to mute the audio or pause the recording of the BWC and / or in-car camera system when the operator is not in the immediate presence of the individual(s) being interviewed, investigated, detained or arrested.

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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.

Your attention is directed to Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 201.5.iv, which states:

No officer shall work escorts, paid off-duty details, or overtime in any pay period wherein he has taken leave without pay, been suspended without pay, placed on forced or administrative leave, or worked at a reduction in pay as a result of a disciplinary action unless authorized by the appointing authority.

Sincerely,

Colonel Lamar Davis

Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

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c: Lt. Colonel M. Doug Cain, II
Lt. Col. Jay D. Oliphant
Major Wayne Vidrine
Captain John Peters
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management