



**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
**GOVERNOR**

**LAMAR A. DAVIS**  
**COLONEL DEPUTY SECRETARY**

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

June 8, 2023  
4750/0501/SDS/23-24015  
HQ-01-869

Lieutenant Michael Nugent  
Troop E

**VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY**  
IA#23-00013; OLA #P-200011

**Re: 24 HOUR SUSPENSION**

Lieutenant Michael Nugent:

Pursuant to the authority granted by Louisiana State Police Commission (Commission) Rules 12.2 and 12.8, you are hereby notified that you are suspended from duty without pay and allowances for twenty-four (24) hours. Your suspension will be from 5:00 AM on June 23, 2023, to 5:00 PM on June 24, 2023.

You are suspended for the following reasons:

You are a commissioned officer holding the rank of Lieutenant and assigned to LSP Troop E.

On February 8, 2023, you assisted Trooper First Class Brian Coghlan and Trooper Cody McNeal with a three-vehicle accident on Louisiana Highway (LA) 107. While en-route to the accident scene, you turned off your body worn camera (BWC). You failed to turn it back on after arriving at the scene. Upon arrival, you directed traffic to clear the roadway.

On February 10, 2023, Internal Affairs (IA) Investigator TFC Jacob Butler received a complaint from [REDACTED] about your conduct while at the accident scene on February 8, 2023. [REDACTED] identified herself as a friend of [REDACTED], one of the motorist who was involved in the accident. [REDACTED] alleged that you were discourteous when you engaged both she and her friend, [REDACTED].

On February 24, 2023, I instructed IA to open an administrative investigation into [REDACTED] allegations. During the course of the investigation, Trooper Tony Washington interviewed you, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Trooper McNeal, and TFC Coghlan. TFC Coghlan's BWC was also reviewed.

On March 1, 2023, [REDACTED] was interviewed by Trooper Tony Washington and Trooper Ashton McRae. During her interview, she stated that she and [REDACTED] traveled to the accident scene at [REDACTED] request. She was driving her vehicle and [REDACTED] was in the passenger side seat. She activated her vehicle's hazard lights prior to approaching the accident scene. She stopped her vehicle to allow [REDACTED] to exit. Body Camera footage reviewed by IA showed that at this time, you approached the vehicle and yelled "Get back in that car!"

On March 24, 2023, you were interviewed in person by IA investigators Trooper Tony Washington and Polygraphist William Kirkland. During your interview, you advised that after yelling, you approached the driver's side and advised [REDACTED] through the open driver's side window that driving onto the crash scene was "stupid" and that she needed to leave. You further advised that when she started to roll up the window, you opened the driver's side door and told her to never roll up her window on you. You then told her to leave, which she acknowledged she was trying to do.

Body camera footage reviewed by IA showed that while you were escorting [REDACTED] to [REDACTED], you passed TFC Coghlan. When you did so, you stated to him, "That idiot creeping up in here almost causing a damn wreck," in reference to [REDACTED] driving her car onto the scene. [REDACTED] was walking right in front of you as you made the statement.

Body camera footage also recorded an interaction between you and [REDACTED] later during the investigation. [REDACTED] approached you and requested your "badge number" and asked if your BWC was on. The conversation between the two of you got heated, with you refusing to give any information other than your name, stating that it was stupid that [REDACTED] drove onto the scene, and that if [REDACTED] did not leave she would go to jail. During the exchange you moved closer to Ms. Hamblin in an intimidating manner until you were within her personal space yelling at her. TFC Coghlan stepped in and diffused the situation by providing his name to [REDACTED] explaining that they did not have badge numbers but the report could be looked up under his name, advising her that his BWC was on and recording, and instructing her that she was required to leave the scene.

Immediately after Ms. Hamblin walked away, you had the following conversation with the other troopers:

You: ... for screaming at his wife.

TFC McNeal: that is a woman.

You : Her, his, whatever, I don't care.

TFC Coghlan: Alright. I'm still on (referring to his BWC).

You: I don't care, she come flying up!



On March 9, 2023, IA interviewed Trooper McNeal and TFC Coghlan separately. TFC Coghlan advised that he reminded you that his BWC was on before "anything was said."

On March 24, 2023, during your interview with IA, you were advised of your administrative rights. You admitted that you turned your BWC was off and that you failed to turn it back on when you arrived at the crash scene. You further admitted that you opened [REDACTED] car door without her permission, called her actions "stupid," and referred to her as an "idiot."

Based on the information above, I determined that you violated LSP Order (P.O.) 901.23 *Courtesy*, and LSP P.O. 1117 *Body Worn Camera and In Car Camera*.

**Code of Conduct, Courtesy - P.O. 901.23**

P.O. 901.23, conduct and Ethics - courtesy, states, in 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.
- v) Officers shall at all times, while on-duty or in uniform, refrain from using coarse, violent, profane or insolent language. Officers shall also refrain from voicing any bias or prejudicial language concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, lifestyle or similar personal characteristics.

You violated i) during your encounters with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. During the encounter with [REDACTED], you failed to be civil, orderly, and courteous when you told her that her actions were stupid. You further failed to exercise patience and discretion by opening her door to tell her to never roll her window up on you. You later called [REDACTED] an idiot with [REDACTED] in front of you.

During your heated encounter with [REDACTED] you violated i) and v) by failing to be civil, orderly, and courteous, and by failing to show patience and discretion in responding to her questions. You used coarse language during the encounter. You further failed to control your temper, requiring TFC Coghlan, a trooper of lower rank, to step in to diffuse the encounter between you and [REDACTED]. You continued to use coarse language after [REDACTED] walked away.

**Body Worn Camera & In-Car Camera Systems - P.O. 1117.5**

Your BWC was off while you were on-scene on February 8, 2023. You admitted that you had turned your BWC off prior to reaching the scene and that you failed to turn it back on. You violated P.O. 1117, Body Worn Camera & In-Car Camera Systems, which states, in part:

**5. ACTIVATION**

iii) Officers equipped with the BWC shall ensure their BWC is powered on, ready to record or receive a signal to record, during any tour of duty which required the use of the BWC in accordance with this policy, when the officer is subject to call.

v) Officers equipped with a BWC and/or in-car camera system shall record all traffic stops, foot pursuits, vehicle pursuits, arrests, transportation of prisoners, incidents, and any emergency vehicle operations that require, or should require, the use of emergency lights and/or emergency lights and sirens...

For the above listed policy violations, I am suspending you from duty without pay and allowances for twenty-four (24) hours. Your suspension will be from 5:00 AM on June 23, 2023, to 5:00 PM on June 24, 2023. Any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe discipline, up to and including termination.

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 Louisiana State Police Commission. The Commission's 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. Chavez Cammon; Lt. Col. Joseph Hasselbeck; Major Cordell Williams;  
Captain Jason Smith; Internal Affairs; Office of Legal Affairs

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