

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Lamar A. Davis, Colonel Deputy Secretary

State of Louisiana

Department of Public Safety and Corrections Public Safety Services

> August 23, 2022 4750/0501/MMG/22-23915 HQ-01-727

DPS SGT. ANDREW POE JESTC PHYSICAL SECURITY

IA#22-00021; OLA#077581 VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

Re: RESCISSION AND REISSUANCE OF TERMINATION LETTER

DPS Sgt. Poe:

By letter dated August 17, 2022 and delivered to you on August 22, 2022, you were notified that you were being terminated from your employment effective Friday, August 19, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. As you received that letter after the effective date and time, I am rescinding that notice of termination and replacing it with this notice.

Your response to my letter of intended termination has been received by me. After due consideration, I find that the proposed action is warranted. Pursuant to State Civil Service Rule 12.8, you are hereby notified that effective at 4:30 pm on Friday, August 26, 2022, you are terminated from your employment as a police sergeant with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services, for the following reasons:

On March 21, 2022, you were arrested at approximately 0236 hours for one count of domestic abuse battery by Corporal Logan Boudreaux of the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO), following an altercation with your live in girlfriend, Jane Doe.¹

An administrative investigation into the matter was conducted by Louisiana State Police Internal Affairs (IA) Unit. In a recorded interview on May 25, 2022, you advised IA investigators that on March 20, 2022, you spent time with a friend and consumed a couple of alcoholic beverages, but could not recall specifically what. After drinks with your friend, you drove to a local bar and drank two rum and Diet Cokes. You could not remember what time you started drinking, but recalled getting home at approximately 2300 hours. You advised IA investigators that you also ingested 50 mg of Seroquel², which you considered a large amount. You advised IA investigators that you possibly consumed more alcohol when you got home.

¹ The identity of the victim is protected by law.

² Seroquel has been prescribed to you by your health care provider.

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You advised IA investigators that Jane Doe, an EMT, went to work at 0800 hours and the two of you messaged each other via Snapchat throughout the day. Jane Doe called you at 1959 hours and informed you that she would be working late. At approximately 2300 hours while you were driving home from the bar, Jane Doe called you and you began arguing. You admitted that you were not being reasonable during the argument. When you arrived home, Jane Doe was not there and you continued to argue with her on the phone. Jane Doe told you that she was not coming home. You also received a Snapchat message from Jane Doe showing her making fun of you and her partner was in the background, and it made you feel disrespected and hurt.

You advised IA investigators that sometime after midnight, you looked out of the window and saw Jane Doe's truck outside, but had not heard her enter the house. You didn't recall walking outside, but you did recall banging on the door of the adjacent in-law suite, and Jane Doe opened the door. You went inside and started yelling at Jane Doe. Jane Doe did not say anything, but smiled at you. You grabbed both sides of Jane Doe's shirt collar and began to shake her while asking why she didn't care. You advised IA investigators that Jane Doe wound up on the bed and you assumed you threw her onto the bed, and Jane Doe also told you that you did. You advised IA investigators that you stood over Jane Doe while she was laying on the bed and threw an ink pen in her direction, but could not recall if the pen struck her. You went into the adjoining workshop and regained your composure. You returned to Jane Doe and attempted to apologize, but Jane Doe was just shaking and not saying anything. You believe she was recording on Snapchat. Then Jane Doe ran out of the suite, you ran behind her, and observed APSO deputies at the house.

APSO spoke to you and Jane Doe and took photos of Jane Doe and the mother in-law suite. You were then arrested and booked at the Ascension Parish Correctional Center with one count of Domestic Abuse Battery, a violation of R.S. 14:35.3. A temporary restraining order was also issued to protect Jane Doe from you.

Jane Doe advised IA investigators that while working with her partner, Robin Matherne, on March 20, 2022 you called her on her phone and cursed and yelled at her, accusing her of cheating. After the call, Mr. Matherne told Jane Doe he was not comfortable with her going home. Jane Doe gave Mr. Matherne her address before departing, and told him to call the police if he did not hear from her by 0100 hours on March 22, 2022. Jane Doe confirmed that you confronted her in the in-law suite. You grabbed her, picked her up, shook her, and threw her on the bed. You threw a pen at her that struck her on the left cheek. When you left the room, she texted Mr. Matherne and asked him to call the police. While she was waiting for the police to arrive, you came back into the suite and tried to console her.

Mr. Robin Matherne advised IA investigators that while working with Jane Doe on March 20, 2022, he overheard you yelling and cursing at her on the phone. Mr. Matherne also saw some of the text messages that you sent to Jane Doe accusing her of cheating. Mr. Matherne attempted to convince Jane Doe to not go home while you were angry, but Jane Doe advised him she did not have a choice. Jane Doe gave Mr. Matherne her address in case she needed him to call the police for her. Mr. Matherne advised that sometime after 0100 hours on March 21, 2022, he received a text from Jane Doe telling him to call the police.

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APSO Cpl. Logan Boudreaux advised IA investigators that at approximately 0152 hours on March 21, 2022, he was dispatched to your residence in Prairieville. When he spoke with Jane Doe at your residence, she advised him that you were upset that she was late getting home. She went into the small bedroom in the apartment, and you entered the room and began a verbal altercation. Jane Doe advised him that the altercation became physical when you grabbed her around the collar of her shirt and neck, shook her causing her head to hit the wall, and threw her on the bed. Cpl. Boudreaux documented Jane Doe and the room with photos, and arrested you.

Your use of physical force against Jane Doe on March 21, 2022, during your argument with her at your residence, was in the nature of a violation of R.S. 14:35.3 - Domestic Abuse Battery³, and in violation of Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure No. 901 - Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 3 - Conformance to Laws, which states in pertinent part:

 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.

Your actions resulting in your arrest, which became a public record, were in violation of Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 4 – Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, which states in pertinent part:

- 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 service.

Any questions you may have regarding your final paycheck or any benefits to which you may be entitled should be addressed to the Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services, Human Resources Office. Their telephone number is (225) 925-6067 and their address is 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

³ R.S. 14:35.3 provided in pertinent part, "Domestic abuse battery is the intentional use of force or violence committed by one household member or family member upon the person of another household member or household member.

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You have the right to appeal this action to the State Civil Service Commission within 30 calendar days following the date you receive this notice. The appeal procedure is contained in Chapter 13 of the Civil Service Rules, which is available from the Department of State Civil Service or your Human Resource office.

Sincerely,

Colonel Lamar A. Davis

Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

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c: Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon

Lt. Col. Chris Eskew DPS Captain Ed Middleton

Internal Affairs

Office of Legal Affairs

Human Resources