



JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR

COLONEL ROBERT P. HODGES
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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

February 19, 2025
4750/0501/JZS/25-24202
HQ-2-2269

Trooper Artellus Bellard
Troop D, Region 2

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY
IA-2400038 OLA #P-200244

Re: **8-HOUR SUSPENSION**

Trooper Bellard:

Pursuant to the authority delegated to me by Colonel Robert Hodges, Appointing Authority under Louisiana State Police Commission (Commission) Rules 12.2 and 12.7, you are hereby notified that you are suspended without pay and allowances for a total of 8 hours. Your suspension will begin on March 30, 2025, at 0800 hours and end on March 30, 2025, at 1600 hours. You shall report back to your assigned duty station on March 31, 2025, at 0500 hours. You are suspended for the following reasons:

On September 21, 2024, while off-duty, you attended the Louisiana State University (LSU) versus the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) football game with your wife and father-in-law. During the second half of the game, an argument started between you and Duane Gremillion, who was seated in the row directly behind you. During the argument, you instructed Mr. Gremillion to stand up, and when he did, you punched him on the left side of his face in the temple area with your right hand. Following this action, you ran down the stairs and entered the tunnel area for the section. Mr. Gremillion ran behind you. Once he caught up with you, a physical fight started between yourself and Mr. Gremillion. After the fight, LSU Police Department officers transported both you and Mr. Gremillion to their headquarters, where each of you was issued a misdemeanor summons for La. R.S. 14:35 Simple Battery.

On October 2, 2024, I instructed Internal Affairs to initiate an administrative investigation. Captain Saleem El-Amin assigned the investigation to Trooper First Class Ashton McRae, and the administrative investigation began on the same date.

COURTESY • LOYALTY • SERVICE
"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

P.O. BOX 66614, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896

On October 10, 2024, you were interviewed by Internal Affairs Investigators. You advised that you attended the LSU versus UCLA football game at Tiger Stadium with your wife and father-in-law. You explained that Duane Gremillion was not sitting behind you during the first half of the game. You stated that Mr. Gremillion and another white male came sit behind you and your wife during the second half of the game. You stated that while they were sitting behind you and your wife, Mr. Gremillion purposefully let the condensation from his beer fall on your wife. You advised that you asked Mr. Gremillion several times to stop, but Mr. Gremillion did not listen. Instead, Mr. Gremillion leaned down and touched your wife, telling her she was not wet. You advised that at one point, Mr. Gremillion stretched out his arm and allowed the condensation from his beer to drip on your wife's head. You asked Mr. Gremillion to stop and moved his arm away from your wife's head.

You stated that at this point you heard Mr. Gremillion tell his friends that were sitting next to him that they would, "beat his ass" and called your wife, "a bitch" and, "a hoe." You stated that you stood up to confront Mr. Gremillion. You advised that Mr. Gremillion stood up, and that is when you punched him with a closed fist to the left temple area of his head. You advised that you ran down the steps, and Mr. Gremillion followed you, and when both of you got into the tunnel, another fight started. You told investigators that you were able to maneuver Mr. Gremillion to the ground and use your body weight to keep him on the ground in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. You advised that you ran down the stairs because you did not want anything further to happen due to the kids in the stands.

After deputies with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office and Point Coupee Sheriff's Office located you and Mr. Gremillion, Officer Lucas Porter of the LSU Police Department brought both of you to LSU Police Department headquarters. You were processed and released on a misdemeanor summons for La. R.S. 14:35 Simple Battery.

Several news media outlets reported on your altercation with Mr. Gremillion. The news reports that covered this incident were the following:

- <http://www.wdsu.com/article/louisiana-state-police-trooper-battery-charge/62322657>
- <https://www.wvlv.com/article/news/crime/baton-rouge-off-duty-state-trooper-gets-into-fight-at-lsu-game-charged-with-simple-battery-louisiana-ucla/289-3e3aa059-b76d-4eb3-9c66-48abf5b8b238>

By your actions on September 21, 2024, you violated LSP P.O. 901 Code of Conduct and Ethics, Sec 4 – Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall conduct themselves at all times, both on and off-duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on themselves and the Department.
- ii) Unbecoming conduct is defined as conduct which:
 - a) Brings the Department or any of its subdivisions into disrepute.

COURTESY • LOYALTY • SERVICE
"An Equal Opportunity Employer"
P.O. BOX 66614, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896

- 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.
- d) Detrimentially affects 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.

You were involved in a physical fight during the LSU versus UCLA game, and your actions reflected discredit upon yourself as a member of the Department. Specifically, you punched Mr. Gremillion. Initiating physical violence, even under the circumstances, violated Department policy. Additionally, you were issued a misdemeanor summons for Simple Battery. Multiple news media outlets covered the altercation and subsequent summons, which could detrimentally affect the morale of the Department's personnel. As a representative of this Department, you are held to the highest standards of professionalism both on and off duty.

For the above listed policy violations, you are hereby suspended without pay and allowances for a total of 8 hours for the violation of LSP P.O. 901 Code of Conduct and Ethics, Sec 4 – Conduct Unbecoming an Officer policy. Any future violations of this 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 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,

Lieutenant Colonel Frank Besson
Assistant Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

cc: Colonel Robert Hodges
Lt. Col. Jody Hasselbeck
Major Beau Comeaux
Capt. Brad Saltzman
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs