



*JOHN BEL EDWARDS*  
GOVERNOR

*LAMAR A. DAVIS*  
COLONEL DEPUTY SECRETARY

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

JANUARY 13, 2023  
4750/0501/BJB/23-23974  
HQ-01-800

Trooper James Olmstead  
Troop F

**VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY**  
IA#22-00052; OLA #079693

**Re: 8 HOUR SUSPENSION**

Trooper Olmstead:

Pursuant to the authority granted by State Police Commission Rules 12.2 and 12.8, you are hereby notified of my intention to suspend you from duty without pay and allowances for 8 (eight) hours. You are suspended during the following period:

1. Suspension begins Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 1800 hours, and ends Monday, January 30, 2023 at 0200 hours (8 hour suspension);
2. Report back to duty on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 1800 hours;

You are suspended for the following reasons:

On Saturday, September 24, 2022, at 1645 hours, you began your night patrol shift, which was scheduled until Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 0500 hours. At 1702 hours, Sergeant (Sgt.) Steven Spainhower (Troop F desk Sergeant) notified you and team members that the Mangham Police Department, and the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office, were in pursuit of a purple Dodge Charger<sup>1</sup> westbound on I-20 at milepost 133. When you received the call, you were approximately 2.5 miles north of I-20 at the intersection of US-80 and LA-594. You then notified Sgt. Spainhower that you were en route to assist the other law enforcement agencies.

As you traveled southbound on LA-594 in the vicinity of where LA-594 intersects I-20 at Exit 124, you approached a white Ford F150. Upon approaching the F150, you did not activate your overhead lights, because there was no shoulder on the road for the F150 to move aside and pull over.<sup>2</sup> You waited to activate your overhead lights until there was adequate space for the F150 to safely pull over, which was near Ouachita High School.

<sup>1</sup> Subject vehicle involved in the pursuit

<sup>2</sup> As stated by Trooper Olmstead in his October 27, 2022 interview.

As you approached Ouachita High School, you activated your overhead lights. Your Body Worn Camera (hereinafter "BWC") and In-Car Camera (hereinafter "ICC") were then automatically activated by the activation of your overhead lights. Four (4) seconds after you activated your overhead lights, you manually deactivated your BWC and ICC via your mobile data terminal (hereinafter "MDT").

On September 24, 2022, after the pursuit and upon returning to Troop F, you completed a Use of Force / Pursuit form (22-110482) on Mark43, and uploaded your BWC and ICC videos. Lt. Cox, Sgt. Spainhower, and Sgt. Michael Williamson reviewed the 32 seconds of ICC footage, and the 34 seconds of BWC footage.

After reviewing the brief footage, Lt. Cox then instructed you to upload all of your BWC and ICC video footage pertaining to the pursuit. You responded to Lt. Cox that all of your videos were already uploaded. Lt. Cox, Sgt. Williamson, and Sgt. Spainhower attempted to locate additional videos, but were unsuccessful. At that point, Lt. Cox consulted with you to determine why you deactivated your BWC and ICC. You stated that you manually deactivated your BWC and ICC via your MDT, because you did not want your supervisors to review unnecessary video footage.

On Sunday, September 25, 2022, you completed an incident report to Sgt. Spainhower. On the same day, Lt. Cox and Sgt. Spainhower issued you a Letter of Counseling. As instructed by Colonel Lamar Davis, an Internal Affairs investigation regarding the manually deactivated camera systems was initiated on October 7, 2022.

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 0921 hours, you were interviewed by IA investigators Sergeant Richard Buckland and Trooper Tony Washington. Before conducting the interview, IA investigators advised you of your administrative rights. You verbally acknowledged that you understood your rights, and you affixed your signature to the administrative rights form (DPSSP 4117). The interview was recorded and conducted at Internal Affairs located at 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806. Below is a brief summary.

In your interview, you stated that when you arrived at Troop F, you were asked to complete a Use of Force / Pursuit Form. You confirmed that Lt. Cox instructed you to download all videos from the pursuit. You responded to Lt. Cox that you had already uploaded the 32 seconds of ICC, and the 34 seconds of BWC videos. You also stated that you had uploaded the 7 minutes and 45 seconds of the BWC video from the stop scene. You stated that while en route to the stop scene, you manually deactivated your cameras via your MDT because you did not want unnecessary videos for the desk to review.

Officers equipped with a BWC and/or ICC systems shall record all vehicle pursuits. During the pursuit, as you approached Ouachita High School, you activated your overhead lights, which in turn automatically activated your BWC and ICC. Four (4) seconds after you activated

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your overhead lights, your overhead lights, you manually deactivated your cameras via your MDT, while you were still assisting other law enforcement agencies during a pursuit. When you manually and improperly deactivated your BWC and ICC while involved in a pursuit with other law enforcement agencies, your actions violated Louisiana State Police, Procedural Order 1117, BODY WORN CAMERA & IN-CAR CAMERA SYSTEMS, 5. ACTIVATION, which states in pertinent part:

5. ACTIVATION

...

iv) Officers operating units equipped with an in-car camera system shall ensure the camera(s) remain powered on, ready to record or receive a signal to record, at all times.

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. Officers shall also record other events, situations, and circumstances including, but not limited to: armed encounters, acts of physical violence, and felonious activity.

vi) 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.

...

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 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.

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

iv) 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 A. Davis  
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

c: Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon;  
Lt. Col. Joseph Hasselbeck, III;  
Major Cordell Williams;  
Captain Eric Cuenca;  
Internal Affairs;  
Office of Legal Affairs

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