



**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
GOVERNOR

**LAMAR A. DAVIS**  
COLONEL DEPUTY SECRETARY

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

JUNE 8, 2022  
4750/0501/MMG/22-23890  
HQ-01-686

DPS Lt. Hulon Moran  
Capitol Detail

**VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY**  
IA-2200010; OLA #076815

**Re: 40 HOUR SUSPENSION**

Lt. Moran:

Pursuant to the authority granted by State Civil Service Rules 12.2 and 12.8, you are hereby notified that you are suspended from duty without pay and allowances for 40 hours. Your suspension will begin at 0600 hours on June 13, 2022, and will end at 1600 hours on June 16, 2022. You shall report back to your assigned duty station at 1800 hours on June 17, 2022. You are suspended for the following reasons:

On January 19, 2022, two juvenile offenders<sup>1</sup> escaped from a detention center, Acadiana Center for Youth (ACY), in Bunkie, LA. Following their escape, the offenders burglarized several vehicles in the surrounding area and stole three handguns from the vehicles. They also stole a Chevy Colorado truck. Offender A left Offender B at a house in New Roads, LA and then drove the Chevy to Mississippi. Offender A abandoned the Chevy in Mississippi and stole a Ford F350 truck and drove back into Louisiana.

On January 20, 2022, you assisted in the apprehension of Offender A in Baton Rouge, and searched him for weapons at the time he was taken into custody. Your department issued Body Worn Camera (BWC) was activated and recorded the events<sup>2</sup>. Following his apprehension, Offender A was treated at the scene by medical personnel for an injury to his left leg he received the night before when a bullet grazed him. Offender A was also transported to several different locations by Trooper Derrick Parish, including the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD) Headquarters, the East Baton Rouge Parish (EBR) Juvenile Detention Center, and the Mid-City Baton Rouge General Medical Center, until he was ultimately returned to ACY on January 21, 2022. On January 25, 2022, Offender A advised Judith Sylvester, Chief of Security at ACY, that he (Offender A) was in possession of a handgun (a Taurus 9 mm that contained seven rounds) which he had with him since he was apprehended on January 20, 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Due to their juvenile status, the identity of the offenders will be protected and they will be referred to in this letter as offenders, and Offender A and Offender B.

<sup>2</sup> The recording is maintained in Evidence.com.

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During an administrative investigation of the matter, you advised Louisiana State Police (LSP) Internal Affairs (IA) investigator Sgt. Robert Grimes, that on January 20, 2022, you were at your office on regular duty when you heard a "BOLO"<sup>3</sup> on the radio for the two escaped juvenile offenders that were possibly between Mississippi and Baton Rouge, a description of the truck they were in, and that they were possibly armed. Shortly after, you heard Trooper Derrick Parish on the radio advise that he had "eyes on the vehicle" at a gas station (Murphy Gas Station) located on the corner of U.S. 61 and Blount Road in East Baton Rouge Parish. Trooper Parish requested additional units, so you proceeded to U.S. 61 to back him up. You explained to Sgt. Grimes that you knew it was possibly going to be a "felony stop," there could be a pursuit, and if the offenders were armed, there could be a shooting.

According to Trooper Parish, the suspect truck left the Murphy Gas Station and drove a short distance to the Chevron Gas Station/Made to Go Truck Stop, at the corner of U.S. 61 and Thomas Road in East Baton Rouge Parish. Trooper Parish waited on the shoulder of U.S. 61 for back up to arrive. You, DPS Officer Hunter O'Connor, LSP Sgt. Alexander Nezgodinsky, and Trooper Jeffrey Martin, arrived at Trooper Parish's location<sup>4</sup>. The suspect truck was backed in between two semi-tractor trailers in the rear parking area of the gas station. Sgt. Nezgodinsky made the decision to confront and apprehend the offenders in the truck and the plan was made to surround the truck with law enforcement vehicles to prevent the offenders from escaping. You, Trooper Parish, Sgt. Nezgodinsky, Trooper Martin, and Officer O'Connor proceeded to the parking lot and surrounded the truck with your units.

Video footage of the incident shows that you exited your unit with your firearm drawn and positioned yourself along the driver's side of Trooper Parish's unit. You and Trooper Parish initiated the felony stop by giving loud verbal commands for the driver to exit the truck. Offender A exited the truck and followed verbal commands to walk back towards your voices with his hands in the air. BWC video shows that Offender A kept his hands slightly above shoulder height and his left arm maintained close contact with the left side of his torso the entire time. Offender A was told to get on his knees, put his hands behind his head, and then lay on the ground with his hands out to the side as instructed. With his left arm clenched to his left side, Offender A laid on the ground and placed his hands behind his back rather than out to the side. You moved to Offender A's position and handcuffed his hands behind his back and conducted a pat down search of him while asking him if he had any weapons. The other officers on scene checked the vehicle for passengers and attempted to determine if Offender B was also present.

After he was handcuffed, you stood Offender A up and conducted a second search of Offender A as you asked, "No guns?" Offender A replied, "No sir." You walked Offender A to Officer O'Connor's unit and placed him in the rear right passenger compartment. Trooper Parish approached Offender A in Officer O'Connor's unit and read him his Miranda Rights. After Offender A acknowledged that he stole the truck, he was advised that he was under arrest.

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<sup>3</sup> BOLO means Be On the Look Out

<sup>4</sup> All officers present were equipped with BWCs that recorded some or all of the events. Some of the officers present had vehicles that were equipped with In-Car Cameras (ICC) that recorded some or all of the events. All of the recordings are maintained in Evidence.com.

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Video footage shows that at the scene, Trooper Parish asked you if you searched Offender A and you replied, "Yeah, I searched him. There ain't nothing on him. No weapons. No weapons." You also stated to Trooper Parish, "He's clean. He ain't got no weapons or nothing on him."

During your interview, you advised Sgt. Grimes that Offender A, was ordered out of the truck and instructed to walk back towards your location. You recalled getting your handcuffs out and telling Offender A to get on the ground and once he complied, you placed your handcuffs on Offender A. You recalled asking Offender A if he had any weapons and patted down his waistline and area he would be able to reach while handcuffed. You wanted to get Offender A off of the ground because there could still be someone else in the truck. You escorted Offender A to the rear of Trooper Parish's unit and asked him again if he had any weapons and patted down his waist, legs and pockets.

You admitted to Sgt. Grimes that your normal process for searching people based on your training is to start at the top and work down to the bottom on each side, in addition to checking the groin area. You explained that you should be systematic to ensure that you do not miss anything. You admitted that you should have ensured that you searched Offender A the way that you were trained, conducting a head to toe search, and there was nothing that prevented you from doing that on January 20, 2022. You advised Sgt. Grimes that when you saw on the news that Offender A had a gun on him when he was returned to ACY, you tried to remember everything you did and lost sleep thinking that you probably missed a gun.

You were the first officer to have contact with Offender A when he was taken into custody on January 20, 2022. You failed to conduct a full and thorough search of Offender A, which resulted in him retaining a handgun that he had concealed in his left armpit at the times you searched him. Your actions violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 203 – Arrest and Searches, Section 9 – Search Procedures, which states in pertinent part:

- ...
- iv) Full search
    - a) A search of a person may be conducted based on probable cause or incident to arrest. The search may be for weapons, contraband, or evidence.
    - b) The search should be systematic and thorough. It should include all items in the suspect's possession, pockets, purse or any object that is within his reach.

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 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.

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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  
Deputy Secretary, Public Safety Services

c: Lt. Col. Chris Eskew  
DPS Captain Johnson Hale  
Internal Affairs  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Human Resources Management