



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Lamar A. Davis, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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

December 20, 2021
4750/0501/MMG/21-23775
HQ-01-592

Master Trooper Patrick Bell
P.O. Box 307
Merryville, LA 70653

IA#21-054; OLA #074976
VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

Re: TERMINATION

Dear M/T Bell:

The response to my letter of intended termination submitted on your behalf has been received by me. I have duly considered the response. I find that there is sufficient evidence to support the facts as stated in the letter, which warrant termination. A conviction for a criminal offense is not required to proceed with this administrative action.

Pursuant to the authority granted by State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, and in accordance with 12.8, you are hereby notified that your employment with the Louisiana State Police is hereby terminated effective 4:30 pm on Friday, December 31, 2021. You are being terminated for the following reasons:

On Sunday, August 29, 2021, at or around 1440 hours, while operating your personally owned 2018 GMC Sierra Pickup Truck, you struck and killed Fredric Goleman who was walking westbound on SH 63 on the improved shoulder in Jasper County, Texas¹. The crash was investigated by Trooper Calvin C. Starkie, III of the Texas Department of Public Safety (TX DPS), and documented in a written report identified as TXDOT Crash ID# 18457945.3/2021414794. Trooper Starkie's body worn camera was activated and recorded his contact with you during the crash investigation.

At the scene of the fatal crash on August 29, 2021, when Trooper Starkie made contact with you, you advised Trooper Starkie that you were a Louisiana State Trooper. When Trooper Starkie asked you what happened, you stated that you were "just driving down the road and he was walking on the shoulder and all of the sudden he was in front of me." You explained that you did not know if he (Mr. Goleman) was "trying to commit suicide or what." The evidence at the scene

¹ You have been on extended leave from Louisiana State Police and had not performed your duties as a trooper since or around March 11, 2019.

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showed that your vehicle left your lane of travel onto the improved shoulder and your right front tire was off the edge of the pavement in the grass prior to Mr. Goleman being fatally struck in the back and thrown into a ditch.

Although Trooper Starkie did not suspect that you were impaired, he requested that you submit a blood sample due to the fact that it was a fatal crash. You admitted to Trooper Starkie that you "had a drink earlier. That's what's scaring the fuck out of me." Before leaving the scene to go to the hospital to submit to a consensual blood withdrawal, you asked Trooper Starkie if he had a PBT (Portable Breath Test) "just to make sure before I go." Trooper Starkie did have a PBT and you submitted a sample, which registered your Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) as .147g% as seen on the recording from Trooper Starkie's body worn camera. Under Texas law, a driver is considered impaired at a BAC of .08g%. Trooper Starkie would not tell you the results of the PBT because they are not admissible in court. You subsequently consented to a blood withdrawal which was performed at the Jasper Memorial Hospital and left with your wife.

Your blood specimen taken on August 29, 2021, was subsequently analyzed at the DPS Crime Lab in Houston, TX. On October 6, 2021, Trooper Starkie received the results of the analysis of your blood which showed your BAC as .18g%.

On October 13, 2021, Trooper Starkie obtained a warrant from the Honorable Raymond Hopson, Judge, Justice Court, Precinct 2, Jasper County, TX for your arrest for the offense of Intoxication Manslaughter (with Vehicle) – a Class 2 Felony (TXPC 49.08(b)). On October 13, 2021, you were arrested by Louisiana State Troopers Lt. Ben Fox, Lt. Courtney Mabou and Sgt. Kent Pevoto pursuant to the warrant, booked into the Beauregard Parish Jail as a fugitive from Jasper, TX, and then transported to the Jasper County Correctional Facility. You were arraigned on October 14, 2021, on the charge of Intoxication Manslaughter Docket Number, FM21-00712, and released on \$100,000.00 bond.

From the time that you struck and killed Mr. Goleman in Jasper, Texas after consuming alcohol on August 29, 2021, until the time that you were arrested by Louisiana State Troopers on October 13, 2021, you never advised anyone in your chain of command at Louisiana State Police of your actions. Captain Brad Saltzman, Commander of Troop D, first learned of the homicide on September 3, 2021 when LSP Technician Trainee Jason McWilliams inquired about you and your family's well-being following the fatal crash. Captain Saltzman had no idea what Tech McWilliams was talking about and Tech. McWilliams showed him a news article about the crash from KJAS that he found out about from his girlfriend.

By operating your personal vehicle on August 29, 2021, in Jasper County, TX while impaired, and striking and killing a pedestrian, resulting in you being arrested and charged with a felony offense – Intoxication Manslaughter², you violated Louisiana State Police Policy and

² TXPC 49.08 states in pertinent part: "(a) A person commits an offense if the person: (1) operated a motor vehicle in a public place,...and (2) is intoxicated and by reason of that intoxication causes death of another by accident or mistake. (b) Except as otherwise provided by Section 49.09, an offense under this section is a felony of the second degree.

Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Sections 3 – Conformance to Laws, which states in pertinent part:

- i) 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.

...

You did not notify any of your LSP supervisors at Troop D that you had been involved in a fatal crash on August 29, 2021, at any time before you were arrested on October 13, 2021. Your failure to notify any LSP supervisor of the fatal crash that occurred while you were impaired, resulting in your arrest, violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 901 – Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 36 – Involvement in Altercations, which states in pertinent part:

- i) Any commissioned officer involved in, or aware of, any altercation or situation concerning any matter in which he or any other commissioned officer could possibly be a defendant, must timely report the facts in detail to the appropriate supervisor for transmission to the Superintendent.

All of your above described actions were in violation of Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Manual No. 901- Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 4 – Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, which states in pertinent part:

- i) 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. 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.
- ...
- e) May reasonably be expected to destroy public respect for State Police Officers and/or confidence in the Office of State Police.

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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Any questions you may have regarding your retirement benefits should be directed to the Louisiana State Police Retirement System. Their telephone number is (225) 295-8400, and their address is 9224 Jefferson Hwy Baton Rouge LA 70809. Questions regarding any other benefits may be addressed to the Department of Public Safety Human Resources Office. Their telephone number is (225) 925-6067 and their address is 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Col Lamar A. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Colonel Lamar A. Davis
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

c: Lt. Col. M. Doug Cain, II
Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon
Major Benny Broussard
Captain Brad Saltzman
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management