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State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services
JUNE 24, 2021
4750/0501/JR/21-23635
HQ-01-505

SGT. BRUCE ROBINSON
TROOP F

IA #21-011; OLA #072503
VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

RE: 100 HOUR SUSPENSION

Sgt. Robinson:

In accordance with State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, you are hereby notified that you are suspended from duty for one hundred (100) hours without pay and allowances. Your suspension will begin at 1800 hours on Sunday, July 18, 2021, and will end at 1400 hours on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. You shall report back to your assigned duty station at 0600 hours on Thursday, August 5, 2021. You are suspended for the following reasons:

On May 23, 2020, former Troop F Trooper Jacob Brown pulled Mr. Antonio Harris over for a traffic violation. During the traffic stop, Mr. Harris fled the scene and led troopers on a 29-mile high speed pursuit, which ended with Mr. Harris being arrested. Multiple law enforcement officers were involved in Mr. Harris' arrest, including three former Troop F troopers, Jacob Brown, Dakota DeMoss, and George Harper. Former Troopers Brown, DeMoss, and Harper all used force against Mr. Harris during the arrest, but only former Trooper Brown submitted a use of force ("UOF") report following the incident, and this UOF report did not contain an accurate description of the incident. In his UOF report, former Trooper Brown made multiple statements which are not supported by the available Body Worn Camera ("BWC") and In-car Camera ("ICC") footage, including stating that Mr. Harris ran into a cornfield when he exited his vehicle and troopers gave him commands to stop running, and that there were only four officers on the scene. Former Trooper Brown also omitted from the report that there were two Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office deputies at the scene at the time force was used, that he struck Mr. Harris in the head, and that the incident was captured on departmental video camera systems. Former Troopers Brown, DeMoss, and Harper have since been arrested in part for violating Louisiana criminal statutes in their use of force during the arrest of Mr. Harris.

An administrative investigation was conducted by Internal Affairs ("IA") into your review of the force used by the troopers against Mr. Harris. During your recorded interview with IA investigators Sgt. James Jefferson and Lt. Saleem El-Amin on March 23, 2021, you advised IA investigators that at the time of the use of force, you were the sergeant over Troop F Team E, which included the troopers involved in the arrest of Mr. Harris. IA investigators discovered,

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according to the electronic date and time stamp on former Trooper Brown's UOF report, you reviewed and signed off on the UOF report at 0914 hours on May 27, 2020 without making any comments on the report, and then electronically routed the report to Captain John Peters, the commander of Troop F at the time, who subsequently routed it to Sgt. Scott Davis at the Louisiana State Police ("LSP") Training Academy. Sgt. Davis reviewed the UOF report along with the pertinent videos and expressed his concerns to another sergeant at Troop F that supervisors were signing off on UOF reports without watching any pertinent videos.

Lt. William Brinkerhoff told you that the LSP Training Academy had some concerns relating to the UOF report and that you and Lt. Brinkerhoff were to go back and watch the videos, which you did. You admitted to IA investigators that, while you knew you were required by policy to review the pertinent videos when signing off on the UOF report, you did not review any video footage of the incident until you were notified that the LSP Training Academy had concerns. The video audit trails in Evidence.com for all videos¹ related to the incident confirm you did not review any of the videos prior to signing off on the UOF report on May 27, 2020, as was required by LSP policy. The audit trails show you viewed the pertinent BWC footage on June 12, 16, and 17, 2020. You then completed Reports of General Counseling for the involved troopers on June 17, 2020, addressing profanity, a BWC policy violation, the grabbing of Mr. Harris' hair, loud radio playing during the pursuit, striking Mr. Harris, and a threat made to Mr. Harris. In the Report of General Counseling you issued to former Trooper Harper, you stated, "He is to use the correct ... force continuum." You advised investigators that at the time you initially reviewed the video footage in June 2020, you did not notice any discrepancies in former Trooper Brown's UOF report. After reviewing the videos with IA investigators during your interview, you admitted that the details in the UOF report were not completely accurate.

By your own admission, you failed to review any pertinent video footage related to the May 23, 2020 arrest of and use of force against Mr. Harris before you signed off on the UOF report submitted by former Trooper Brown. Your actions violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure No. 238- Use of Force, Section 11- Use of Force Reporting, which states in pertinent part:

- ...
- ii) Supervisors shall review the Use of Force Report and any pertinent videos of the incident. Supervisors should then indicate whether actions taken by the officer complied with policy and procedure and training. Any training or weapons deficiencies should be reported to the Training Academy Director. Comments shall be addressed in the comments section of the Use of Force Report.
- ...

You were the Team E sergeant at the time of Mr. Harris' arrest and therefore the first-line supervisor of the troopers involved in the incident. You failed to conduct a thorough review of the

¹ Videos of the incident from the following cameras were available in Evidence.com on May 27, 2020: former Troopers Brown, Demoss, and Harper, and Trooper Shappley's body worn cameras and in-car cameras.

Sgt. Robinson

June 24, 2021

Page 3

incident by failing to review any pertinent videos prior to signing off on former Trooper Brown's UOF report. Your failure to review the videos at the time you reviewed the UOF report resulted in you not detecting the inaccuracies in former Trooper Brown's report, as well as any issues related to the uses of force. You failed to identify that troopers struck Mr. Harris in the head while holding flashlights with numerous other law enforcement officers present and Mr. Harris' hands under control. The Reports of General Counseling you issued to the involved troopers failed to adequately address their uses of force against Mr. Harris. Your failure to conduct a meaningful review of the use of force against Mr. Harris contributed to the delay in the Department's appropriate response to the incident. Your actions violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure No. 901- Code of Conduct and Ethics, Section 12- Unsatisfactory Performance, which states in pertinent part:

- i) A commissioned officer shall maintain a competency level sufficient to properly perform his duties and assume the responsibilities of his position. Officers shall perform their duties in such a manner as to maintain the highest standards of efficiency. Unsatisfactory performance may be demonstrated by:
 - ...
 - c) A failure to conform to work standards established for the officer's rank, grade or position.
 - d) A failure to take appropriate action on the occasion of a crime, disorder or other matter deserving attention.
 - ...

Any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe discipline, up to and including termination, and this suspension can be used to support the severity of future discipline.

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.

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 Davis

Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

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Sgt. Robinson

June 24, 2021

Page 4

cc: Lt. Col. M. Doug Cain, II
Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon
Major Wayne Vidrine
Captain Eric Cuenca
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management

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