

TO:

Michael Hess, Chairperson, Civilian Police Review Board

FROM:

Dornat A. Drummond, Interim Chief of Police

SUBJECT:

OPS2020-0093 Departure

DATE:

July 8, 2022

Based upon its review of the information contained in the investigative file, OPS #2020-0093, the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) ruled the complainant's allegation of *Unprofessional Conduct* be sustained against Chief Dispatcher Lisa Blevins #229 (note: at the time of the violation, Chief Dispatcher Blevins held the rank of Dispatcher) The CPRB found that on May 31, 2020, Chief Dispatcher Blevins violated Manual of Rules 5.01 when on her public *Facebook* page that depicted Chief Dispatcher Blevins in her Dispatcher's uniform, made several comments that advocated for the neglect of the City of Cleveland infrastructure, accused all protesters of rioting, accused Black Lives Matter of being a terrorist organization, and liked a comment that stated protesters should be shot. For this reason, CPRB recommended discipline that is consistent with a Group II violation for *Unprofessional Conduct* (Specification #1).

OPS #2020-0093 was submitted to the Chief's Office on March 23, 2022. A predisciplinary hearing was held on Thursday, June 23, 2022, before Deputy Chief Daniel Fay. Chief Dispatcher Lisa Blevins pled "Not Guilty" to the single specification.

Specification #1: (OPS2020-0093) The Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) is recommending to the Chief of Police that the allegation of *Unprofessional Conduct* be sustained against you, Dispatcher Lisa Blevins #56, that on or about May 31, 2020, when on your public Facebook page that depicted you in your Dispatcher's uniform, made several comments that advocated for the neglect of the City of Cleveland infrastructure, accused all protesters of rioting, accused Black Lives Matter of being a terrorist organization, and liked a comment that stated protesters should be shot, all in violation of Manual of Rules 5.01. (*Group II Violation*)

I have carefully reviewed the evidence incorporated into the record by reference, statements made at the hearing, and pertinent rules, policies, procedures and protected Constitutional Rights. I concur with the findings of the Civilian Police Review Board. When Chief Dispatcher Blevins used the "Like" button to show support for the opinion that protesters downtown on May 30, 2020, should have been shot, she violated not only Manual of Rules 5.01, but also General Police Orders 1.01.02: Division Mission Statement, 1.01.03: Division Values and 1.07.08: Bias Free Policing. I would have suspended Chief Dispatcher Blevins consistent with the Civilian Police Review Board's recommendation as a Group II violation; and because Chief Dispatcher Blevins has active Group II discipline, the discipline would have been in the Second Group II violation range. However, because the required *Ten Day Notice of Investigation* was not issued to Chief Dispatcher Blevins by the Office of Professional Standards (as required by the CPPA Civilian Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 31), I am contractually barred from imposing discipline.

Based on the foregoing, I am recommending that a Letter of Reinstruction be issued to Chief Dispatcher Blevins. Further, I recommend Chief Dispatcher Blevins receive reinstruction from a superior officer on Manual of Rules 5.01 and General Police Orders1.01.02, 1.01.03 and 1.07.08.

Pursuant to the Civilian Police Review Board manual (L.), the Board may vote to impose its original recommendation regarding discipline or other remedial action and shall prepare an amended final summary explaining its rationale to send to the Director of Public Safety with a copy to the Chief and the Case Preparation Unit.

An appeal hearing will be scheduled with the Director of Public Safety on Friday, July 15, 2022. If the Civilian Police Review Board votes to not appeal this decision, please notify the Safety Director's Office and the Case Preparation Unit. Please do not hesitate to contact the Chief's Office to schedule a meeting if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

DAD:bpc:cld

cc: Karrie Howard, Director of Public Safety

Jakimah R. Dye, Assistant Director, Public Safety

Daniel Fay, Deputy Chief, Administrative Operations
Brian McEntee, Acting Commander, Bureau of Communications and Property Control

Brian Carney, Commander, Bureau of Compliance

Christopher Viland, Superintendent, Internal Affairs Unit

Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association

Jeff Perry, Business Agent, Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association

Henry Roney, Interim Administrator, Office of Professional Standards

Hassen Aden, Federal Monitoring Team

Richard Rosenthal, Federal Monitoring Team