



City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Public Safety

Dornat (Wayne) A. Drummond, Interim Chief
FBI NA #230
Division of Police
1300 Ontario Street, Suite 929
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
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Disposition Letter

July 18, 2022

**Patrol Officer Christopher Lane #1661
C/o Fourth District Headquarters
9333 Kinsman Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44104**

Re: DBI2022-0034

Patrol Officer Lane #1661:

This letter is to advise you, Patrol Officer Christopher Lane #1661, of the result of the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing, which you attended on June 23, 2022, to address an internal investigation wherein you were alleged to have engaged in improper procedure and/or conduct.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

In part: The Manual of Rules sets forth the conduct and behavior to be followed by officers and employees. Any violation of these rules shall be a basis for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to, verbal and written reprimands and the preferring of divisional charges which can result in suspension, loss of pay, demotion or termination. The rules and standards contained in this manual shall apply whether the officer or employee is on or off duty. Where a conflict exists between a Rule and a General Police Order, the Rule provision shall be adhered to.

SPECIFICATION

Specification #1: (DBI2022-0034) On or about January 25, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Lane #1661, failed to thoroughly investigate an assignment of a vehicle into a fire hydrant at, 17204 Invermere Avenue. After arriving on-scene, you failed to exit your zone car and check if a fire hydrant was damaged, all in violation of the Manual of Rules 4.18. (*Group I Violation*)

This specification is in violation of the rules and procedures of the Division of Police, Department of Public Safety.

RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Manual of Rules for the Conduct and Discipline of Employees of the Cleveland Division of Police: 4.18

PREDISCIPLINARY HEARING

In attendance at the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing, were you, Vice President David Medina, Second Vice President Andrew Gasiewski and Attorney Keith Wolgamuth of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association, Lieutenant Troy Strong of the Fourth District, Commander Brian Carney of the Bureau of Compliance and Deputy Chief Daniel Fay of Administrative Operations, who presided over the hearing.

During the hearing, you acknowledged receipt of the charge letter; you and your representatives waived the reading of your charge letter and were then afforded the opportunity to be heard. You entered a plea of "Not Guilty" to Specification #1 of the administrative charges as set forth in the charging letter. Upon carefully reviewing the evidence presented, the memorialized record, as well as the arguments of you and your representatives, the Hearing Officer recommended that you be found "Guilty" of Specification #1.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

I have carefully reviewed the evidence incorporated into the record by reference, the memorialized record, including statements made at your hearing and the applicable Rules, Policies and Procedures, and I accept and adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. You received an assignment for damage to a fire hydrant and arrived on-scene to find a vehicle stuck in a snowbank. You violated Manual of Rules 4.18 when you failed to thoroughly investigate the damage to the fire hydrant, you spoke to the vehicle owner for less than one (1) minute and you failed to exit your zone car to further investigate (*Specification #1*). As such, I find you "**Guilty**" of Specification #1 and I am issuing you a **two (2) workday suspension without pay**. This corrective action is within the Second Group I violation range of the discipline matrix, where mitigating factors (*fire hydrant was not visible and no injuries*) outweigh any aggravating factors (*active discipline*).

Additionally, you shall, within five (5) work days of returning from suspension, read Manual of Rules 4.18, and expect to be reinstructed by a superior officer on that Rule. Upon completion of the reinstruction, you will email a Form-1 (as an attachment) indicating reinstruction, and endorsed by the same superior officer, to:

**The Case Preparation Unit (caseprep@clevelandohio.gov)
Lieutenant Charles DePenti (cdepenti@clevelandohio.gov).**

The above imposed suspension shall commence and be effective the next working day after you are served with this notice. You shall surrender your badge, police identification card, unloaded departmentally issued firearm and three (3) loaded magazines plus one (1) live round to your Commanding Officer, or designee, at the end of your shift. Upon completion of the suspension day(s), you shall retrieve the aforementioned property from your Commanding Officer, or designee, upon reporting for duty.

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It is the Division's earnest desire that this letter will serve as a deterrent against future acts of this nature. Any prospective acts of same or similar conduct may lead to progressive discipline. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association, verbal disciplinary warnings and disciplinary written reprimands shall not be used for progressive discipline purposes after one (1) year from the date the discipline was administered, and disciplinary suspensions shall not be used for progressive discipline purposes after three (3) years from the date the discipline was administered.

Respectfully,



Dornat A. Drummond
Interim Chief of Police

DAD:bpc:clد:kfs

cc: Sammy Morris, Acting Deputy Chief, Field Operations
Daniel Fay, Deputy Chief, Administrative Operations
Brian Carney, Commander, Bureau of Compliance
Brandon Kutz, Commander, Fourth District
Christopher Viland, Superintendent, Internal Affairs
William Mokshefsky, Acting Lieutenant, Officer-in-Charge, Personnel Unit
Cynthia Oliver, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Timekeeping Unit
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association
William Menzalora, Chief Assistant Director of Law
Paul Patton, Chief Human Resource Officer
George E. Coulter, Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety
Monique Young, Labor Relations Officer, Department of Human Resources
Michael Spreng, Secretary, Civil Service Commission
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team
Jason Goodrick, Executive Director, Cleveland Community Police Commission