



City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Public Safety
Dornat (Wayne) A. Drummond, Chief
FBI NA #230
Division of Police
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Disposition Letter

September 28, 2022

Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356
C/o Bureau of Homeland Services
1300 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Re: DBI2022-0044

Patrol Officer Larson #1356:

This letter is to advise you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, of the result of the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing you attended on August 22, 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.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification #1: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 17, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, failed to possess your Division issued firearm while assisting the United States Secret Service with a Presidential protection mission, in violation of General Police Order 1.3.11. (*Group I Violation*)

Specification #2: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 19, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, placed the public in danger and diminished the esteem of the Division by jumping onto a plastic bag with unknown contents and stating, "Boom" during an explosive sweep, in violation of Manual of Rules 4.03 and 5.01. (*Group II Violation*)

Specification #3: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 20, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, were disrespectful and insolent towards a superior officer when you directly referred to Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237 as a “Mother Fucker,” in violation of Manual of Rules 2.06. (*Group II Violation*)

Specification #4: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 20, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, did not operate a Cleveland Division of Police vehicle in a safe manner, to wit: sped up and depressed the brake pedal causing the vehicle to slide on the wet, snow-covered pavement, in violation of Manual of Rules 6.03. (*Group I Violation*)

Specification #5: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 20, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, did not possess your Wearable Camera System (WCS) while on duty in violation of General Police Order 4.06.04. (*Group I Violation*)

Specification #6: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 20, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, were disrespectful and insolent towards a superior officer when you told Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237 that you did not want him inside your Division issued vehicle, in violation of Manual of Rules 2.06. (*Group II Violation*)

Specification #7: (DBI2022-0044) On or about February 20, 2022, you, Patrol Officer Christopher Larson #1356, were disrespectful and insolent towards a superior officer when you told Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237, “I’m not your officer,” in violation of Manual of Rules 2.06. (*Group II Violation*)

These specifications are in violation of the rules and procedures of the Division of Police, Department of Public Safety.

RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

General Police Order 1.3.11: Ammunition and Firearm Regulations (revised: 8/7/15)

General Police Order 4.06.04: Wearable Camera System (effective: 1/1/20)

Manual of Rules for the Conduct and Discipline of Employees of the Cleveland Division of Police: 2.06, 4.03, 5.01 and 6.03

HEARING INFORMATION

In attendance at the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing, were you, First Vice President David Medina, Second Vice President Andrew Gasiewski and Attorney Joseph Delguyd of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen’s Association, President Mister Jackson of the Black Shield Police Association, Sergeant Vincent Schneider of the Fourth District (Officer-in-Charge, Bomb Squad), Lieutenant Charles DePenti of the Case Preparation Unit, 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 Specifications #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7 of the administrative charges as set forth in the charge letter. Upon carefully reviewing the evidence presented, as well as the arguments of you and your representatives, the Hearing Officer recommended that you be found "Guilty" of Specifications #1, #3 and #6, and be found "Not Guilty" of Specifications # 2, #4, #5 and #7.

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. By your own admission, you did not have your Division issued firearm on your person on February 17, 2022, in violation of General Police Order 1.3.11 (*Specification #1*). However, because you did have your firearm and other duty equipment nearby, I feel reinstruction is appropriate for this violation, and as such I am issuing you a Non-Disciplinary Letter of Reinstruction for Specification #1. Because there is a lack of corroborating evidence (i.e. Wearable Camera System video, venue video, or a witness) regarding, "jumping onto a plastic bag with unknown contents and stating, 'Boom' during an explosive sweep," I find insufficient evidence for Specification #2, and as such, I find you "Not Guilty" of Specification #2. You admitted at your pre-disciplinary hearing that you stated, "Mother Fucker" while Sergeant Schneider was a passenger in the vehicle you were driving. As the context of your quote cannot be determined with certainty, I am amending Specification #3 from a Group II violation to a Group I violation (conduct that has a negative impact on the operations or professional image of the Division or that negatively impacts relationships with other officers, agencies or the public). Based on the foregoing, I find you "Guilty" of Specification #3. Because there was no damage sustained to the police vehicle you were operating and there is a witness indicating he did not observe you driving in an unsafe manner, I find you "Not Guilty" of Specification #4. Because there is no corroborating evidence that you were not wearing your Wearable Camera System, and it is possible that Sergeant Schneider may have not seen the wearable camera due to you wearing a jacket because of inclement weather, I find there is insufficient evidence for Specification #5, and as such I find you "Not Guilty" of Specification #5. You admitted at your pre-disciplinary hearing that you did not want Sergeant Schneider to ride back with you (*Specification #6*). Because you were trying to de-escalate that day's interactions between you and Sergeant Schneider, I believe this more closely comports with a Group I violation (conduct that has a negative impact on the operations or professional image of the Division or that negatively impacts relationships with other officers, agencies or the public) and I find you "Guilty" of Specification #6. In reviewing Specification #7, I find, "I am not your officer" does not rise to the level of "disrespectful, mutinous, insolent or abusive" language as noted in Manual of Rules 2.06, therefore, I find you "Not Guilty" of Specification #7.

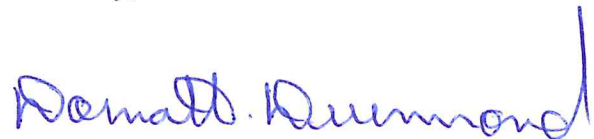
In addition to the **Non-Disciplinary Letter of Reinstruction** as noted for **Specification #1**, I find you **"Guilty"** of **Specifications #3 and #6**, and I am issuing you a **Written Reprimand for those specifications**. This corrective action is within the first Group I violation range of the discipline matrix where mitigating factors (*no active discipline*) outweigh aggravating factors (*none*). I am **"Dismissing"** **Specifications # 2, #4, #5 and #7**.

Additionally, you shall, within five (5) work days of receiving this Written Reprimand, read Manual of Rules 2.06 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).**

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.

Sincerely,



Dornat A. Drummond
Chief of Police

DAD:bpc:cld

cc: Daniel Fay, Deputy Chief, Administrative Operations
Harold Pretel, Deputy Chief, Homeland Special Operations
Dorothy Todd, Deputy Chief, Chief of Staff
Reinhold Kauntz, Commander, Bureau of Homeland Services
Brian Carney, Commander, Bureau of Compliance
Christopher Viland, Superintendent, Internal Affairs Unit
William Mokshefsky, Acting Lieutenant, Officer-in-Charge, Personnel Unit
Shawn Smith, Lieutenant, Training Section
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Associations
Megan Schenk, Labor Relations Manager, Department of Human Resources
Paul Patton, Chief Human Resource Officer
George E. Coulter, Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety
Michael Spreng, Secretary, Civil Service Commission
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team
Jason Goodrick, Executive Director, Cleveland Community Police Commission