



City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Public Safety

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

August 26, 2022

Patrol Officer Danielle Bennett #721
C/o Third District Headquarters
4501 Chester Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Re: SR2022-0536

Patrol Officer Bennett #721:

Please be advised, in accordance with Article 28 of the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association, a pre-disciplinary hearing has been scheduled to determine whether you violated the following provisions of the Manual of Rules, Department of Public Safety and the Rules of the Civil Service Commission of the City of Cleveland.

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: (SR2022-0537) During the Second Quarter 2022 sick review, you, Patrol Officer Danielle Bennett #721, used eighty-two (82) hours of undocumented sick time and displayed a pattern of sick leave on days that precede or follow scheduled vacation days, in violation of General Police Order 1.3.06. (*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

General Police Order 1.3.06: Sick Leave Review (revised: 3/14/13)

PROCEDURES:

- I. Sick Leave Abuse is identified by observation of a single instance of abuse or by a pattern that indicates abuse.
 - A. Single Instance of Sick Leave Abuse
 - 2. Examples of a single instance of sick leave abuse include: a. Using sick leave under circumstances that clearly indicate it is being used to obtain time off work that is unrelated to sickness, injury, doctor/dental visits for the member, serious health condition of family member, or pregnancy.
 - B. Sick Leave Abuse indicated by a pattern of sick leave usage
 - 1. Sick leave abuse is often detected by careful analysis of sick leave use patterns.
 - 2. A pattern of abuse is any of the following that occur repetitively or in combination:
 - a. Use of sick leave on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays or days that precede or follow scheduled vacation days, holidays, personal holidays, furloughs, or compensatory time.
 - d. Any other pattern of sick leave use that indicates abuse.
- II. Quarterly Review
 - A. Members who have used 40 or more hours of sick leave in a rolling three month period shall be reviewed for sick leave abuse.

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

X. SCHEDULE AND DUTY HOURS

- 10.01 Personnel shall work such hours as assigned, report promptly for duty at the time and place assigned, and shall not be absent from duty without permission from their superior officer.

HEARING INFORMATION

The pre-disciplinary hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 1000 hours** in the **Cleveland Division of Police Headquarters, Room 924**. Should you desire union representation, it is your responsibility to notify your union of this hearing. All officers shall have an opportunity to testify. All testimony provided during the hearing shall be given the same weight as sworn testimony; therefore, your statements can and may be used against you at the hearing or at a later date. **Any documentation that could explain any of the above allegations shall be forwarded to the Case Preparation Unit a minimum of 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing. Any new or additional evidence brought to the hearing will result in the hearing to be suspended and the matter shall be returned to the Internal Affairs Unit or the Police Review Board for consideration, as appropriate. In addition, it is also your responsibility to bring the documentation to this scheduled hearing.**

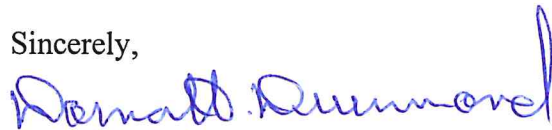
If you are to have witnesses appear on your behalf, a Form-1 listing their names must be provided to the Case Preparation Unit via email (CasePrep@clevelandohio.gov) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing. It is your responsibility to notify said witnesses of the date and time of the hearing. In addition, it is your sole responsibility to ensure the attendance of any witnesses appearing on your behalf. Prior permission for any Division member's attendance **MUST** be obtained from the Case Preparation Unit. Any witnesses that will appear are to be in full uniform of the day. No overtime shall accrue as a result of their attendance.

In accordance with General Police Order 1.1.12: Uniform and Clothing Regulations, you are to appear in **"CLASS A" UNIFORM and have your badge, city issued service weapon, and identification card with you.** Failure to attend as ordered may subject you to additional disciplinary charges. You shall **PERSONALLY** contact the Case Preparation Unit (216-623-5022) **IMMEDIATELY** if there are any conflicts that would cause your lack of attendance to the scheduled hearing.

THIS WILL BE YOUR TOUR OF DUTY

THESE CHARGES MAY BE AMENDED AT A LATER DATE

Sincerely,



Dornat A. Drummond
Chief of Police

DAD:bpc:cld:kfs

cc: Sammy Morris, Acting Deputy Chief, Field Operations
Brian Carney, Commander, Bureau of Compliance
Michael Butler, Commander, Third District
Dorothy Todd, Commander, Chief's Office
Christopher Viland, Superintendent, Internal Affairs Unit
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team