



City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Public Safety

Karrie D. Howard, Director
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August 25, 2022

Patrol Officer Sean Bannerman #490
13409 Maplerow Avenue
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105

Re: CPD2021-0102

Patrol Officer Bannerman:

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.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification #1: (CPD2021-0102) On or about October 29, 2021, you, Patrol Officer Sean Bannerman #490, while off-duty at 801 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio, committed the crime of Aggravated Menacing, Ohio Revised Code 2903.21, when you brandished your City of Cleveland issued firearm while threatening multiple people, to wit: "flashing a handgun and threatening to shoot everyone in the bar," "pulled a gun on all of us," "stated how he would harm everyone in the establishment with his firearm," "showed his gun and threatened to shoot up the whole bar," in violation of Manual of Rules 2.01, 2.14 and 5.01. (*Group III Violation*)

Specification #2: (CPD2021-0102) On or about October 29, 2021, you, Patrol Officer Sean Bannerman #490, were arrested by the Akron Police Department for illegal possession a firearm in a liquor permit premises (Ray's Pub, Akron, Ohio), in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2923.121. As noted in the Journal Entry of the Court of Common Pleas for Summit County, Case #CR-2021-11-4019: On June 29, 2022, you entered a plea of "guilty" and the Court accepted your plea and found you "guilty" of Ohio Revised Code 2923.121(A)(E), a Felony of the 3rd Degree, in violation of Manual of Rules 2.01, 2.14 and 5.01. (*Group III Violation*)

Specification #3: (CPD2021-0102) On or about October 29, 2021, you, Patrol Officer Sean Bannerman #490, while off-duty and at the intersection of West Market Street and Portage Path in Akron, Ohio, were arrested by the Akron Police Department for Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence (OVI), a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4511.19. As noted in the Journal Entry of the Court of Common Pleas for Summit County, Case #CR-2021-11-4019: On June 29, 2022, you entered a plea of "guilty" and the Court accepted your plea and found you "guilty" of Ohio Revised Code 4511.19(A)(1)(A)(G)(1)(A), a Misdemeanor of the 1st Degree, in violation of Manual of Rules 2.01, 2.14 and 5.01. (*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

Ohio Revised Code 2903.21: Aggravated Menacing

(A) No person shall knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause serious physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family. In addition to any other basis for the other person's belief that the offender will cause serious physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family, the other person's belief may be based on words or conduct of the offender that are directed at or identify a corporation, association, or other organization that employs the other person or to which the other person belongs.

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of aggravated menacing. Except as otherwise provided in this division, aggravated menacing is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, aggravated menacing is a felony of the fifth degree or, if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to an offense of violence, the victim of that prior offense was an officer or employee of a public children services agency or private child placing agency, and that prior offense related to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, a felony of the fourth degree.

Ohio Revised Code 2923.121: Possession of Firearm in Beer Liquor Permit Premises

(A) No person shall possess a firearm in any room in which any person is consuming beer or intoxicating liquor in a premises for which a D permit has been issued under Chapter 4303. of the Revised Code or in an open air arena for which a permit of that nature has been issued.

(B)(1) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(a) An officer, agent, or employee of this or any other state or the United States, or a law enforcement officer, who is authorized to carry firearms and is acting within the scope of the officer's, agent's, or employee's duties;

(b) A law enforcement officer or investigator who is authorized to carry firearms but is not acting within the scope of the officer's or investigator's duties, as long as all of the following apply:

(i) The officer or investigator is carrying validating identification.

(ii) If the firearm the officer or investigator possesses is a firearm issued or approved by the law enforcement agency served by the officer or by the bureau of criminal identification and investigation with respect to an investigator, the agency or bureau does not have a restrictive firearms carrying policy.

(iii) The officer or investigator is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor and is not under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse.

(c) Any room used for the accommodation of guests of a hotel, as defined in section 4301.01 of the Revised Code;

(d) The principal holder of a D permit issued for a premises or an open air arena under Chapter 4303. of the Revised Code while in the premises or open air arena for which the permit was issued if the principal holder of the D permit also has been issued a concealed handgun license that is valid at the time in question and as long as the principal holder is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse, or any agent or employee of that holder who also is a peace officer, as defined in section 2151.3515 of the Revised Code, who is off duty, and who otherwise is authorized to carry firearms while in the course of the officer's official duties and while in the premises or open air arena for which the permit was issued and as long as the agent or employee of that holder is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse.

(e) Any person who has been issued a concealed handgun license that is valid at the time in question or any person who is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and is carrying a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of section 2923.125 of the Revised Code, as long as the person is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse.

(2) This section does not prohibit any person who is a member of a veteran's organization, as defined in section 2915.01 of the Revised Code, from possessing a rifle in any room in any premises owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of the veteran's organization, if the rifle is not loaded with live ammunition and if the person otherwise is not prohibited by law from having the rifle.

(3) This section does not apply to any person possessing or displaying firearms in any room used to exhibit unloaded firearms for sale or trade in a soldiers' memorial established pursuant to Chapter 345. of the Revised Code, in a convention center, or in any other public meeting place, if the person is an exhibitor, trader, purchaser, or seller of firearms and is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing, trading, purchasing, or selling the firearms.

(C) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section of illegal possession of a firearm in a liquor permit premises that involves the possession of a firearm other than a handgun, that the actor was not otherwise prohibited by law from having the firearm, and that any of the following apply:

(1) The firearm was carried or kept ready at hand by the actor for defensive purposes, while the actor was engaged in or was going to or from the actor's lawful business or occupation, which business or occupation was of such character or was necessarily carried on in such manner or at such a time or place as to render the actor particularly susceptible to criminal attack, such as would justify a prudent person in going armed.

(2) The firearm was carried or kept ready at hand by the actor for defensive purposes, while the actor was engaged in a lawful activity, and had reasonable cause to fear a criminal attack upon the actor or a member of the actor's family, or upon the actor's home, such as would justify a prudent person in going armed.

(D) No person who is charged with a violation of this section shall be required to obtain a concealed handgun license as a condition for the dismissal of the charge.

(E) Whoever violates this section is guilty of illegal possession of a firearm in a liquor permit premises. Except as otherwise provided in this division, illegal possession of a firearm in a liquor permit premises is a felony of the fifth degree. If the offender commits the violation of this section by knowingly carrying or having the firearm concealed on the offender's person or concealed ready at hand, illegal possession of a firearm in a liquor permit premises is a felony of the third degree.

Ohio Revised Code 4511.19: Operating Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs-OVI

(A)(1) No person shall operate any vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley within this state, if, at the time of the operation, any of the following apply:

(a) The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them.

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

II. Administrative Compliance

2.01 Personnel shall not violate any law of the United States, the State of Ohio, Charter provision or ordinance of the City of Cleveland, or neglect to perform any duty required by law, nor shall they engage in any conduct that would constitute a crime under the laws of the United States, the State of Ohio, or the Charter provisions or ordinances of the City of Cleveland.

2.14 The following are additional grounds for disciplining personnel, including removal, in addition to the grounds stated in Civil Service Commission rule 9.10:

- a. Incompetence
- b. Gross neglect of duty
- c. Gross immorality
- d. Habitual drunkenness
- e. Failure to obey orders given by proper authority
- f. Any other reasonable and just cause

V. Behavior

5.01 Personnel shall not engage in any conduct, speech or acts while on duty or off duty that would reasonably tend to diminish the esteem of the Division of Police or its personnel in the eyes of the public.

HEARING INFORMATION

The pre-disciplinary hearing is scheduled for **Friday, September 2, 2022, at 1000 hours** in the **Cleveland Public Auditorium (Room LL09)**. 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,



Karrie D. Howard, Chief Director
Department of Public Safety

KDH:dad:bpc:cid:kfs

cc: Dornat Drummond, Chief, Division of Police
George E. Coulter, Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety
Jakimah R. Dye, Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety
Sammy Morris, Acting Deputy Chief, Field Operations
Brian Carney, Commander, Bureau of Compliance
Thomas Stacho, Commander, Second District
Christopher Viland, Superintendent, Internal Affairs Unit
Jarod Schlacht, Lieutenant, Officer-in-Charge, Internal Affairs Unit
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association
Paul Patton, Director, Department of Human Resources
William Menziora, Chief Assistant Director of Law
Michael Pike, Assistant Director of Law
Amanda Boutton, Assistant Director of Law
Richard Rosenthal, Member, Monitoring Team
Michael Evanovich, Investigator, Department of Justice
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team