



## City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

### Department of Public Safety

Karrie D. Howard, Director

601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 230

Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1015

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[www.cleveland-oh.gov](http://www.cleveland-oh.gov)

August 11, 2022

**Detective Samuel Pelsnik #1885**

**Third District Headquarters**

**4501 Chester Avenue**

**Cleveland, Ohio 44103**

**Re: CPD2020-0124**

Detective Pelsnik #1885:

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:** (CPD2020-0124) On or about December 5, 2020, you, Detective Samuel Pelsnik #1885, discharged your service weapon during a use of deadly force incident. Subsequent to your application of force in discharging your weapon, your service rounds struck a multitude of occupied residential townhomes, creating a risk to bystanders and residents, all in violation of General Police Order 2.01.03. (*Group III 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 2.01.03: Use of Force - General** (effective date: April 27, 2020)

**POLICY:** Consistent with the Division's mission, including the commitment to carry out its duties with a reverence for the sanctity of human life, it is the policy of the Division to use only that force which is necessary, proportional to the level of resistance, and objectively

reasonable based on the totality of circumstances confronting an officer. Officers shall also take all reasonable measures to de-escalate an incident and reduce the likelihood or level of force. Any use of force that is not necessary, proportional, and objectively reasonable and does not reflect reasonable de-escalation efforts, when safe and feasible to do so, is prohibited and inconsistent with Divisional policy.

**PROCEDURES:**

**VI. General**

- C. Officers shall take all reasonable steps under the circumstances, before and during any use of force, to avoid unnecessary risk to bystanders, victims, hostages, and other involved civilians, as well as other officers and emergency personnel.
- D. Officers shall consider their surroundings when unholstering or before discharging their firearm and shall avoid unnecessary risk to bystanders, victims, and other officers.

**HEARING INFORMATION**

The pre-disciplinary hearing is scheduled for **Friday, August 19, 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: Sworn Officers Uniform 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**

August 11, 2022

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karrie D. Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "H".

Karrie D. Howard, Chief Director  
Department of Public Safety

KDH:dad:bpc:cld:la

cc: Dornat A. Drummond, Chief, Division of Police  
George Coulter, Assistant Director of Operations, 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  
Dorothy Todd, Commander, Third District  
Christopher Viland, Superintendent, Internal Affairs Unit  
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit  
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association  
Paul Patton, Chief Human Resources Officer  
William Menzalora, Chief Assistant Director of Law  
Amanda Boutton, Assistant Director of Law  
Michael Pike, Assistant Director of Law  
Richard Rosenthal, Member, Monitoring Team  
Michael Evanovich, Investigator, Department of Justice  
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team