



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
216/623-5005 • 216/623-5584 Fax
www.clevelandohio.gov

Pre-Disciplinary Hearing Letter

July 21, 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:

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: (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)

POLICY: Officers shall carry and use only the firearms, ammunition, and holsters stated in this order. Officers are authorized to carry and use such firearms only after complying with this order and the annual qualification requirements of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC). These regulations are not meant to infringe on an officer’s right to own and use legal firearms or ammunition, while outside the scope of an officer’s official on-duty and secondary employment.

II. Personal firearm qualifications and authorization requirements

H. Officers may carry an authorized personal firearm, concealed for emergency use, while on-duty and in addition to their primary firearm. Officers shall not have more than two firearms on their body while on-duty or off-duty engaged in secondary employment.

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

POLICY: The WCS shall be deployed to ensure transparency and foster trust within our community. It shall be the responsibility of each officer to deploy their WCS in accordance with this order.

II. Camera Deployment

A. Beginning of tour of duty officers shall:

2. Place the WCS, with the camera in the upright position, in a location, on the upper chest, that will most closely capture the officer's field of view.

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

II. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE

2.06 Personnel shall not be insubordinate to a superior officer. Insubordination includes, but is not limited to, any language, action or inaction directed toward a superior officer that is disrespectful, mutinous, insolent or abusive.

IV. DUTY

4.03 Personnel shall give full attention to the performance of their duties.

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.

VI. VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

6.03 Personnel shall operate police vehicles in a safe and lawful manner.

HEARING INFORMATION

The pre-disciplinary hearing is scheduled for **Monday, August 22, 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
Interim Chief of Police

DAD:bpc:cld:la

cc: Harold Pretel, Deputy Chief, Homeland Special Operations
Reinhold Kauntz, Commander, Bureau of Homeland Services
Brian Carney, Commander, Bureau of Compliance
Robert Simon, Captain, Internal Affairs Unit
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team