



## **CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

##### **MEMBERS**

Brandon Brown, Chair  
Diana Cyganovich  
David Gatian  
Chenoa Miller  
Edwin Moore  
Glenn Parker III  
Billy Sharp  
Waverly Willis

#### **OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

Kristen Traxler, Interim Administrator  
Jessyca Watson, Interim General Manager  
Adam Eisen, Investigator  
LJ Green, Investigator  
Hamza Khabir, Investigator  
Tammi Lampkin, Investigator  
James Ouk, Investigator  
Joseph Szymanski, Investigator

#### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Michael Hess, Asst. Director of Law  
Dalya Oprian, Asst. Director of Law

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### **MEETING AGENDA**

#### **I. Call to Order Brandon Brown, Vice Chair**

1. Chair Brown called November 11, 2025 hearing to order at 9:15 am EST.
2. Roll Call
  - a. Vice Chair Kenneth Mountcastle had an excused absence
  - b. Member Miller arrived to meeting after roll call at 10:37 am EST.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes CPRB**

##### **1. October 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes – City Hall**

**Amendment:** Chair Brown noted an error in the October 14th meeting minutes regarding the executive session. The minutes incorrectly stated that the board voted to adjourn back into open session. Chair Brown clarified that voting is not permitted during executive session; instead, the board simply transitions back into open session without a formal vote. To correct this, Chair Brown requested the removal of the line referencing a vote to adjourn.

**Motion:** Following this clarification, Chair Brown moved to approve the October 14th meeting minutes pending that amendment.



Motion: Chair Brown

Second By: Member Cyganovich

Motion Status: Carried

**2. October 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes – Special Virtual Meeting**

Motion: Sharp

Second By: Cyganovich

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Gatian – was not present

**3. Amended January 9<sup>th</sup> (2024) Meeting Minutes – Virtual Meeting**

Motion: Chair Brown

Second By: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**III. Public Comment**

**Brandon Brown, Vice Chair**

**A. Community Engagement Officer – Samantha Montanez**

Samantha Montanez introduced herself as the new Community Engagement Officer, sharing her background with the Cleveland Community Police Commission and her deep personal connection to the city. She expressed enthusiasm for working with the board and emphasized her commitment to uplifting the community through engagement, transparency, and accountability in policing. Her philosophy centers on meeting people where they are and ensuring that community members feel integral to the work being done.

In response to questions, Samantha outlined her 60-day goals, which include reestablishing the public presence of OPS and CPRB, strengthening social media outreach, and increasing physical visibility in the community. She plans to review existing engagement strategies and incorporate her own ideas, including a monthly event that brings investigators and staff directly into neighborhoods. Her aim is to make the office more accessible and to foster trust by being proactive and present.

Samantha asked for support from the board in the form of active participation and idea-sharing. She stressed the importance of board members being visible and approachable as fellow community members, which helps bridge gaps and build trust. She invited ongoing collaboration and welcomed input to ensure the engagement plan reflects diverse perspectives and reaches all areas of Cleveland. She provided her email and noted that phone and business cards would be shared once available.

**IV. Presentation of Investigations with Citizen  
Or CDP Subject Employee Present**

**Kristen Traxler**  
Interim Administrator



1. No Citizen Complainants or CDP Subject Employee were present for case presentation

## **V. Presentation of Investigations**

**Kristen Traxler**  
Interim Administrator

**OPS2024-0290**

**Complainant: Alexandra Duffield**

**Presented by: Ouk**

### **P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search -Exposure of Breast (CDP Spec #1)

**Allegation B:** Improper Procedure: Search- Pulled Pant Down (CDP Spec #2)

**Allegation C:** Excessive Force (CDP Spec #3)

**Allegation D:** Improper Procedure – Taking Money from Landlord (CDP Spec #4)

**Allegation E:** Improper Procedure: Search- Illegal Search By Male Officer (CDP Spec #5)

**Allegation G:** Improper Procedure - Failure to Report Misconduct (CDP Spec #6)

**Allegation I:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct- Discourteous Conduct (CDP Spec #13)

### **P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search -Exposure of Breast (CDP Spec #1)

**Allegation B:** Improper Procedure: Search- Pulled Pants Down (CDP Spec #2)

**Allegation C:** Excessive Force (CDP Spec #3)

**Allegation D:** Improper Procedure – Taking Money from Landlord (CDP Spec #4)

**Allegation E:** Improper Procedure: Search- Illegal Search By Male Officer (CDP Spec #5)

**Allegation F:** Improper Procedure- Failure to Report Misconduct (CDP Spec #7)

**Allegation I:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct- Discourteous Conduct (CDP Spec #13)

### **P.O. Migdelio Camargo, #72**

**Allegation H:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct- Unprofessional Comment (CDP Spec #8)

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On May 19, 2024, Ms. Alexandra Duffield filed a complaint alleging that she was illegally searched, sexually assaulted, and raped by P.O. Anthony Estremera (#799) and P.O. Noah Entenok #369. The Internal Affairs investigation (CPD2024-0064), led by Sgt. Mitchell Sheehan, found no evidence to support the most serious allegations. Body-worn camera footage and witness statements indicated Ms. Duffield was not forcibly searched or assaulted, and claims of bribery involving her landlord were unsubstantiated.



However, the investigation confirmed procedural violations. P.O. Estremera and P.O. Entenok failed to provide or process a complaint form, violating GPO 1.07.04 and 1.07.05. Additionally, P.O. Estremera and P.O. Camargo violated CDP Manual of Rules 5.08 and 5.09 during their interactions with Ms. Duffield on May 18, 2024. The Prosecutor's Office declined to issue charges due to insufficient evidence, but the Office of Professional Standards recommended sustained findings for Allegations #6, #7, #8, and #13.

**Board Discussion Summary:** The board discussed procedural clarity around how OPS integrates IA cases, noting confusion caused by differing labeling systems—IA uses numbers while OPS uses letters. Members recommended future reports clearly map IA specifications to OPS allegations and include notes on any exclusions. Administrator Traxler confirmed that OPS will no longer "concur" with IA investigations but will conduct independent reviews of administrative allegations, using IA reports only as reference material.

They clarified that although the investigative report listed allegations A through F, additional allegations G through I were embedded under F and corresponded to specific IA specifications. The board agreed that Findings Letters should clearly list all allegations to ensure transparency and consistency.

Substantively, the board discussed allegations involving officers preventing a complainant from filing a complaint and engaging in unprofessional conduct. Specific language used by officers, such as disparaging remarks about the city and telling the complainant to "shut up" was deemed inappropriate and harmful, reinforcing negative perceptions of police-community relations.

***Additional Information to Note:***

***Case Origin and Jurisdiction Clarification:*** Before the case presentation began, Chair Brown raised a question about the case's origin, noting it was initially handled by Internal Affairs (IA). Administrator Traxler clarified that OPS sometimes receives cases from IA when concurrent investigations reveal administrative allegations that fall under OPS's jurisdiction. In this instance, the complaint originated from a citizen, making it appropriate for OPS review.

***Excluded Allegations:*** CPD Allegation #9–12 involve supervisory personnel (Sgt. Lentz, Sgt. Borden, and Lt. Farmer) and were not included in OPS2024-0290, likely due to jurisdictional scope or investigative focus

***Classification of Allegations F and G:*** Board members discussed the appropriate classification for an officer's failure to provide a complaint form to a citizen. After considering various options such as failure to notify, report, or submit, they agreed that "failure to provide compliant form to citizen" best fit the allegation. The board concluded that the officer's actions constituted unsatisfactory performance.

**Case Findings:**



**P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search -Exposure of Breast (CDP Spec #1)  
(GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search -Exposure of Breast (CDP Spec #1)  
(GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation B:** Improper Procedure: Search – Pulled Pants Down (CDP Spec #2)  
(Manual Rule 3.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Gatian

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation B:** Improper Procedure: Search – Pulled Pants Down (CDP Spec #2)  
(GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**



*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Gatian

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation C:** Excessive Force (CDP Spec #3) (Manual Rule 4.05 and GPO 2.01.01)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation D:** Improper Procedure: Taking Money from Landlord (CDP Spec #4)  
(Manual Rule 3.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS Footage CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation D:** Improper Procedure: Taking Money from Landlord (CDP Spec #4)  
(Manual Rule 3.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS Footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried



**P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation E:** Improper Procedure: Search –Illegally Search by Male Officer (CDP Spec #5)  
(GPO 2.02.02 Sec VI.2)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation E:** Improper Procedure: Search –Illegally Search by Male Officer (CDP Spec #5)  
(GPO 2.02.02 Sec VI.2)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation F:** Improper Procedure -**Failure to Provide Complaint Form to Citizen**  
(CDP Spec #6) (GPO 1.07.04 and 1.07.05)

**OPS Recommendation: Sustained**

**CPRB Recommendation: Sustained**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS Footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur and was inconsistent with the standards in General Police Orders 1.07.04 and 1.07.05.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Cyganovich

Motion Status: Carried

**Group Level: Group Level I**

**Explanation:** Unsatisfactory performance and failure to properly assist citizen with filing a complaint.

Motion by: Chair Brown



Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Noah Entenok, #369**

**Allegation G:** Improper Procedure - **Failure to Provide Complaint Form to Citizen**  
(CDP Spec #6) (GPO 1.07.04 and 1.07.05)

**OPS Recommendation: Sustained**

**CPRB Recommendation: Sustained**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS Footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur and was inconsistent with the standards in General Police Orders 1.07.04 and 1.07.05.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Gatian

Motion Status: Carried

**Group Level: Group Level I**

**Explanation:** Unsatisfactory performance and failure to properly assist citizen. with filing a complaint.

Motion by: Chair Sharp

Second by: Member Gatian

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Migdelio Camargo, #72**

**Allegation H:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct- Unprofessional Comment (CDP Spec #8)  
(Manual Rules 5.08 and 5.09)

**OPS Recommendation: Sustained**

**CPRB Recommendation: Sustained**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur and was inconsistent with the standards in Manual Rules 5.08 and 5.09. P.O. Camargo stated "I'm glad I'm out of the city. I live in a nice peaceful area." Also, stated the city was chaotic. Voicing his opinion in front of a citizen reinforces negative perceptions of police-community relations.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**Group Level: Group Level I**

**Explanation:** Misconduct negatively impacted relationship with public. Conduct was unbecoming.

Motion by: Chair Brown





Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Anthony Estremera, #799**

**Allegation I:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct- Discourteous Conduct (CDP Spec #13)  
(Manual Rules 5.08 and 5.09)

**OPS Recommendation: Sustained**

**CPRB Recommendation: Sustained**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS Footage, CDP Internal Affair Investigation, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur and was inconsistent with the standards in Manual Rules 5.08 and 5.09. P.O. Estremera was on WCS footage staying "Shut Up" and "We are done with this shit" to complainant during interaction.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Gatian

Motion Status: Carried

**Group Level: Group Level**

**Explanation:** Misconduct negatively impacted relationship with public. Conduct unbecoming, discourteous comment.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2023-0014**

**Complainant: Johnathan Winnick**

**Presented by: Lampkin**

**P.O. Bryan Myers, #674**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On January 24, 2025, during a domestic incident response involving Mr. Winnick, he fled from police and was subsequently apprehended and handcuffed by Officer Meyers #674. While detained in the police vehicle, Mr. Winnick alleged that Officer Meyers acted unprofessionally by ignoring his complaint about tight handcuffs, rolling up the vehicle window, and making an obscene gesture (raising his middle finger). CDP Specification was criminal and outside of OPS scope.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Following the case presentation, the board had no additional questions, comments, concerns, or discussion regarding the matter.



***Additional Information to Note:*** Excessive force listed in CDP Internal Affairs Investigation is out of OPS Investigation Scope

**Case Findings:**

**P.O. Bryan Myers, #674**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 5.09)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, WCS footage, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 5.09*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2022-0171**

**Complainant: Jamila Sloan**

**Presented by: Green**

**P.O. Bryan Myers, #674**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: No Service

**Allegation B:** Biased Policing

**Allegation C:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**P.O. Jose Ortiz, #1284**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: No Service

**Allegation B:** Biased Policing

**Allegation C:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On July 11, 2022, Ms. Sloan filed a complaint against Cleveland Division of Police Officers Brian Myers #674 and Jose Ortiz #1284, alleging Lack of Service, Biased Policing, and Unprofessional Conduct/Behavior. The incident occurred at Best Nails, located at 7925 Euclid Avenue, where Ms. Sloan contacted police regarding a payment dispute with salon staff. She claims the responding officers acted in a racially biased and aggressive manner and failed to listen to her account of the situation.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Chair Brown noted there was no Wearable Camera System to review with case. The investigator noted that WCS (body camera) footage was unavailable for the case because it had been deleted due to the case's age, approximately two years old at the time of review. Despite efforts to contact the complainant via phone and certified mail, no response was received. This case is part of OPS's broader effort to resolve its backlog, and most 2022 and 2023 cases are now up to date.

The absence of WCS footage contributed to a recommendation of insufficient evidence. While such footage is not always required to reach a finding, its absence can complicate the board's



deliberations. The investigator emphasized that OPS made reasonable attempts to gather information and engage the complainant.

### **Case Findings:**

#### **P.O. Bryan Myers, #674**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: No Service (Manual Rules 4.18)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 4.18*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

#### **P.O. Jose Ortiz, #1284**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: No Service (Manual Rules 4.18)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interview and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 4.18*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

#### **P.O. Bryan Myers, #674**

**Allegation B:** Biased Policing (GPO 1.07.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**

**CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written documentation, fails to establish whether the alleged conduct did or did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

#### **P.O. Jose Ortiz, #1284**

**Allegation B:** Biased Policing (GPO 1.07.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**

**CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**



*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written documentation, fails to establish whether the alleged conduct did or did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Bryan Myers, #674**

**Allegation C:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rule 5.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 5.08*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Jose Ortiz, #1284**

**Allegation C:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rule 5.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 5.08*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2023-0005**

**Complainant: Tokarra Summers**

**Presented by: Khabir**

**P.O. Donald Horvat, #2491**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search

**Lt. David Skrletts, #8550**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search

**Cpt. Thomas Mandzak, #6563**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search

**P.O. Christian Childs, #1289**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On January 11, 2023, Ms. Tokarra Summers filed a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) alleging improper search procedures conducted by P.O. Donald Horvat #2491, P.O. Christian Joseph Childs #1289, Lt. David Skrletts



#8550, and Cpt. Thomas Mandzak #6563 during an incident at her home on October 18, 2022. Ms. Summers claimed the officers presented a warrant lacking probable cause and carried out an illegal search and seizure. OPS made two attempts to contact Ms. Summers by phone on January 4 and 5, 2024, leaving voicemails requesting a callback. A formal letter was sent on February 22, 2024, identifying the assigned investigator and asking her to schedule an interview. Ms. Summers did not respond to any of these communications, and as a result, OPS was unable to complete an interview with complainant.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Following the case presentation, the board had no additional questions, comments, concerns, or discussion regarding the matter.

**Case Findings:**

**P.O. Donald Horvat, #2491**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search (GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in General Police Orders 2.02.02.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**Lt. David Skrletts, #8550**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search (GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in General Police Orders 2.02.02.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**Cpt. Thomas Mandzak, #6563**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search (GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in General Police Orders 2.02.02.*

Motion by: Member Willis



Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Christian Childs, #1289**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Search (GPO 2.02.02)

**OPS Action: ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED – CDP Separately 06/22/2023**

**CPRB Recommendation: ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED – CDP Separately 06/22/2023**

*Administratively dismissed due to the individual no longer being employed by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) as of 06/22/2023. As such, the matter falls outside the jurisdiction of the Civilian Police Review Board's Office of Professional Standards (OPS).*

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**OPS2023-0006**

**Complainant: Sierra LeFloure**

**Presented by: Lampkin**

**P.O. Gregory Barnett, #2119**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Tow

**Allegation B:** Harassment

**P.O. Elijah Ballah Jr., #275**

**Allegation B:** Harassment

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On January 12, 2023, Ms. LeFloure reported that the previous day, Officers Elijah Ballah Jr #275 (resigned) and Gregory Barnett #2119 responded to a dispatch call involving a young pregnant woman who claimed her cell phone was inside Ms. LeFloure's home, allegedly in her son's possession. Attempts by Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) to contact Ms. LeFloure were unsuccessful, but the woman identified Ms. LeFloure's vehicle parked in front of the residence. Officers observed the vehicle was improperly parked away from the curb in an unsafe location, and upon further inspection, discovered the license plates were expired, prompting them to request a tow truck.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Following the case presentation, the board had no additional questions, comments, concerns, or discussion regarding the matter.

**Case Findings:**

**P.O. Gregory Barnett, #2119**

**Allegation A:** Improper Procedure: Tow (GPO 6.03.01)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews, WCS footage, and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in General Police Orders 6.03.01.*



Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Miller- Arrived to CPRB Meeting after case presentation.

**P.O. Gregory Barnett, #2119**

**Allegation B:** Harassment (Manual Rule 5.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Miller- Arrived to CPRB Meeting after case presentation.

**P.O. Elijah Ballah Jr., #275**

**Allegation B:** Harassment (Manual Rule 5.08)

**OPS Action: ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED – CDP Separately 09/07/2023**

**CPRB Recommendation: ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED – CDP Separately 09/07/2023**

*Administratively dismissed due to the individual no longer being employed by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) as of 09/07/2023. As such, the matter falls outside the jurisdiction of the Civilian Police Review Board's Office of Professional Standards (OPS).*

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**OPS2023-0035**

**Complainant: Aaron Grace**

**Presented by: Ouk**

**P.O. Frank Garmback IV, #394**

**Allegation C:** Improper Procedure: Arrest

**Det. Dylan Demas, #1701**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: No Service

**Allegation B:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**P.O. Adam Murray, #1025**

**Allegation C:** Improper Procedure: Arrest

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On February 17, 2023, Mr. Aaron Grace filed a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) alleging that Det. Dylan Demas #1701 failed to investigate his case related to a March 15, 2022 incident and used a racial slur. Mr. Grace cited Lack of Service and Unprofessional Conduct. During the investigation, OPS uncovered two additional complaints involving Improper Procedure: Arrest against P.O. Frank Garmback IV



#394 and P.O. Adam J. Murray #1025, along with Unprofessional Conduct by an unidentified officer. Mr. Grace claimed he was wrongfully arrested on March 16, 2022 and that officers threatened him and his family. Attempts to contact Mr. Grace by phone and email in late 2023 were unsuccessful, and OPS was unable to determine his current location.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Following the case presentation, the board had no additional questions, comments, concerns, or discussion regarding the matter.

**Case Findings:**

**Det. Dylan Demas, #1701**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: No Service (2013 Det. Unit Manual pg.5)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Cyganovich

Motion Status: Carried

**Det. Dylan Demas, #1701**

**Allegation B:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rule 5.11)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Frank Garmback IV, #394**

**Allegation C:** Improper Procedure: Arrest (Manual Rule 4.17)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Adam Murray, #1025**

**Allegation B:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rule 5.11)





**OPS Action: ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED – CDP Separately 08/16/2023**

**CPRB Recommendation: ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED – CDP Separately 08/16/2023**

*Administratively dismissed due to the individual no longer being employed by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) as of 08/16/2023. As such, the matter falls outside the jurisdiction of the Civilian Police Review Board's Office of Professional Standards (OPS).*

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**OPS2023-0081**

**Complainant: Aysha Straka**

**Presented by: Green**

**Dispatcher Crystal Sarmiento, #179**

**Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct**

**Dispatcher Summer Pirapakaran, #7**

**Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct**

**Summary of Case Presentation:** Ms. Straka filed a complaint alleging Unprofessional Conduct/Behavior by Dispatcher Crystal Sarmiento #179 and Dispatcher Summer Pirapakaran #7 related to a 911 call she made on March 15, 2023. She reported that her ex-boyfriend, who had been harassing her via email and text, may have broken into her home. On April 9, 2023, her ex-boyfriend allegedly called her and claimed he was romantically involved with the dispatcher who took her 911 call and that she had informed him a police report had been filed against him.

**Board Discussion Summary:** The board discussed the details of a complaint involving dispatcher Crystal Sarmiento. The complainant alleged unprofessional conduct, claiming her ex-boyfriend had been informed by a dispatcher that a police report had been filed against him, which she felt was inappropriate. Board members sought clarification on whether the allegation involved a failure to respond to a 911 call or improper disclosure of information.

It was noted that there was no direct evidence confirming the complainant's claims. However, the board did observe that the event had been accidentally closed out at 11:58 p.m. and then immediately reopened by another dispatcher, which explained the presence of two dispatchers on the call.

**Case Findings:**

**Dispatcher Crystal Sarmiento, #179**

**Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 3.07)**

**OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**

**CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written documentation, fails to establish whether the alleged conduct did or did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Parker III



Motion Status: Carried

**Dispatcher Summer Pirpakaran, #7**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 3.07)

**OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence      CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written documentation, fails to establish whether the alleged conduct did or did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Willis

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2023-0088**

**Complainant: Mikayla Hollen**

**Presented by: Lampkin**

**P.O. Brittany Bankston, #2558**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Sgt. Scott Navratil, #9257**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On March 31, 2022, Det. Horvath #2034 responded to a domestic violence incident involving Ms. Hollen and her boyfriend. Ms. Hollen later alleged that Sgt. Navratil #9257 and P.O. Bankston #2558 behaved in a rude, disrespectful, and unprofessional manner, refusing to hear her account of the altercation and ultimately slamming the door in her face. The complaint was filed six months after the incident, following the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) timeline.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Following the case presentation, the board had no additional questions, comments, concerns, or discussion regarding the matter.

**Case Findings:**

**P.O. Brittany Bankston, #2558**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 5.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Gatian – Stepped out during case presentation



**Sgt. Scott Navratil, #9257**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 5.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Gatian – Stepped out during case presentation

**P.O. Brittany Bankston, #2558**

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service (Manual Rules 4.03)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Gatian – Stepped out during case presentation

**Sgt. Scott Navratil, #9257**

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service (Manual Rules 4.03)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Gatian – Stepped out during case presentation

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**OPS2023-0089**

**Complainant: Tyesha Morgan**

**Presented by: Ouk**

**P.O. Stanley Grabowski, #1019**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Allegation B:** Biased Policing



**Summary of Case Presentation:** On April 20, 2023, Ms. Tyesha Morgan filed a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards alleging lack of service and biased policing by CHIA Officer Stanley Grabowski #1019 during an incident at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. She claimed the officer failed to intervene in a physical altercation involving her, her sister, and another couple, and that he handcuffed only her and her sister, who are African American, while not detaining the Caucasian couple. The OPS investigation determined that Officer Grabowski intervened in the altercation after witnessing Ms. Morgan push someone, and subsequently handcuffed her. He filed two reports: one listing her as a victim and another as a suspect. Review of surveillance footage and interviews found no evidence of biased policing.

**Board Discussion Summary:** Following the case presentation, the board had no additional questions, comments, concerns, or discussion regarding the matter.

**Case Findings:**

**P.O. Stanley Grabowski, #1019**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service (Manual Rules 4.01, GPO 3.04.01)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Sharp – Stepped out during case presentation

**P.O. Stanley Grabowski, #1019**

**Allegation A:** Biased Policing (Manual Rules 3.12, 5.11 and, GPO 1.07.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Unfounded**

**CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did not occur.*

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Sharp – Stepped out during case presentation

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**OPS2023-0115**

**Complainant: Timothy McDonnell**

**Presented by: Green**

**P.O. Thomas Smith, #2117**



**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: No Service

**Summary of Case Presentation:** Mr. McDonnell filed a complaint alleging Unprofessional Conduct and Lack of Service by CDP Patrol Officer Thomas Smith #2117 during an incident on November 10, 2022. He claimed that Officer Smith antagonized him in an effort to provoke criminal behavior while responding to a call made by his neighbor. Mr. McDonnell also stated that his neighbor had contacted police 27 times over a 10-month period in an attempt to cause him trouble.

**Investigator Addendum:** *Investigator Green submitted an addendum clarifying that although the case was completed early and initially noted that WCS footage had been deleted due to retention limits, most of the footage was later found in a random folder despite prior computer issues. Videos from Sergeant Matthew Nycz, #9327, Officer Jacob Pierse, #191, and Officer James Bellomy, #2251 were successfully recovered and used to complete the report. However, footage from Officer Thomas Smith, #2117 could not be retrieved. Additionally, the report originally misstated the time between the incident and its reporting as over nine months; the correct duration was six months and thirteen days.*

**Board Discussion Summary:** The board discussed the officer's use of stern language during an interaction with the complainant, including phrases like "stop being childish" and "stop escalating the incident." While the language was firm, members agreed it did not include profanity and appeared to be used in an effort to deescalate the situation. The consensus was that such admonishment can be appropriate depending on context, and the officer's conduct did not rise to the level of a violation. The board supported the investigator's recommendation of **exoneration**.

Member Miller added that while the recommendation was appropriate, the board should acknowledge the lack of a clear benchmark for evaluating officer tone and language in varying situations. The gravity of the incident and the intensity of the officer's tone should be considered case by case. This nuance is important when communicating findings to the public.

Chair Brown agreed, noting that it's difficult to set a strict rule for what constitutes unprofessional language. Some words are more likely to be problematic, but context matters significantly.

**Case Findings:**

**P.O. Thomas Smith, #2117**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 4.18)

**OPS Recommendation:** Exonerated

**CPRB Recommendation:** Exonerated



*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 5.08.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Thomas Smith, #2117**

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: No Service (Manual Rules 5.08)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 4.18.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2023-0144**

**Complainant: Sheryl Ashford - Scott**

**Presented by: Szymanski**

**Det. Arthur Echols, #343**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Allegation B:** WCS Violation

**Summary of Case Presentation:** On June 15, 2023, the Office of Professional Standards received a complaint from Sheryl Ashford-Scott regarding the handling of her son Clarence Scott's homicide investigation. She alleged Lack of Service by Det. Arthur Echols #343, stating that after a single interview and limited communication in 2016, she had not received any updates from him since the end of that year. Despite making numerous calls and leaving voicemails, Ms. Ashford-Scott reported that her attempts to obtain information about the case were unanswered.

**Board Discussion Summary:** The board raised concerns about Detective Echols' failure to use his WCS (body-worn camera) during both a phone and in-person interview with the complainant. Although the detective claimed the phone call did not require recording, board members emphasized that the in-person interview, being investigatory in nature, should have been recorded per department policy. The detective had a WCS assigned at the time of the incident, despite his prior extended medical leave, and his rationale suggested a misunderstanding of mandatory recording requirements.



Board members expressed concern that the detective appeared to treat WCS usage as discretionary, highlighting a need for retraining. They also noted this case reflects a recurring issue: inconsistent communication between detectives and victims or their families. While policy mandates initial contact, it lacks clear guidelines on ongoing communication throughout an investigation. The board acknowledged that while regular updates would be ideal, victims and families also have the option to reach out for information. A member requested a future discussion on setting clearer expectations around this issue.

### Case Findings:

#### **Det. Arthur Echols, #343**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service (Detective Responsibilities #1)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Detective Responsibilities #1.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker III

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Moore – Stepped out during case presentation

#### **Det. Arthur Echols, #343**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

(Detective Responsibilities #2, GPO 3.02.20, 4.06.04, 4.01.11)

**OPS Recommendation: Sustained**

**CPRB Recommendation: Sustained**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was inconsistent with the standards outlined in Detective Responsibilities #2 and GPO 3.02.20, 4.06.04, 4.01.11. The officer failed to record an in-person investigatory interview despite having a WCS assigned at the time, reflecting a misunderstanding of mandatory recording requirements.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker III

Motion Status: Carried

Abstention: Member Moore – Stepped out during case presentation

**Group Level: Group Level I**

**Explanation:** Fall within WCS violation; improper use regarding GPO 4.06.04  
Wearable Camera System

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller





**Motion Status:** Carried

**Motion:** To instruct CPRB Administrative Assistant to draft a letter requesting that the Community Police Commission (CPC) collaborate with the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) to explore the development of a standardized policy requiring detectives to provide periodic updates to victims' families regarding the status of ongoing investigations.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2023-0209**

**Complainant: Carla DiFrancesco**

**Presented by: Eisen**

**P.O. Joshua Brogan, #491**

**P.O. Joshua Howe, #1190**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Summary of Case Presentation:** Carla DiFrancesco filed a complaint alleging Lack of Service by P.O. Joshua Brogan #491 and P.O. Joshua Howe #1190 for their handling of a mental health crisis involving her fiancé's father, William Null, on or around August 17, 2023. She also reported Unprofessional Conduct by unidentified officers from the 4th or 5th District, claiming they hung up on her and refused to provide identifying information. Due to the absence of call details in her log, the latter allegation was dismissed under OPS Manual Rule 703(b), Unidentifiable Officer. Body camera and WCS footage confirmed that Mr. Null was coherent and not a danger to himself or others, leading OPS to recommend exoneration for both officers regarding the Lack of Service allegation.

**Board Discussion Summary:** The board sought clarification on whether an allegation of unprofessional conduct was being considered. It was confirmed that while the complainant mentioned unprofessional behavior during a phone call, she could not identify the officer or district involved, and lacked call log evidence. As a result, that allegation was not formally included.

The discussion then turned to the use of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers. While all officers receive basic CIT training through OPATA and annual refreshers, only specially certified CIT officers are dispatched to mental health crises when available. In this case, no CIT officers were dispatched, and no attempt to do so was confirmed.

Regarding the incident, Mr. Null, whom the complainant wanted hospitalized, did not exhibit behavior during the officers' visit that met the legal threshold for a pink slip or forced





hospitalization. Although he had a history of mental health issues and prior hospitalizations, there was no active probate order at the time, and his behavior in front of officers did not justify involuntary commitment.

### **Case Findings:**

#### **P.O. Joshua Brogan, #491**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

(Manual Rules 4.18 and GPO 5.11.03)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 4.18 and GPO 5.11.03.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Cyganovich

Motion Status: Carried

#### **P.O. Joshua Howe, #1190**

**Allegation A:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

(Manual Rules 4.18 and GPO 5.11.03)

**OPS Recommendation: Exonerated**

**CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated**

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur but was carried out in alignment with the standards outlined in Manual Rules 4.18 and GPO 5.11.03.*

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Cyganovich

Motion Status: Carried

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**OPS2023-0211**

**Complainant: Yvette Hinton**

**Presented by: Eisen**

#### **P.O. Sean Kergan, #1511**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

#### **P.O. Rodney Munson, #1297**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

**Summary of Case Presentation:** Yvette Hinton filed a complaint alleging Lack of Service and Unprofessional Conduct by P.O. Sean Kergan #1151 and P.O. Rodney Munson during an interaction with her granddaughter, India Rogers. Ms. Hinton was not present during the



incident. The investigation found that the officers arrived at Ms. Rogers' apartment, but she declined to speak with them. Based on the evidence, OPS recommended exoneration for P.O. Kergan and administratively dismissed the allegations against P.O. Munson due to his resignation, in accordance with OPS Manual Rule 703(a).

**Board Discussion Summary:** The board reviewed the allegation that officers were rude and treated the complainant's granddaughter as a suspect, and that they failed to review relevant text messages. While the OPS recommendation was exonerated, Chair Brown leaned toward an unfounded finding.

Discussion clarified that Officer Kergan stood at the doorway and did not engage directly with the complainant or her granddaughter, while Officer Munson interacted with them but asked for a verbal summary rather than reviewing the text messages. The board agreed that not reviewing the messages did not violate policy and was contextually reasonable.

Ultimately, members concluded that there was no evidence supporting the claim of rude or accusatory behavior, and that neither officer acted unprofessionally or failed to provide service. The board leaned toward an unfounded finding, noting that the alleged conduct did not occur based on the available body-worn camera footage and officer roles during the incident.

#### **Case Findings:**

##### **P.O. Sean Kergan, #1511**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 5.01)

**OPS Recommendation:** Exonerated

**CPRB Recommendation:** Unfounded

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

##### **P.O. Rodney Munson, #1297**

**Allegation A:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct (Manual Rules 5.01)

**OPS Action:** **ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED** – CDP Separately 07/11/2024

**CPRB Recommendation:** **ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED** – CDP Separately 07/11/2024

*Administratively dismissed due to the individual no longer being employed by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) as of 07/11/2024. As such, the matter falls outside the jurisdiction of the Civilian Police Review Board's Office of Professional Standards (OPS).*

##### **P.O. Sean Kergan, #1511**



**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service (Manual Rules 4.18)

**OPS Recommendation:** Exonerated

**CPRB Recommendation:** Unfounded

*The preponderance of the evidence, including interviews and written reports, supports that the alleged conduct did occur.*

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

**P.O. Rodney Munson, #1297**

**Allegation B:** Lack of Service: Insufficient Service (Manual Rules 4.18)

**OPS Action:** **ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED** – CDP Separately 07/11/2024

**CPRB Recommendation:** **ADMINISTRATIVELY  
DISMISSED** – CDP Separately 07/11/2024

*Administratively dismissed due to the individual no longer being employed by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) as of 07/11/2024. As such, the matter falls outside the jurisdiction of the Civilian Police Review Board's Office of Professional Standards (OPS).*

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## Chief Departures

**OPS2023-0140**

**Complainant:** Lars St. John

**Presented by:** Szymanski

**P.O. Anthony Rice, #1886**

**Allegation:** Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

**CPRB Recommendation:** *Sustained*

**Chief's Departure Recommendation:** *Dismissed*

**CPRB Recommendation:** The Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) is recommending that the allegation of Unprofessional Conduct be sustained. The CPRB asserts that on June 7, 2023, Patrol Officer Anthony Rice #1886, did exhibit unprofessional behavior/conduct when he displayed a non-verbal sign of being discourteous and rude while interacting with Mr. St. John, violating Manual of Rules 5.09 (Group I Violation) The CPRB tabled the case to allow the legal department to review whether the rationale presented to the Chief accurately reflected the board's concerns.

**Chief's Departure Justification:** The complainant had much of his face covered and Patrol Officer Rice "displayed a non-verbal sign" that he would like the complainant to lower his face covering while they talked. The complainant became upset by this and Patrol Officer Rice thought it best to de-escalate the situation by having another officer (Patrol Officer Anthony Longer #2452) interview the complainant. Patrol Officer Longer then interviewed the complainant. The "non-verbal sign" of asking someone to lower a facemask does not rise to the



level of being discourteous. Also, after the complainant became upset with Patrol Officer Rice, he employed the de-escalation technique of having another officer speak to the complainant. As such, I find no violation of policy and I am departing from the Civilian Police Review Board's recommendation for Specification #1, and I recommend Specification #1 be "Dismissed" as set forth in the charge letter.

**Board Discussion:** The board reconvened to address the Chief's departure from their original sustained finding regarding an officer's conduct during a precinct interaction. Members clarified that their concern was not about the officer's nonverbal request for the complainant to lower their mask, as cited by the Chief, but rather the officer's decision to walk away without responding when the complainant asked how to file a report. Although the officer eventually retrieved another officer to take the complaint, the board viewed the silent departure as discourteous and unprofessional. Members acknowledged that their original findings letter lacked clarity, which may have contributed to the Chief's misinterpretation.

Several members emphasized the importance of improving the specificity of findings letters moving forward to avoid confusion and ensure due process. They debated whether the Chief should have considered the full record, including investigative reports, body-worn camera footage, and board deliberations, when making her decision. While some expressed concern that the lack of detail in the letter may have limited the Chief's ability to respond appropriately, others argued that the totality of the case materials should have been reviewed and that the Chief's rationale did not adequately address the core issue.

Ultimately, the board agreed that the Chief's justification did not provide clear and convincing evidence to overturn their original sustained finding. They rejected the Chief's departure and reaffirmed their decision, asserting that the officer's conduct, specifically walking away without explanation, was not a proper de-escalation technique and warranted the sustained finding. The motion to uphold the original decision was carried, with consensus that future findings must be more thoroughly documented.

**Motion:** To Reject the Chief's Departure. The chief failed to provide clear and convincing evidence to overturn the board's original sustained finding, therefore CPRB shall uphold the sustained finding for Unprofessional Behavior/conduct for P.O. Rice, #1886 in case OPS2023-0140.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Willis

Motion Status: Carried

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**Meeting Recess:**

Chair Brown called for a 30- minute meeting recess starting at 12:30pm EST.

Meeting Resumed promptly at 1:00 pm EST.

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## VI. Executive Session

## CPRB

- **Motion:** To enter executive session for personnel, Employment and discipline Matters will be considered. Inviting Legal Michael Hess, Dalya Oprian, Chief Steve Myers, GM Watson, Data Analyst Austin Keller, and Administrator Traxler  
Motion by: Chair Brown  
Seconded by: Member Miller  
Motion Status: Carried
- Executive Session began at 1:00 pm EST
- Adjourn back into open session at 2:49 pm EST

## VII. OPS Status Report

## Kristen Traxler

In October, OPS received a total of 23 new complaints. Of those, 17 were administratively dismissed, resulting in 6 new cases being retained for investigation.

Interim Administrator

## VIII. New Business

## Brandon Brown, Chair

### A. SharePoint Migration – GM Watson

The City of Cleveland is transferring operations from One Drive to SharePoint. The OPS and CPRB migration will be November 14, 2025. The difference will be the board will be able to view cases in SharePoint instead of One Drive. Everyone (the board and OPS staff) look out for an email with additional instructions regarding the migration.

### B. NACOLE Conference – Chair Brown

Chair Brown reflected on the recent NACOLE Conference held in Minneapolis, noting that while the event was productive, it felt less impactful than the previous year, possibly due to the novelty of last years' experience. Despite this, he emphasized that the conference still offered valuable insights and materials, including documents, presentations, and national perspectives on civilian oversight. He proposed that the board consider hosting a panel or presentation at next year's conference to share Cleveland's unique oversight practices with the broader law enforcement accountability community.

Brown expressed a desire to collaborate with fellow attendees and staff, including: GM Jessyca Watson, Member Billy Sharp, and Member Chenoa Miller; to prepare a more detailed recap for the next board meeting. He stressed the importance of communicating the value of the trip to Cleveland taxpayers, who funded their attendance, and ensuring transparency about the knowledge and benefits gained.

A board member echoed Brown's sentiments, highlighting Cleveland's distinctive role in the national civilian oversight landscape. They suggested that the board should emphasize



this uniqueness in future public discussions. Brown agreed, noting that the conference reinforced how Cleveland's oversight model offers more latitude and responsibility compared to other jurisdictions, further underscoring the city's leadership in this space.

## **IX. Old Business**

**Brandon Brown, Chair**

### **A. Update on OPS2024-0130**

Following the board's decision, the case was forwarded to the Chief's office for review. The Chief held a hearing and departed from some of the board's original findings. After deliberation, the board reaffirmed its sustained findings on all but one count. The exception was due to newly discovered policy allowing officers not to carry their WCS while on personnel duty, which constituted clear and convincing evidence to overturn that specific finding.

A final disposition letter summarizing the board's decisions was sent to the Chief's office on October 21, 2025, and re-sent directly on October 31, 2025, due to initial confusion. As of now, no response has been received from the Chief regarding the disciplinary action.

Chair Brown acknowledged public interest in the case and committed to monitoring the situation. The next step is for the Chief to determine and implement discipline consistent with the group level recommendations. The timeline for this action remains uncertain, but the board will provide updates as they become available.

### **B. Posting of OPS Administration Position**

The board will begin accepting applications for the OPS Administrator position. The public can submit their applications on [Governmentjobs.com/careers/clevelandjobs](https://governmentjobs.com/careers/clevelandjobs)

## **X. Adjournment**

**Kenneth Mountcastle**

**Motion:** To Adjourn November 11<sup>th</sup> CPRB Meeting

Vice Chair

Motion By: Member Miller

Seconded By: Member Moore

Motion Status: Carried

- The CPRB November 11, 2025 meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm EST.