

**Date:** September 1, 2022  
**To:** Board Members, Citizen Complaint Authority  
**From:** Gabriel Davis, Director  
**Subject:** Investigation Summary – September 19, 2022 Board Meeting

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**RECOMMENDATION SUMMARIES**

#1

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Citizen Complaint Handling</b>
<b>Recommendation #</b>	R2210
<b>CCA Case #</b>	21092 and 21201

**#R2210 Citizen Complaint Handling**

As an alternative dispute resolution process for resolving complaints like those at issue in this investigation, and consistent with mediation objectives set forth under Article 28 of Cincinnati’s Administrative Code, CCA recommends the creation of a mediation program for low-level police complaints with key restorative justice features, including face-to-face dialogue between complainants and subject police officers, conducted in a confidential manner, in a neutral setting, guided by a neutral third-party who is trained to conduct mediation and who is neither a police officer, nor a representative of the involved complainant.

## INVESTIGATION SUMMARIES

# 1

<b>Complaint #</b>	20156
<b>Complainant</b>	Raven Gonzalez
<b>Incident Date</b>	May 28, 2020
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Joseph Vesper
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper Stop Improper Pointing of a Firearm Improper Search Dishonesty Improper Procedure

### COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Date: May 28, 2020

Time: 04:34 PM

Location: 2890 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

CCA Receipt: August 8, 2020

On 05/28/2020, around 4:34 PM, Ms. Raven Gonzalez was about to drop Witness A, a friend of Witness B, off at his apartment parking lot. Ms. Gonzalez was in the driver's seat of her vehicle, Witness B was in the passenger seat, and Witness A was in the right side back seat. A CPD cruiser stopped the vehicle and instructed Ms. Gonzalez to shut it off, throw the keys out the window, and exit the vehicle one at a time. Both officers had their firearms pointed at them. He then approached and handcuffed Ms. Gonzalez, Witness A, and Witness B.

Officers searched Ms. Gonzalez's vehicle and located a firearm in the glove compartment. Ms. Gonzalez told the officers that the firearm had been emptied and a magazine was in the trunk, the officers claimed a bullet was in the chamber of the firearm. Ms. Gonzalez believed Officers Condon and Mauric were involved in the incident, although she did not know what their specific actions were during the encounter.

Witness B was unaware of the presence of Ms. Gonzalez's firearm. However, he still was arrested for the possession. Ms. Gonzalez and Witness A were not arrested or cited. Ms. Gonzalez then paid Witness B's bond and later in court the charges were dismissed. Ms. Gonzalez wished to get her firearm back. However, CPD would not release it to her because it was part of a separate investigation.

## FINDINGS

### **Original Allegations**

#### ***Complainants Witness B and Raven Gonzalez***

Officer Matthew Mauric  
Officer Joshua Condon

#### **Improper Stop - EXONERATED**

#### **Improper Pointing of Firearm - EXONERATED**

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Officer Joshua Condon  
Officer Cian McGrath

#### ***Complainant Raven Gonzalez***

#### **Improper Search - EXONERATED**

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Officer Joshua Condon

#### ***Complainant Witness A***

#### **Improper Search - NOT SUSTAINED**

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Officer Joshua Condon

#### ***Complainant Raven Gonzalez***

#### **Dishonesty - NOT SUSTAINED**

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### **Collateral Allegations**

Officer Joshua Condon

#### **Improper Procedure (Other) - SUSTAINED**

#### **Improper Procedure (BWC) - SUSTAINED**

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Officer Cian McGrath

**Improper Procedure - SUSTAINED**



# 2

<b>Complaint #</b>	20174
<b>Complainant</b>	Kristen Dockendorff on behalf of Anthony Evans
<b>Incident Date</b>	August 7, 2020
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Joseph Vesper
<b>Allegations</b>	Excessive Force Improper Pointing of a Firearm

**COMPLAINT SUMMARY**

Date: August 7, 2020

Time: 04:00:00 PM

Location: [REDACTED] 45202

CCA Receipt: August 31, 2020

On August 7, 2020, around 4:00 PM, Ms. Kristin Dockendorff witnessed two officers, both white, one male with a bald head and one female with dark hair, act extremely violent towards a mentally unstable man who resisted arrest. The male officer threw the man to the ground, pinned his body under a parked vehicle, hit his head on the sidewalk, and his neck was pressed into the corner of the gutter. The female officer yelled at the mentally unstable man that was on the ground and tased him twice. She then hit him with a baton. Other witnesses on the street begged the officers to stop hurting the man but the male officer drew his “gun” and pointed the barrel in a sweeping motion at the crowd, this included two kids near him. He yelled at everyone to get back. Finally, several additional police cars arrived, and they pulled the officer off the man on the ground.

**FINDINGS**

Officer Barnabas Blank

Officer Merredeth Newman

**Excessive Force - EXONERATED**

Officer Barnabas Blank

**Improper Pointing of Firearm - EXONERATED**



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# 3

<b>Complaint #</b>	21006
<b>Complainant</b>	Anonymous
<b>Incident Date</b>	January 14, 2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Kerrie Kimpel
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper Detention Improper Search Improper Procedure

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Date: January 14, 2021  
Time: 7:20PM  
Location: 1523 Race Street  
CCA Receipt: January 21, 2021

CCA received an anonymous complaint that stated Cincinnati Police officers stopped a vehicle on Race Street, removed four people from the vehicle, and improperly searched and detained them before releasing everyone.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

Specialist Kevin Newman  
Officer Michael Smith

### **Improper Stop - EXONERATED**

### **Improper Search - EXONERATED**

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Specialist Kevin Newman  
Officer Michael Smith  
Officer Thomas Back  
Officer Tyler Lane  
Officer Trent Meucci  
Officer Aubrey Pitts

### **Improper Search - EXONERATED**

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**Collateral Allegations**

Specialist Kevin Newman  
Officer Michael Smith  
Officer Matthew Mauric

**Improper Procedure (Other) - SUSTAINED**

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Specialist Kevin Newman  
Officer Michael Smith

**Improper Procedure (Contact Card) - SUSTAINED**

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Specialist Kevin Newman  
Officer Aubrey Pitts  
Officer Matthew Mauric

**Improper Procedure (BWC) - SUSTAINED**

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Officer Matthew Mauric  
Officer Aubrey Pitts

**Improper Procedure - SUSTAINED**

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# 4

<b>Complaint #</b>	21013
<b>Complainant</b>	Ilesha Baker
<b>Incident Date</b>	January 27, 2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Joseph Vesper
<b>Allegations</b>	Harassment Improper Search

**COMPLAINT  
SUMMARY**

On January 27, 2021, at 08:20 AM, Officer Bolte knocked on Ms. Baker’s apartment door. According to BWC evidence, Ms. Baker answered, Officer Bolte identified herself, and Ms. Baker gave Officer Bolte permission to enter. Officers Ball and Dozier were at the front door with Officer Asbury and were given

permission by Witness B (Resident and husband of Ms. Baker) to enter the residence while they walked to the archway of the door. Officer Bolte asked if Witness A was there. Ms. Baker told Officer Bolte that he was asleep upstairs. One of Ms. Baker's children woke him. Witness A came downstairs without a shirt and was placed under arrest by Officer Ball.

## FINDINGS

Officer David Gregory

### Harassment – UNFOUNDED

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Officer David Gregory  
Officer Amber Bolte  
Officer David Dozier  
Officer Kimberly Horning  
Officer James Ball  
Sergeant Nathan Asbury

### Improper Search – EXONERATED

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## # 5 REVIEW MEMO

<b>Complaint #</b>	21034
<b>Complainant</b>	Kattie Sanders
<b>Incident Date</b>	January 31, 2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Ikechuckwu Ekeke
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper Stop Discourtesy Excessive Force

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

On January 31, 2021, Officers Mackaye Rainey and Colin Vanderyt, M/W/33, P0493, arrived at [REDACTED] to serve an arrest warrant on Ms. Sanders for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle. After initially knocking on the wrong door, the officers knocked on Ms. Sanders's door and spoke to her when she opened the door. After confirming Ms. Sanders's identity and her relation to a vehicle on the street (the vehicle involved in the allegation on the warrant), Officer Rainey told Ms. Sanders that her vehicle was "hit" in an auto accident. After Ms. Sanders stepped into the doorway of the entrance into her home, Officers Rainey and Vanderyt handcuffed Ms. Sanders. Officer Rainey conducted a pat-down on Ms. Sanders by turning his flashlight horizontally and patting down Ms. Sanders's legs and waistband before

placing her in the cruiser. After beginning the arrest report inside the cruiser, Officers Rainey and Vanderyt learned that Ms. Sanders could be released if she signed a notice to appear in court instead of continuing to complete the arrest warrant process. Accordingly, Officers Rainey and Vanderyt released Ms. Sanders after she signed the notice to appear.

**FINDINGS**

Officer Mackaye Rainey

**Improper Search - EXONERATED**

**Discourtesy - UNFOUNDED**

**Excessive Force - UNFOUNDED**

Officer Nicholas Clark

**Discourtesy - UNFOUNDED**

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# 6

<b>Complaint #s</b>	21021 and 21092
<b>Complainants</b>	Michael Lester and Julie Thayer
<b>Incident Date</b>	May 26, 2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Morgan Givens
<b>Allegations</b>	Lack of Service Discrimination Harassment

**COMPLAINT SUMMARY**

Date: Various dates in 2021

Time: Various

Location: [REDACTED]

CCA Receipt: September 29, 2021

Julie Thayer and Michael Lester alleged that Officer Richard Minella drives down their street, on a continuous basis to intimidate and harass them, sometimes staring them down while driving. They further alleged that Officer Minella does not remedy their ongoing neighbor dispute and harasses them due to Mr. Lester's race.

Julie Thayer and Michael Lester also alleged Sergeant Jacob Hicks failed to remedy their ongoing neighbor dispute, refused to let them speak to District 3 Captain David Johnston, and failed to address continuous allegations of harassment against Officer Minella. They alleged discrimination against Sergeant Hicks because of their belief that he failed to provide their request for service due to Mr. Lester's race.

Julie Thayer and Michael Lester alleged lack of service against Captain David Johnston for refusing to return their calls complaining about Sergeant Hicks.

Julie Thayer and Michael Lester alleged that on May 31, 2021 Officer Koffi Agbleke failed to provide a requested service by not allowing them to speak to the Captain Johnston.

Julie Thayer and Michael Lester alleged on May 31, 2021, Officer Ryan Olthaus engaged in "biased policing" after he responded to a call to their neighbors' residence.

Julie Thayer and Michael Lester alleged that on May 26, 2021 Officer Karoline Harris engaged in "biased policing" because she was "as professional and nice as can be" to Ms. Thayer, but "hung up on Michael three times;" Julie Thayer alleged the "We feel the only difference is black and white. It seemed that when Harris saw a white person was involved, she changed her behavior."

## FINDINGS

Officer Richard Minella  
Officer Ryan Olthaus  
Officer Koffi Agbleke  
Officer Lakisha Gross  
Sergeant Jacob Hicks  
Captain David W. Johnston

### **Lack of Service – UNFOUNDED**

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Officer Richard Minella  
Officer Ryan Olthaus  
Officer Karoline Harris  
Sergeant Jacob Hicks

### **Discrimination – UNFOUNDED**

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Officer Richard Minella

### **Harassment – UNFOUNDED**

## RECOMMENDATION

### R2210: Citizen Complaint Handling

As an alternative dispute resolution process for resolving complaints like those at issue in this investigation, and consistent with mediation objectives set forth under Article 28 of Cincinnati's Administrative Code, CCA recommends the creation of a mediation program for low-level police complaints with key restorative justice features, including face-to-face dialogue between complainants and subject police officers, conducted in a confidential manner, in a neutral setting, guided by a neutral third-party who is trained to conduct mediation and who is neither a police officer, nor a representative of the involved complainant.

To CCA's understanding, complaints filed by Mr. Lester and Ms. Thayer against CPD pertaining to quality of service have been a point of contention for several years. Sergeant Hicks expressed openness to mediation. CCA is open to coordinating mediation services or facilitating a discussion between Mr. Lester, Ms. Thayer, and the involved officers with the overall goal of creating understanding between all parties involved. CCA also seeks to work with CPD to create and implement such a program, in furtherance of its complaint prevention mandate and responsibilities under Article 28.

# 7

<b>Complaint #</b>	21241
<b>Complainant</b>	Alisha Crittenden
<b>Incident Date</b>	December 3, 2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Ikechukwu Ekeke
<b>Allegation</b>	Excessive Force

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

On December 3, 2021, Ms. Alisha Crittenden (F/B/38) alleged that Officer Elizabeth McNay, (F/B/41) P0436, struck Ms. Crittenden in the face while handcuffing her with the bottom palm of her hand.

## FINDINGS

Officer Elizabeth McNay

**Excessive Force - SUSTAINED**

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# 8

<b>Complaint #</b>	22006
<b>Complainant</b>	Krishawna Cousett
<b>Incident Date</b>	December 8,2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Jessalyn Goodman
<b>Allegations</b>	Discrimination Lack of Service

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Date: December 8, 2021

Time: 6:32pm

Location: 598 William Howard Taft

On December 8, 2021, Ms. Krishawna Cousett and [witness] were involved in vehicular accident. Ms. Cousett contacted the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) and requested CPD to respond. Approximately one hour later, Officers Joseph Bricker and Braeden Knapp responded to the scene. Ms. Cousett explained to the officers she had contacted ECC, and Witness A had admitted fault. Officer Bricker directed Ms. Cousett to remain in her vehicle while he spoke to Witness A. Ms. Cousett was “dumbfounded.” Officer Knapp cut the airbags from her vehicle and then returned to the police cruisers. When Officer Bricker returned, he advised that Witness A had not been cited and Ms. Cousett should “allow [the] insurance company to work it out.”

Ms. Cousett believed had her race “been the same as the officers, as well as the other driver, things would have turned out differently.”

## FINDINGS

Officer Joseph Bricker  
Officer Braeden Knapp

**Discrimination – UNFOUNDED**

**Lack of Service – EXONERATED**

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# 9

<b>Complaint #</b>	22072
<b>Complainant</b>	Arthur Lacey
<b>Incident Date</b>	January 11, 2022
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Makiedah Messam
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper Stop Improper Search Discrimination

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Date: January 11, 2022  
Time: 11:20 p.m.  
Location: Reading Road

Mr. Arthur Lacey stated, on January 11, 2022, he was driving a newly purchased Chevy Malibu along Reading Road when Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) officers stopped him. One officer, later identified as Officer Dylan Scalf, told him he was driving a vehicle that was reported stolen and that the vehicle had falsified tags. Mr. Lacey tried to explain to the officer that the tag on the Malibu belonged to a Chevy Yukon that he traded at the time he bought the Malibu. Officer Scalf told him, "I could have your car towed sir but I'm not gonna be no asshole." He was issued a citation for driving with falsified tags. Mr. Lacey further stated that he felt intimidated with so many police officers surrounding him "treating me like a real-life criminal. I was scared. I was out there shaking. I was terrified." Mr. Lacey stated the only reason he was stopped was that he was in an all-black area.

## FINDINGS

Officer Dylan Scalf

**Improper Stop – EXONERATED**

**Improper Seizure – EXONERATED**

**Improper Search – SUSTAINED**

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Officer Dylan Scalf  
Officer Mason Hoctor  
Officer Jeremy Chitwood

**Improper Search – EXONERATED**

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Officer Dylan Scalf  
**Discrimination – NOT SUSTAINED**

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**# 10**

<b>Complaint #</b>	22080
<b>Complainant</b>	Corie Hooks on behalf of RM (minor)
<b>Incident Date</b>	April 11, 2022
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Robert Stephens
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper Stop Excessive Force Improper Search

**COMPLAINT SUMMARY**

Date: April 11, 2022  
Time: 3:30 PM  
Location: 4120 Kirby Ave

On April 11, RM was at northside transit center with some kids that stole from a store. The police came to the bus stop and all the kids started to run, including RM. RM got tased twice, once in the arm and once again in the neck. After the officers checked the cameras at the store, the police realized RM did not steal but had still arrested him.

**FINDINGS**

Officer Nicholas Dewar  
Officer Mark McChristian

**Improper Stop – EXONERATED**

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Officer Mark McChristian

**Excessive Force – EXONERATED**

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Officer Austin Gleckler

**Improper Search – EXONERATED**

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**# 11 REVIEW MEMO**

<b>Complaint #</b>	22083
<b>Complainant</b>	Cheyenne Conners
<b>Incident Date</b>	April 21, 2022
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Kerrie Kimpel
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper search Discourtesy

**COMPLAINT  
SUMMARY**

Ms. Conners alleged that on April 21, 2022, at 1 W. Corry Avenue, Kroger, Sergeant Williams searched her vehicle without her permission, then belittled and threatened her. Ms. Conners parked in the “Fire Lane” because she did not see the signs stating she could not park there. Ms. Conners went inside the store to grab an item and returned to her vehicle within one to two minutes and found Sergeant Williams, with her door open and searching inside.

**FINDINGS**

Sergeant Michael Williams

**Improper Search – EXONERATED**

**Discourtesy – UNFOUNDED**

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**# 12**

<b>Complaint #</b>	22086
<b>Complainant</b>	Raea Patterson
<b>Incident Date</b>	April 4, 2022
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Kerrie Kimpel
<b>Allegations</b>	Improper Detention Improper Procedure

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Date: April 4, 2022

Time: 08:25AM

Location: [REDACTED] 45224

On April 4, 2022, Ms. Patterson alleged Officers Walker, Nash, and Taylor came to her door. Ms. Patterson was nervous to open the door because she was unsure who called them but eventually Officers Nash and Walker talked her into opening the door, and she allowed them inside the apartment. Officers Nash and Walker entered the apartment and told Ms. Patterson they would assist her in leaving the apartment with her child because she felt she was in danger at home. Once Officers Walker, Nash, and Taylor were outside with Ms. Patterson, and she had strapped her two-year-old child into her car seat, the officers took Ms. Patterson into custody and took her to a mental institution against her will. Ms. Patterson also stated to CCA she did not see a light on any of the officers' BWCs and Officer Taylor did not "have any camera on his chest, and he wore a bandana over his face."

## FINDINGS

### **Original Allegations:**

Officer Carol Walker  
Officer Toni Nash  
Officer Duanyel Taylor

**Improper Detention – EXONERATED**

**Improper Procedure (BWC) – UNFOUNDED**

### **Collateral Allegation:**

Officer Carol Walker  
Officer Toni Nash  
Officer Duanyel Taylor

**Improper Procedure – SUSTAINED**

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**# 13 REVIEW MEMO**

<b>Complaint #</b>	22087
<b>Complainant</b>	Hellena Jones
<b>Incident Date</b>	December 21, 2021
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	Kerrie Kimpel
<b>Allegations</b>	Excessive Force

**COMPLAINT  
SUMMARY**

On December 21, 2021, Ms. Jones alleged an unknown officer, later determined by CCA to be Officer Christopher Ward, placed Ms. Jones in a chokehold, resulting in her losing consciousness. She further alleged when she woke up, the paramedics were there, and the police officers falsely informed the paramedics that she had a seizure.

**FINDINGS**

Officer Christopher Ward

**Excessive Force – UNFOUNDED**

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