

Date: June 27, 2024
To: Board Members, Citizen Complaint Authority
From: Dena Brown, Interim Director
Subject: Investigation Summary – July 1, 2024 Board Meeting

INVESTIGATION SUMMARIES

#1

Complaint #	23253
Involved Citizen	Brendon Collins
Incident Date	November 3, 2023
CCA Investigator	Joseph Vesper

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Collins alleged that on Friday, November 3, 2023 at 0300 AM, at 1107 Vine St., excessive force was used in his arrest when an unknown officer, later determined to be Officer Johnson, “slammed him against a car”, which caused his lip to split open.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Chaz Huston	Brendon Collins	Unfounded
2	Excessive Force	Ronald Johnson	Brendon Collins	Exonerated

Collateral Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
3	Improper Procedure	Chaz Huston	Brendon Collins	Sustained
4	Improper Procedure	Ronald Johnson	Brendon Collins	Sustained
5	Discourtesy	Ronald Johnson	Brendon Collins	Sustained

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
6	Discrimination	Ronald Johnson	Unknown	Sustained

RECOMMENDATION

#R2406 - Corrective and Disciplinary: Officer Training

Officer Johnson's interaction with Mr. Collins and unknown citizens has raised concerns regarding his use of inappropriate language and discourtesy. It is imperative that Officer Johnson undergoes remedial training in customer service and disability discrimination to ensure that all members of the community are treated with respect and dignity. Specifically, addressing the use of inflammatory words is crucial in fostering an inclusive and respectful environment. By providing Officer Johnson with the necessary training, CPD would share commitment to fair and equitable treatment for all individuals. ■

2

Complaint #	24091
Involved Citizen	Nathan Dickenherr
Incident Date	March 28, 2024
CCA Investigator	Joseph Vesper

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Robert Dickenherr alleged that on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at approximately 2:00 PM, his son, Nathan Dickenherr ("Mr. Dickenherr"), while departing from the opening day parade at 201 E 4th Street, encountered a vehicle exiting a parking garage. The driver, later identified as Officer Carroll Todd (#P0312, M/B/53), sounded the horn. In response, Mr. Dickenherr made an obscene gesture and continued to walk across the vehicle's pathway. The passenger officer, identified as Officer Ertel, exited the vehicle and approached Mr. Dickenherr. Mr. Dickenherr stated that, "I was walking across the street, and with no warning I was grabbed from behind thrown into a glass wall, slammed on the ground, jumped on top of and beat on the ground before being handcuffed and detained." (...) "The officer dropped an elbow on me, dug his knee in my back, all kinds of stuff for walking across the street." This use of force was entirely unwarranted.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Jeffery Ertel	Nathan Dickenherr	Not Sustained

Collateral Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
2	Improper Procedure (BWC)	Jeffery Ertel	Nathan Dickenherr	Sustained
3	Improper Procedure (Failure to Report)	Jeffery Ertel	Nathan Dickenherr	Sustained
4	Improper Procedure (BWC)	Carroll Todd	Nathan Dickenherr	Sustained

OBSERVATION

It is observed and recommended that all police officers in **unmarked vehicles** be required to activate their body-worn cameras (BWCs) during all self-initiated activities. This policy enhances transparency, provides critical evidence for accountability, and ensures the protection of both officers and the public during interactions. Especially in cases that involve the allegation of excessive use of force where recordings are paramount in establishing objectionable reasonableness of an officer's actions. ■

#3

Complaint #	24018
Involved Citizen	Many Barnes
Incident Date	January 15, 2023
CCA Investigator	Joseph Vesper

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Barnes alleged that on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 3:06 PM, at 220 Findlay St., he was stopped by unknown CPD officers (later determined to be Officers Kress, Lane, Fehrman, Howard, and Owens-Jordan). Mr. Barnes stated there was no reason for the traffic stop and the subsequent search of his vehicle. Mr. Barnes further stated that he was subject to an improper strip search and was forced to drive his own vehicle to the District 3 police station for questioning, thereby improperly seized.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Stop	Taylor Howard	Many Barnes	Not Sustained
2	Improper Stop	Cameron Fehrman	Many Barnes	Not Sustained
3	Improper Stop	Tyler Owens-Jordan	Many Barnes	Not Sustained
4	Improper Seizure	Tyler Owens-Jordan	Many Barnes	Not Sustained
5	Improper Search	Zachary Kress	Many Barnes	Exonerated
6	Improper Search	Tyler Lane	Many Barnes	Exonerated
7	Improper Search	Cameron Fehrman	Many Barnes	Exonerated
8	Improper Search	Taylor Howard	Many Barnes	Exonerated

Collateral Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
9	Improper Procedure	Taylor Howard	Many Barnes	Sustained
10	Improper Procedure	Zachary Kress	Many Barnes	Sustained
11	Improper Procedure	Taylor Howard	Many Barnes	Sustained

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#4

Complaint #	23118
Involved Citizen	Otis Stevens
Incident Date	May 6, 2023
CCA Investigator	Andrew Alanis

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Stevens alleged improper seizure by Officer Michell Zumaita. Mr. Stevens alleged he was detained until a representative of FC Cincinnati came to the scene and then he was released.

FINDINGS

Original Allegation

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Seizure	Michell Zumaita	Otis Stevens	Exonerated

Collateral Allegation

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
2	Discourtesy	Michell Zumaita	Otis Stevens	Sustained

RECOMMENDATION

#R2407 – Corrective and Disciplinary: Review Officer Record/Officer Training

CCA recommends Officer Zumaita receive Customer Service training. This recommendation comes after the review of Officer Zumaita's BWC which showed him struggle to gain verbal control of his conversation with Mr. Stevens after his attempted use of de-escalation techniques failed. Customer Service training may provide Officer Zumaita with other options in any future encounters with people who are compliant but are argumentative. ■

#5

Complaint #	23111
Involved Citizen	Brianna Kennedy
Incident Date	May 17, 2023
CCA Investigator	Morgan Givens

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Ms. Kennedy alleged that on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at approximately 10:30 AM at 2184 Clara Street, an unknown officer, later identified as Specialist Longworth of the Fugitive Apprehension Unit (FAU) entered and searched her residence and seized her legitimately owned firearm.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Entry	Mark Longworth	Brianna Kennedy	Exonerated
2	Improper Search	Mark Longworth	Brianna Kennedy	Exonerated
3	Improper Seizure	Mark Longworth	Brianna Kennedy	Unfounded

#6

Complaint #	23121
Involved Citizen	Raquan Virge
Incident Date	May 31, 2023
CCA Investigator	Morgan Givens

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Virge alleged that on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at approximately at 2:25 PM, two police officers later identified by CCA to be Officers Lane and Clark improperly stopped him, searched his vehicle and seized his person.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Stop	Tyler Lane	Raquan Virge	Exonerated
2	Improper Search	Tyler Lane	Raquan Virge	Exonerated
3	Improper Seizure	Tyler Lane	Raquan Virge	Exonerated
4	Improper Stop	Nicholas Clark	Raquan Virge	Exonerated
5	Improper Search	Nicholas Clark	Raquan Virge	Exonerated
6	Improper Seizure	Nicholas Clark	Raquan Virge	Exonerated

#7

Complaint #	23157
Involved Citizen	Freddie Ruff
Incident Date	July 22, 2023
CCA Investigator	Andrew Alanis

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Ruff Jr. alleged that on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 03:45AM at [REDACTED] Cincinnati, Ohio 45207, Officer Francis punched him in the face during his booking into the Hamilton County Justice Center (HCJC) for Domestic Violence (Ohio Revised Code § 2919.25 (C), Menacing (Ohio Revised Code § 2903.22), as well as for two outstanding arrest warrants.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Stephen Francis	Freddie Ruff Jr.	Unfounded

#8

Complaint #	24014
Involved Citizen	L.R. (Minor)
Incident Date	January 3, 2024
CCA Investigator	Jessalyn Goodman

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

LR alleged that on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 4:15pm at 500 Walnut Street, “while Officer Brown was stopping him from fighting, [Officer Brown] punched him in his face.”

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Albert Brown	L.R. (minor)	Unfounded
2	Excessive Force	Bryan Gabel	L.R. (minor)	Unfounded

#9

Complaint #	24019
Involved Citizen	Joseph Hummeldorf
Incident Date	January 14, 2024
CCA Investigator	Joseph Vesper

COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Hummeldorf alleged that on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 01:15 AM, at 150 E Freedom Way, he and his friends were trying to leave the area, when he walked up behind an officer (Later determined to be Lt. Jarred Cotton, M/B/45, #L0024) who's back was turned, another officer (Later determined to be Sergeant Hale) grabbed both of his shoulders and moved him away. Mr. Hummeldorf felt it was inappropriate for Sergeant Hale to touch him.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Ronald Hale	Joseph Hummeldorf	Unfounded