

**Date:** February 22, 2024  
**To:** Board Members, Citizen Complaint Authority  
**From:** Makiedah Messam, Interim Director  
**Subject:** Investigation Summary – March 4, 2024 Board Meeting

**INVESTIGATION SUMMARIES – OLD BUSINESS**

# 1

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23087</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Michael Richardson</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>April 27, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Robert Stephens</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Seizure Excessive Force</b>

**COMPLAINT  
SUMMARY**

Mr. Richardson stated 6 CPD officers were at his door. The officers ignored what he had to say and handcuffed him. Mr. Richardson alleged that the use of handcuffs was unnecessary and caused unnecessary pain. Furthermore, Mr. Richardson alleged that the officers without proper authority took him to UC Health Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) and seized his firearm.

**FINDINGS**

**Original Allegations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Seizure	Nicholas Lauer	Michael Richardson	Exonerated
2	Excessive Force	Nicholas Lauer	Michael Richardson	Exonerated
3	Improper Seizure	Kevin Newman	Michael Richardson	Sustained

## INVESTIGATION SUMMARIES – NEW BUSINESS

# 1

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>20155</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Mason Meyer</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>August 7, 2020</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Dena Brown</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Procedure Violation</b>

### COMPLAINT SUMMARY

On August 7, 2020, CPD Sergeant Timothy Lanter, Specialist Michael Harper and Officer Brett Thomas attempted to stop Mr. Mason Meyer who was the subject of a felony firearms investigation. Mr. Meyer and his associates, Ms. Kirsten Johnson, and Mr. Mark Ihle, were seen leaving 721 Steiner Avenue. Sergeant Lanter, Specialist Harper, and Officer Thomas pursued Mr. Meyer. During the pursuit, Mr. Meyer traveled through several streets at high rates of speed and eventually traveled into Covington, Kentucky, where he lost control of his vehicle and struck four bystanders who were located at the “Press on Monmouth” restaurant. Two of the four bystanders succumbed to their injuries.

CCA was notified by the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) of a Death in Custody vehicle pursuit by members of the Cincinnati Police Department and responded to the scene.

### FINDINGS

#### Original Allegations

Sergeant Timothy Lanter  
Specialist Michael Harper  
Officer Brett Thomas

**Procedure Violation** - The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to determine that the incident occurred and the actions of the officer were improper. **SUSTAINED**

## OBSERVATIONS

After a tactical review of this incident, CPD revised §12.535 Emergency Operation of Police Vehicles and Pursuit Driving on June 17, 2021, to include the use of stop sticks. The policy was further revised on February 24, 2022; below is the update as it refers to vehicle pursuits to include those outside the jurisdiction. The revisions highlighted, among other things, the importance of balancing public safety with the need to capture suspects, of correct communication during a vehicular pursuit, clarifying police conduct in the pursuit of known or suspected felons, and when a vehicular pursuit may leave the jurisdiction. ■

# 2

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>22178</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Diablo McCoats</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>August 7, 2022</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Jessalyn Goodman</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Discharge of Firearm</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

As members of CPD's Civil Disturbance Response Team (CDRT), Officers Joseph Shook and Douglass Horton were stationed on Main Street. During their patrol, both officers heard multiple gunshots originating from a nearby crowd of individuals, and each observed muzzle flashes. Officer Shook discharged his firearm once at the suspect, who fled down Woodward Street.

Officers Shook and Horton did not pursue the suspect and instead focused on a nearby crowd of individuals, some of whom were injured. Officer Horton broadcast a description of the suspect, rendered aid until assistance and CFD arrived, and attempted to control the crime scene. Officer Shook notified a supervisor of his actions and aided wounded passersby as needed.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Discharge of Firearm	Joseph Shook	Diablo McCoats	Exonerated

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# 3

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23055</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Julie Thayer and Michael Lester</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>March 26, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Joseph Vesper</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Discrimination Improper Seizure Abuse of Authority</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Ms. Thayer/ Mr. Lester alleged that on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 12:00 PM at Ave Cincinnati, Ohio 45211, an Officer (later identified as Officer Manuel) at the direction of Sgt Jacob Hicks, in retaliation (abuse of authority), responded to a “bogus and racist” call from Witness A and Witness B. After listening to Witness, A and B’s “complete lies and providing zero evidence,” Michael Lester, M/B/46 (Ms. Thayer’s husband) was told if he didn't cooperate with the "investigation" that he would be arrested. Mr. Lester was subsequently arrested for no reason. Furthermore, “Sgt Hicks doesn't deserve to have a job. He is a lying, condescending, rude, sarcastic, no good, piece of garbage.” Ms. Thayer further alleged that members, specifically Sergeant Hicks, of the Cincinnati Police Department were racist against her and her husband, Michael Lester, in this incident.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Discrimination	Jacob Hicks	Michael Lester	Unfounded
2	Improper Seizure	Chance Manuel	Michael Lester	Exonerated
3	Abuse of Authority	Jacob Hicks	Julie Thayer	Unfounded

# 4

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23073</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>William Rosenthal</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>May 5, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Morgan Givens</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Excessive Force Improper Seizure Lack of Service  <u>Collateral</u> Improper Procedure</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Rosenthal alleged that excessive force was used against him by CPD.

Mr. Rosenthal's wife was transported by CFD to The Christ Hospital because of a medical emergency; Mr. Rosenthal followed in his vehicle. He alleged that a CFD employee (Witness A), stopped the ambulance that carried his wife and chastised him for following so closely. Mr. Rosenthal stated that once he arrived at the hospital, he was assaulted by the CFD employee, and at the end of the physical interaction, he was placed into custody by CPD. He doesn't believe he should have been arrested.

Mr. Rosenthal further alleged that he attempted to file assault charges against the CFD employee and has been unsuccessful because he's gotten the "run around".

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Officer Robin White	William Rosenthal	Not Sustained
2	Improper Seizure	Officer Dennis Barnette	William Rosenthal	Exonerated
3	Lack of Service	Unknown Officer	William Rosenthal	Not Sustained

### Collateral Allegation

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved citizen	Finding
4	Improper Procedure (BWC)	Officer Robin White	William Rosenthal	Sustained

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# 5

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23079</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Darnae Crews</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>April 19, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Jessalyn Goodman</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Stop Improper Search Harassment</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Crews alleged that on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:20pm on Reading Road, CPD officers later identified by CCA to be Officers Perry and Cox stopped his vehicle because he did not use his turn signal sooner. Officer Perry took his license and asked whether he had any illegal firearms or drugs. When Officer Perry returned, he claimed there was a warrant on the vehicle (which does not belong to Mr. Crews), and he smelled “weed.” Mr. Crews was removed from the vehicle, and it was searched. Sergeant Rock advised a witness that they had been watching Mr. Crews as he left his residence. Officer Perry arrested Mr. Crews and transported him to the Hamilton County Justice Center (HCJC). Mr. Crews alleged the vehicle was improperly stopped and searched and believed the officers harassed him due to a pending lawsuit against them.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Stop	Grant Perry	Darnae Crews	Exonerated
2	Improper Stop	Scott Cox	Darnae Crews	Exonerated
3	Improper Search	Grant Perry	Darnae Crews	Exonerated
4	Harassment	Grant Perry	Darnae Crews	Unfounded
5	Harassment	Scott Cox	Darnae Crews	Unfounded
6	Harassment	Brendon Rock	Darnae Crews	Unfounded

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# 6

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23104</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Mark Ramsey</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>May 22, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Morgan Givens</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Stop Excessive Force  <u>Collateral</u> Discrimination Discourtesy Improper Procedure</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Mark Ramsey stated that while he was walking home on May 22, 2023, around 2:15 AM, CPD officers demanded him to stop and accused him of having a firearm. Mr. Ramsey did not feel comfortable stopping and walked toward an area that was well-lit where he felt it would be safer. Mr. Ramsey was TASED multiple times and sustained injuries to his hand and his chin when he fell to the ground.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Stop	Thomas Stanton	Mark Ramsey	Exonerated
2	Improper Stop	Emily Peterson	Mark Ramsey	Exonerated
3	Excessive Force	Thomas Stanton	Mark Ramsey	Exonerated
4	Excessive Force	Emily Peterson	Mark Ramsey	Exonerated

### Collateral Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
5	Discourtesy	Thomas Stanton	Mark Ramsey	Sustained
6	Discrimination	Thomas Stanton	Mark Ramsey	Sustained
7	Discrimination	Emily Peterson	Mark Ramsey	Sustained
8	Improper Procedure	Thomas Stanton	Mark Ramsey	Sustained
9	Improper Procedure	Emily Peterson	Mark Ramsey	Sustained

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### R2403 - Officer Training

Through the adoption of Administrative Regulations 25 and 55, the city of Cincinnati has signaled that the behavior of city employees must reflect the values of the city, a city where all citizens are treated with dignity and respect regardless of race and a city that strives to provide the best service for residents and visitors. The officers' interaction with Mr. Ramsey while in their custody strays from the city's vision and values.

CCA recommends that Officers Stanton and Peterson receive Diversity and Customer Service training considering their actions as their conduct which did not align with the city of Cincinnati and CPD's policies, procedures, and training. ■

# 7

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23110</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Annette Harris</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>May 30, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Robert Stephens</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Discharge of a Firearm</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Ms. Harris alleged on May 30, 2023, Officer Ball unnecessarily discharged his service firearm when he shot her dog.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Discharge of Firearm	James Ball	Annette Harris	Exonerated

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# 8

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23120</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Dwayne Martin</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>May 16, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Jessalyn Goodman</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Procedure Improper Entry Excessive Force</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Martin alleged that on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at approximately 1:00 am at [REDACTED], CPD Officers (later identified by CCA to be) Allen and Bicknell arrived at his residence and asked to speak with him. Mr. Martin became fearful and ran into his residence; Officers Allen and Bicknell followed, kicked in the door of his apartment, and “slammed” him to the ground, causing pain. He was later handcuffed and taken to the Hamilton County Justice Center (HCJC). Officers Allen and Bicknell also towed his, which was parked on his property.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Procedure	Benjamin Allen	Dwayne Martin	Exonerated
2	Improper Procedure	Nikolas Bicknell	Dwayne Martin	Exonerated
3	Improper Entry	Benjamin Allen	Dwayne Martin	Exonerated
4	Improper Entry	Nikolas Bicknell	Dwayne Martin	Exonerated
5	Excessive Force	Benjamin Allen	Dwayne Martin	Unfounded
6	Excessive Force	Nikolas Bicknell	Dwayne Martin	Unfounded

# 9

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23122</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Hellena Jones</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>June 3, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Andrew Alanis</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Excessive Force</b>

**COMPLAINT  
SUMMARY**

Ms. Jones alleged that on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 9:22 PM, at 115 East Fifth Street, a Cincinnati police officer, later determined by CCA to be Sergeant Marcus Sherman, grabbed her by the arm pinching it then pushed her to the ground and did not help her up.

**FINDINGS**

**Original Allegations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Excessive Force	Marcus Sherman	Hellena Jones	Unfounded

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#10

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23127</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Aisha Springs</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>June 13, 2023 and One Week Prior</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Joseph Vesper</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Procedure Improper Search</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Ms. Springs alleged that on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, and one week prior, at [REDACTED], the aforementioned officers searched her residence, looking for her minor son (Witness A). The Officers did not have a search warrant on either occasion. Additionally, CPD released her minor son's personal information to the public against child privacy rights.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Procedure	Nathan Asbury	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
2	Improper Search	Nathan Asbury	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
3	Improper Procedure	Mark Longworth	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
4	Improper Search	Mark Longworth	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
5	Improper Procedure	Kelly Jackson	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
6	Improper Search	Kelly Jackson	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
7	Improper Procedure	Charles Knapp	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
8	Improper Search	Charles Knapp	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
9	Improper Procedure	Mark McChristian	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
10	Improper Search	Mark McChristian	Aisha Springs	Exonerated
11	Improper Procedure	Mark Longworth	Aisha Springs	Exonerated

### #R2402 – Treatment of Juveniles

While the dissemination of information after the felony charging and arrest of a minor is generally not against the laws of the United States and is allowed under certain circumstances in CPD policy, the release of information related to a juvenile arrest and charging can limit and impede successful transition for a juvenile into adulthood. The release of this information can create obstacles for youth seeking future employment, scholarships, housing, higher education, and multiple other opportunities.

Many juveniles do not understand the severity nor the consequences of their actions. Historically, protecting and assisting juveniles in their transformation to adulthood has been a bedrock principle of American values and laws.<sup>6</sup>

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) recommends that law enforcement with related information associated with juveniles that encounter the justice system be kept from all public disclosure.<sup>7</sup> Some organizations have gone so far as to adopt internal policies to never name minors in public unless they are charged as adults.<sup>8</sup>

Therefore, CCA recommends that CPD weigh more heavily the importance of the release of information related to juvenile arrest. As suggested by the Poynter Institute these factors could include:

- Who is served by identifying the juvenile?
- Strength of the evidence?
- Severity of the alleged crime?
- Who will be impacted and how will they be impacted if the name is released?
- Would others be harmed if the minor was not named or if rumors were allowed to circulate unchecked?
- Will the juvenile be charged as an adult?
- How immediate would identification be after arrest?
- What is the juvenile's history?
- How newsworthy is the story? How will you explain the decision to identify to the newsroom?<sup>9</sup>

The weighty decision to identify a juvenile offender to the media can be a hard one to make. Ultimately, to release the information, while generally legal, is an ethical choice.

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<sup>6</sup> Andrew L. Yarrow, *History of U.S. Children's Policy: 1900-Present*, First Focus, (April 2009), <https://firstfocus.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Childrens-Policy-History.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> *Safeguarding the Confidentiality of Youth in the Justice System: Recommendations and Resources*, (August 2016), <http://www.njjn.org/our-work/confidentiality-of-youth-in-justice-system-safeguards>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Al Tompkins, *Guidelines for Identifying Juveniles*, The Poynter Institute, [https://www.rtdna.org/content/identifying\\_juveniles](https://www.rtdna.org/content/identifying_juveniles). ■

# 11

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23130</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Anthony Williams</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>November 4, 2022</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Robert Stephens</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Seizure Excessive Force</b>

**COMPLAINT SUMMARY**

Mr. Williams alleged that on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 09:30 am at 516 Maple Ave Cincinnati, police officers arrived at his residence. The officers arrested him and took him to Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES). Mr. Williams claimed that it was not necessary. Mr. Williams also alleged that he was maced and placed into handcuffs, which caused him undue pain.

**FINDINGS**

**Original Allegations**

No.	Allegation	Subject Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Seizure	Jamel Givens	Anthony Williams	Exonerated
2	Excessive Force	Dylan Scalf	Anthony Williams	Exonerated
3	Excessive Force	Jamel Givens	Anthony Williams	Exonerated
4	Excessive Force	Kenneth Vanderpool	Anthony Williams	Exonerated

■

# 12

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23133</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Faith Biddings</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>June 18, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Andrew Alanis</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Excessive Force Discourtesy</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

On June 18, 2023, Mr. James Brooks contacted the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) to have the police remove Ms. Biddings from his apartment due to an argument. Officers Darryl Patrick and Bryan Scott responded to the call. Ms. Biddings alleged Officer Scott used excessive force in pushing her and was discourteous when he said “f#@ you” to her.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Excessive Force	Bryan Scott	Faith Biddings	Not Sustained
2	Discourtesy	Bryan Scott	Faith Biddings	Sustained

■

# 13

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23158</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Renard Dabney</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>March 13, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Joseph Vesper</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Improper Seizure</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Mr. Dabney Jr. alleged that on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 3:44 PM at Shelterhouse on 411 Gest Street, CPD officers seized his person against his will and took him to Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at the University of Cincinnati hospital.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Seizure	Chaz Huston	Renard Dabney Jr.	Exonerated
2	Improper Seizure	Austin Lee	Renard Dabney Jr.	Exonerated

■

# 14

<b>Complaint #</b>	<b>23162</b>
<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Chantinnelle Jordan</b>
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>July 29, 2023</b>
<b>CCA Investigator</b>	<b>Robert Stephens</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>Verbal or Physical Threat Discourtesy</b>

## COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Per Information received from CPD: Ms. Jordan alleged that Officer Brown was aggressive, disrespectful, and unprofessional when asking her questions about the incident they were initially dispatched to investigate. Ms. Jordan also alleged that Officer Brown threatened to arrest her without justification and that Officer Brown was approaching her as if he was going to attack her.

## FINDINGS

### Original Allegations

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Subject Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Verbal or Physical Threat	Kevin Brown	Chantinnelle Jordan	Unfounded
2	Discourtesy	Kevin Brown	Chantinnelle Jordan	Sustained

■