



CCA Case No. 24038

Carlos Beauchamp

Investigation Report and Finding

**Investigator
Ronald Pugh**

**Interim Director
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September 26, 2024

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COMPLAINT SUMMARY

Date: February 10, 2024

Time: 11:10AM

Location: 1660 North Bend Road

CCA Receipt: February 12, 2024

Mr. Carlos Beauchamp alleged that he was improperly stopped by Officer Matthew Bohn on February 10, 2024. Officer Bohn initiated a traffic stop for a traffic offense but refused to make any traffic infraction. Mr. Beauchamp further alleged that Officer Bohn used the “f” word which he believed was “disrespectful.”

INVOLVED SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Mr. Carlos Beauchamp

CCA interviewed Mr. Carlos Beauchamp on 02/12/2024 at 12:18 PM. He provided the following information:

On February 12, 2024, Mr. Beauchamp, M/B/50, stated on February 10, 2024, at approximately 11:00am he was driving down North Bend Road toward Avondale. Mr. Beauchamp was aware his driver’s license was suspended at the time for non-support of dependents. He stated that he turned on an arrow that was green, but Officer Bohn pulled him over for a red-light violation. Officer Bohn stated he made an improper lane change without a signal. Mr. Beauchamp asked for a supervisor. A supervisor was called, but did not come to the traffic stop, but contacted him later to review his concerns. Mr. Beauchamp stated that Officer Bohn was discourteous and used profane language. Mr. Beauchamp stated he used profane language in return but only in response of Officer Bohn’s statements.

INVOLVED OFFICER STATEMENTS

Officer Matthew J. Bohn

Officer Matthew J. Bohn, #P0240, M/W/39, was assigned to District 3, he had been a CPD member since 2019. Officer Bohn resigned from CPD on 08/03/2024. Officer Bohn was on routine patrol, in uniform and operated a marked cruiser and his BWC was activated at the time of the incident.

CCA interviewed Officer Bohn on June 27, 2024, at 11:00am. He provided the following information:

On February 12, 2024, Officer Bohn was on routine patrol when he witnessed a white Ford Explorer make an improper lane change through a red light. Mr. Beauchamp was not happy about being stopped and did not have a valid driver's license. Mr. Beauchamp and Officer Bohn had a heated verbal exchange that was inflammatory on both parts. Officer Bohn cited Mr. Beauchamp but did allow Mr. Beauchamp to call a relative (a licensed driver), to drive the vehicle from the scene versus having it towed.

During the stop Officer Bohn made several comments to Mr. Beauchamp. Below is the transcription of those comments and Mr. Beauchamp's response:

Officer Bohn: I don't want to stand here and fuck around with you like this.

Mr. Beauchamp: How am I fucking with you?

Officer Bohn: You don't have a license and you want to do this dumb shit and the trifecta is you want you want fuck with me and give me shit right here. "Pay your child support!"

Officer Bohn requested Mr. Beauchamp's social security number and told him to "sit tight" which he complied. Officer Bohn returned to his vehicle to query Mr. Beauchamp's information. Mr. Beauchamp was cited and sent on his way.

Officer Bohn stated that the statements were used as "verbal stunning" techniques. Officer Bohn stated Mr. Beauchamp wanted to hold "curbside court." Mr. Beauchamp was given the opportunity to call a relative to drive his vehicle from the scene instead of it being towed.

INVOLVED WITNESS OFFICER STATEMENTS

Officer Douglass Horton

Officer Douglass Horton, #PO450, M/W/27, is currently assigned to District 3, and he has been a CPD member since 2019. Officer Horton was on routine patrol, in uniform and operated a marked cruiser, his BWC was activated.

CCA interviewed Officer Horton on June 27, 2024 at 11:17am. He provided the following information:

Officer Horton could not recall any specific statements that were made by either party during the traffic stop. Officer Horton was not in the Primary unit so he could not testify to the traffic violation charge.

Officer Horton provided assistance for Officer Bohn, he did not witness any specific language or specific exchange between Officer Bohn and Mr. Beauchamp.

Officer Jay Stephens

Officer Jay Stephens, #P0248, M/W/27, is currently assigned to District 3, and he has been a CPD member since 2016. Officer Stephens was on routine patrol, in uniform and operated a marked cruiser with Officer Horton; his BWC was activated.

CCA interviewed Jay Stephens on June 27, 2024, at 11:25am. He provided the following information:

Officer Stephens could not recall any specific statements that were made by either party during the traffic stop. Officer Stephens was not in the Primary unit so he could not testify to the traffic violation charge.

Officer Stephens backed up Officer Bohn in a marked unit in District 3. He stated that He did not witness any specific language or specific exchange between Officer Bohn and Mr. Beauchamp.

EVIDENCE

Police Documents

CCA reviewed all CPD-related forms, including but not limited to arrest forms, property receipts, the IIS Report, Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Body Worn Camera (BWC), and information from CPD's Records Management System (RMS).

Body Worn Camera (BWC)

BWC footage from Officer Bohn's corroborated Mr. Beauchamp's version of what occurred as the profane language.

Officer Bohn

The events recorded by Officer Bohn's BWC occurred on 02/10/2024 at 11:10:26, according to the BWC's timestamp. A review of that recording reveals the following:

11:11:09 Officer Bohn approaches the vehicle and says "hello, you went through that red light"

11:11:15 Mr. Beauchamp responded "I got into the turning lane with no traffic or nothing"

11:11:38 Mr. Beauchamp asks what law he violated, and Officer Bohn immediately responds, "You didn't use your turn signal" is this the part where we are going to argue about what I witnessed?"

11:12:27 Officer Bohn stated "I can see you're an argumentative individual, I don't want to stand around and fuck around with you like that, do you have your license on you or not to which Mr. Beauchamp responds that "he does not have anything on him, and his license are suspended for a child support violation. Officer Bohn responds with "The trifecta is you want you want fuck with me and give me shit right here"

11:12:20 Officer Bohn obtains Mr. Beauchamp's personal information returns to his cruiser to query the information and backup also arrives on scene.

11:26:04 Officer Bohn approached the vehicle with the citation.

11:26:19: Mr. Beauchamp asks Officer Bohn if he is allowed to use profanity to which he responds "it depends on I suppose" Mr. Beauchamp tells Officer Bohn to suck his dick to which Officer Bohn tells Mr. Beauchamp to "pay his child support"

11:30:24 Mr. Beauchamp approaches Officer Horton to plead his case, Officer Horton listens intently but remains silent.

11:31:41 BWC Concluded.

Officer Douglas Horton

At 11:11:51 Officer Horton arrived as a backup unit to Officer Bohn and activated his BWC, no statements were made to or from him. His BWC corroborates the information from his CCA interview on 06/27/2024.

Officer Jay Stephens

At 11:11:49 Officer Stephens arrived as a backup unit to Officer Bohn and activated his BWC, no statements were made to or from him. His BWC corroborates the information from his CCA interview on 06/27/2024.

Clerk of Courts

Mr. Beauchamp was charged with Driving Under FRA Suspension under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §450.16 He plead no contest and was found guilty.

Mr. Beauchamp was charged with Improper Signal or Turn under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §506.80 He plead no contest and was found guilty.

SIGNIFICANT DISCREPANCIES AND CLARIFICATIONS

There were none.

AUTHORITIES

I. CPD Procedure Manual (in-part)

12.205 Traffic Enforcement

Procedure:

A. On-duty Traffic Enforcement Guidelines

1. On ALL motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic stops, officers will complete a Contact Card in Axon Records before the end of shift. Officers will ensure the CAD#, MUTT#, and/or NTA# are entered on the Contact Card.
2. When participating in traffic stops, officers must ensure video and audio equipment is activated.
3. Take appropriate enforcement action whenever a violation is detected, including provable violations determined as the result of accident investigations.....

9. In order for an individual to legally drive a vehicle in Ohio, they must be legally licensed (ORC 4507.02), meaning either this state or another state has conferred upon the driver the privilege to drive, and that privilege is still in effect. There is no requirement for the operator of a motor vehicle to carry, or have about his person, a driver's license.
 - a. Pursuant to ORC 4507.35, if a driver does not have his license and fails to provide satisfactory proof of a valid license, there is a legal presumption that he does not in fact have a valid license. Under those circumstances, the officer has probable cause to arrest the individual for a violation of ORC 4507.02.
 - b. A person supplies satisfactory evidence of his license status by providing the officer with sufficient information, which will allow the officer to verify that license status from the state BMV.
 - c. Pursuant to ORC 4507.35, if a driver does have his license on his person, and refuses to display that license upon the demand of the officer, such action does constitute a first-degree misdemeanor. The person should be charged with a violation of ORC 4507.35.
 - 1) This offense may be hard to establish, since the failure to have a license on his person does not give the officer the right to conduct a pat down or search for the license. Consequently, in cases where an individual tells the officer he does not have a license on him, when in fact he does, but provides sufficient information to the officer to determine a valid license does exist, that person has committed a violation of ORC 4507.35, but the officer may not know it.
 - 2) This violation will normally be charged where the license is discovered pursuant to a search incident to a lawful arrest for some other incident (such as an open warrant or *capias*), or where the individual later admits to the officer he really does have the license on him.

II. Cincinnati Municipal Code (CMC), (in-part)

§ 506-11

- j. Officers encountering violations of CMC Section 506-11, Railroads Crossing Highways at Grade, will obtain the full name of the railroad company, its local business address, the name of the local ticket or freight agent, the name of the conductor of the train, and the name and address of the complainant, if any.

III. CPD Manual of Rules and Regulations (in-part)

Section One-Failure of Good Behavior

§ 1.06

- A. Members of the Department shall always be civil, orderly, and courteous in dealing with the public, subordinates, superiors, and associates.
- B. Members of the Department shall avoid the use of coarse, violent, or profane language.

IV. Cincinnati Police Academy (CPA) Training Bulletin, Verbal Stunning, #2001-1

ANALYSIS

Allegation 1: Improper Stop

Mr. Beauchamp alleged he was improperly stopped.

Officer Bohn observed Mr. Beauchamp commit a lane violation and initiated the traffic stop. CPD (policy) Traffic Enforcement states: Pursuant to ORC 4507.35, if a driver does not have his license and fails to provide satisfactory proof of a valid license, there is a legal presumption that he does not in fact have a valid license. Under those circumstances, the officer has probable cause to arrest the individual for a violation of ORC 4507.02. During the stop Mr. Beauchamp admitted to Officer Bohn he was aware that he was driving with a suspended license due to late child support payments.

The evidence shows that the alleged conduct did occur but did not violate CPD policies, procedures, or training.

Allegation 2: Discourtesy

Mr. Beauchamp alleged that Officer Bohn was unprofessional and discourteous when he used profane language.

CPD Manual of Rules and Regulations states law enforcement Officers must be respectful and courteous to all citizens. They serve their city with zeal, courage, dedication, and fidelity. They are faithful and loyal to their organization, constantly striving to cooperate with and to promote better relations with all regularly constituted law enforcement agencies in matters of mutual interest and obligation. Additionally, CPD Manual of Rules and Regulations § 1.06 Failure of Good Behavior states under section (A), Members of the Department shall always be civil, orderly, and courteous in dealing with the public, subordinates, superiors, and associates. (B): Members of the Department shall avoid the use of course, violent, or profane language. An exception, according to Cincinnati Police Academy (CPA) Training Bulletin, Verbal Stunning, #2001-1, "the use of course, violent, or profane language should be avoided, but verbal stunning, which is the use of profane language, may be condoned in the demand stage."

Officer Bohn's interactions, as captured by BWC footage, reveal instances of discourtesy and unprofessional behavior. Specifically, Officer Bohn's use of profane language, including phrases such as "I don't want to stand here and fuck around with you like this", "You don't have a license and you want to do this dumb shit", "The trifecta is you want you want fuck with me and give me shit right here" and "Pay your child support".

Officer Bohn explained that he made the comments towards Mr. Beauchamp as allowance for verbal stunning under certain conditions, Officer Bohn's use of profanity in this situation was unwarranted and disproportionate.

Moreover, Officer Bohn's demeanor towards Mr. Beauchamp in the incident demonstrates a lack of civility and respect, as mandated by CPD policy. Therefore, the actions of Officer Bohn were not consistent with CPD policy, procedure, and training. This conduct is unbecoming of a Cincinnati Police Officer.

FINDINGS

Original Allegations

Officer Matthew J. Bohn

Improper Stop – The evidence shows that the alleged conduct did occur but did not violate CPD policies, procedures, or training. **Exonerated**

Discourtesy – The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to determine that the incident occurred, and the actions of the officer were improper. **Sustained**

RECOMMENDATION

#R2409 - Corrective and Disciplinary: Officer Training

CCA recommends Officer Bohn receive Customer Service training. This recommendation comes after the review of Officer Bohn's BWC which showed him being unprofessional and using profane language to address a citizen. Customer Service training may provide Officer Bohn with other options in any future encounters with citizens who are compliant but are argumentative.



Ronald Pugh, Investigator



Dena Brown, Interim Director

**PREVIOUS
CONTACTS AND
COMMENDATIONS**

Officer Matthew J. Bohn

Previous Contacts with CCA

Officer Bohn had zero previous contacts with CCA in the past three years.

Previous Contacts with IIS

CCA is unaware of any additional previous contact by Officer Bohn with IIS.

Commendations

Officer Bohn has received zero commendations in the past three years.