

Date: July 18, 2025
To: Dena Brown, CCA Director
From: Joseph Vesper, CCA Investigator
Subject: **CCA Case No. 25069 - Review of Excessive Force, Improper Procedure, Discourtesy, Improper Seizure Allegations by Joseph Vesper**

CCA completed an investigation of CCA Complaint No. 25069 by Ricardo Maxwell, [REDACTED], alleging Excessive Force, Improper Procedure, Discourtesy, Improper Seizure against Officer Mikhale Buck, #P0317, M/B/29, Hire Date: 10/03/2021. This memorandum is intended to convey the conclusions resulting from that investigation and the basis for those conclusions. This memorandum does not intend to summarize all evidence uncovered during the investigation, nor is it intended to summarize the entirety of CCA's file on this matter.

Mr. Maxwell alleged that on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 2:45 p.m. at 1150 West 8th Street, he was stopped by Officer Buck who was discourteous towards him in tone and demeanor. During the stop Officer Buck escalated the situation by his demeanor and used force upon Mr. Maxwell when he was pushed "forward to the ground" without reason. Mr. Maxwell further alleged that his vehicle was improperly seized, because Officer Buck does not like him.

CCA interviewed Mr. Maxwell, Witness Whitney Harris, [REDACTED], Officer Buck, and Sergeant David Moore, M/W/56, #S0599, Hire Date: 01/03/1969, who provided information about the incident. CCA also reviewed relevant body worn camera (BWC) recordings, records from the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, computer aided dispatch (CAD) records, and relevant police records.

Body-worn camera (BWC) footage does not substantiate Mr. Maxwell's claim that Officer Buck employed any physical force, excessive or otherwise, to push him to the ground. Specifically, at timestamp 14:57:11 on Sergeant Moore's BWC, Mr. Maxwell is observed standing behind his vehicle, with Officer Buck positioned directly behind him. Mr. Maxwell took a lateral step to his right and crossed his left leg in front of his right. This movement disrupted his footing and compromised his center of gravity; this resulted in Mr. Maxwell losing balance and falling forward to the ground. At no point does the footage show Officer Buck, apply strikes, joint manipulation, or motion that would have caused Mr. Maxwell to fall. On the contrary, at timestamp 14:57:09, Officer Buck is visibly seen reaching out to hold onto Mr. Maxwell's arm, in an effort to try and steady him, after he had tripped over his own legs.

BWC, and Officer statements also do not support any conclusion that Officer Buck escalated the encounter or acted in a discourteous manner toward Mr. Maxwell. In his interview with the Citizen Complaint Authority (CCA), after he was asked why he had raised his voice and asserted authority during the interaction Officer Buck stated, "To get compliance." Moreover, this was done to maintain control of the situation and ensure compliance, not to provoke, demean, or escalate the situation. While assertive, the tone and conduct did not rise to the level of discourtesy.

Finally, credible evidence, specifically, relevant BWC footage, proves that Officer Buck seized Mr. Maxwell's vehicle, and had it towed to the police impound lot. Officer Buck explained in his CCA interview that it was towed because, "It didn't have a license plate or anything, so technically it can't be on the roadway." Despite the action taken, CPD Procedure § 12.270 Impounding, Moving, and Release of Vehicles and § 12.255 Impounding/Processing Delinquent Vehicles and Tags, which states in-part, "The investigating officer has the discretion at any time to impound any delinquent vehicle when circumstances dictate, this granted Officer Buck the ability to impound Mr. Maxwell's vehicle. CMC Sec. 513 – 1. Impoundment of Motor Vehicles, states in-part, "Any police officer may impound and cause to be towed any motor vehicle: "(6) Which does not display currently valid license plates."¹

Therefore, the seizure and subsequent tow action of Officer Buck was consistent with CPD policy, procedure, and training.

Findings:


Based on my investigation and review of the evidence uncovered, I recommend the following findings for your endorsement (findings are defined in the attachment to this memorandum):

Allegations

No.	Allegation	Involved Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Excessive Force	Mikhale Buck	Ricardo Maxwell	Unfounded
2	Improper Procedure (De-Escalation)	Mikhale Buck	Ricardo Maxwell	Unfounded
3	Discourtesy	Mikhale Buck	Ricardo Maxwell	Unfounded
4	Improper Seizure	Mikhale Buck	Ricardo Maxwell	Exonerated

Recommendation/Observation:

There were none.



 Joseph Vesper, Investigator



 Dena Brown, Interim Director

¹ ("Police will also frequently remove and impound automobiles which violate parking ordinances, and which thereby jeopardize both the public safety and the efficient movement of vehicular traffic. The authority of police to seize and remove from the street's vehicles impeding traffic or threatening public safety and convenience is beyond challenge.") *South Dakota v. Opperman*, 428 U.S. 364, 368 (1976). *also see Blue Ash v. Kavanagh*, 2007-Ohio-1103, ¶ 11, 113 Ohio St. 3d 67, 69, 862 N.E.2d 810, 812.