

Case: #24190

Complainant: Keanna Williams

Investigator: Jessalyn Goodman

CCA completed an investigation of CCA Complaint No. 24190 by Keanna Williams. This report is intended to convey the conclusions reached as a consequence of the investigation, and the basis for those conclusions. This report 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.

Complaint Summary:

Date: August 13, 2024

Date Complaint Received: September 23, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date Records Requested: September 23, 2024

Location: 3401 Montgomery Road

Date Records Received: April 7, 2025

Ms. Keanna Williams's minor son (referred to in this report as "KJ") left their residence and went to a nearby store. Meanwhile, CPD officers had received a description of a recent armed robbery suspect ("Black male with locs"). With this description, CPD officers drew their firearms, stopped KJ, and placed him in handcuffs.

When Ms. Williams arrived, she observed the officers stand up KJ from the ground and place him in a CPD cruiser. When she asked what happened "to [her] baby," a sergeant replied, "Well, he doesn't look like a baby to me." Eventually, the robbery victim drove by and advised officers that KJ was not the suspect. KJ was released and not charged.

Ms. Williams is concerned that the officers relied on a vague description to stop KJ, which matched most of the men in the area, and pointed their firearms at KJ.

Allegations:

Improper Stop
Improper Pointing of a Firearm
Discourtesy
Improper Procedure

Persons Involved:

Officer Eric Gilbert, P0050, M/W/51, Hire Date: 02/17/2002, (Involved)
Officer Melissa Patterson, P0550, F/W/38, Hire Date: 08/07/2022, (Witness)
Sergeant Bradley White, S0222, M/W/60, Hire Date: 06/07/1992, (Involved)
KJ, M/B/15 (Involved)
Keanna Williams, F/B/41 (Complainant)

Evidence Reviewed:

Hamilton County Clerk of Courts
CPD Records Management System (Axon)
CPD Internal Investigation Section (IIS) Report
CPD Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)
Body-Worn Camera (BWC) of Officers Gilbert, Patterson and Sergeant White
Statements by officers and complainant

Significant Discrepancies or Clarifications:

1. Ms. Williams declined to have KJ be interviewed by CCA.
2. CCA requested the initial records of the incident in September 2024. Initially, CCA corresponded with IIS; IIS indicated they had difficulty locating the associated run related to the complaint. In November 2024, the case was transferred to CPD Records to receive the associated records. In April 2025, Records provided CCA with records related to the reported incident.

Authorities:

CPD Procedure § 12.554 Investigatory Stops (Revised 08/02/2024)
CPD Procedure § 12.550 Discharging of a Firearm (Revised 06/22/2017)
CPD Manual of Rules and Regulations – Section One – Failure of Good Behavior

Analysis:

On August 13, 2024, at 1610 Dauner Avenue, a suspect was alleged to have put a firearm to an individual's head and taken her purse before walking to a corner store (possibly Blair Market). The robbery was reported to the Emergency Communications Center (ECC).

Allegation: Improper Stop

Per the CAD Report, ECC broadcast the initial description of the robbery suspect to be a thin, Black male, approximately 18 years old and wearing gray sweatpants. The initial description was given at 14:27:21; Officer Melissa Patterson responded to speak with the victim. During the conversation, the victim provided additional information to include the suspect was with a thin, dark-skinned, Black male with short twists (hairstyle), who was with someone who was wearing an orange hood.

In his statement to CCA, Officer Gilbert stated that the officers initially looked in the areas the victim believed the suspects frequented but explained they did not observe any individuals who matched the provided description. He stated that later, another officer radioed about a sighting with an individual who matched the given description in the vicinity of the robbery. Officer Gilbert initiated contact with KJ at 15:29:06 at Woodburn Ave and Gilbert Ave, which is approximately 0.3 miles from the incident location. BWC footage showed Officer Gilbert approach and detain KJ, a thin, dark-skinned Black male, who matched the description of the initial suspect, wearing an orange t-shirt, which matched the description of the second individual.

CPD Procedure § 12.554 Investigatory Stops states that during a “Terry type encounter...when an officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the citizen is committing or has committed a crime, the officer may forcibly stop and detain the citizen for a brief investigatory period.”

BWC showed KJ was detained and handcuffed for approximately six and a half minutes; during his detainment, the victim drove by the location. The victim did not identify KJ as the person involved with the robbery. Once the officers received this supplemental information, KJ was released from detainment. Based on the information available, as provided by the CAD report and suspect description, and because KJ matched the description, Officer Gilbert had reasonable suspicion to stop KJ.

Therefore, the actions of Officer Gilbert were consistent with CPD’s policy, procedure, and training.

Allegation: Improper Pointing of a Firearm

BWC footage showed that during his initial contact with KJ, Officer Gilbert displayed his firearm and maintained it at the low ready; his finger remained on the trigger guard. In his statement to CCA, Officer Gilbert stated that he displayed his firearm because a firearm had been used in the initial offense and officers are trained, when responding to a violent offense with a weapon, to be prepared if a threat is presented. He confirmed he only displays his firearm if he has concern for the safety of himself or others.

Per CPD Procedure § 12.550 Discharging of Firearms by Police Personnel, “At such time as a police officer perceives what he interprets to be a threat of loss of life or serious physical harm to himself or others at the hands of another, he has the authority to display a firearm, with finger outside the trigger guard and have it ready for self-defense.” Based on the available information, it was reasonable for Officer Gilbert to have concerns about the presence of a firearm for a person suspected of recent involvement in a firearm-related crime.

Therefore, the actions of Officer Gilbert were consistent with CPD’s policy, procedure, and training.

Allegation: Discourtesy

Ms. Williams alleged Sergeant White was discourteous when he spoke with her regarding KJ. Specifically, she reported that she asked him what happened “to [her] baby,” he replied, “Well, he doesn’t look like a baby to me.” BWC footage showed that this interaction during their encounter:

Ms. Williams: My baby just came out. He just going to get – he just going to get change.
Sergeant White: Your baby – your baby’s a little big to be called a baby. But let’s calm down. He’s fine, but he’s a suspect in a crime that we are investigating.

CPD Rules and Regulations Section One Failure of Good Behavior §1.06 A and B states that officers “shall always be civil, orderly, and courteous in dealing with the public, subordinates, superiors, and associates” and “shall avoid the use of coarse, violent, or profane language.” Sergeant White’s comment was made while Sergeant White attempted to calm Ms. Williams and explain the circumstances involving KJ’s detention. His words and tone, in context and on review, were not disrespectful or discourteous.

Therefore, the actions of Sergeant White were consistent with CPD's policy, procedure, and training.

Collateral Allegation

Allegation: Improper Procedure

Officer Gilbert stated that he completed a contact card. BWC footage captured Ms. Williams's refusal to provide KJ's identifying information for the completion of the contact card, which was reported to ECC and noted in the CAD. In his statement to CCA, Officer Gilbert confirmed that this circumstance required the completion of a contact card; even though Ms. Williams declined to provide her or KJ's information, the form would be filled out with the available information. Officer Gilbert reported that he completed a contact card regarding this encounter.

CPD Policy 12.554 Investigatory Stops states that a Contact Card must be completed for any vehicle passenger or pedestrian detention which meets the definition of a "Terry" stop unless the stop results in an arrest or citation; this was a "Terry" type encounter (as indicated previously) and Officer Gilbert did not arrest nor cite KJ. CCA requested all media and CPD Records did not supply CCA with a copy of the contact card. Consequently, CCA must conclude that a contact card was not completed.

Therefore, the actions of Sergeant White were inconsistent with CPD's policy, procedure, and training.


Findings:

Original Allegations


No.	Allegation	Involved Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Stop	Eric Gilbert	KJ (a minor)	Exonerated
2	Improper Pointing of a Firearm	Eric Gilbert	KJ (a minor)	Exonerated
3	Discourtesy	Brad White	Keanna Williams	Unfounded

Collateral Allegations

No.	Allegation	Involved Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
1	Improper Procedure	Eric Gilbert	KJ (a minor)	Sustained



Jessalyn Goodman, Investigator



John Kennedy, Director