

Date: April 25, 2025

To: Dena Brown, CCA Interim Director

From: Ronald Pugh, CCA Investigator

Subject: **CCA Case No. 25011 - Review of Improper Stop and Improper Search Allegations by Shelia Gunn**

CCA completed an investigation of CCA Complaint No. 25011 by Shelia Gunn, (F/B/62), alleging Improper Stop and Improper Search against Officer Jermey Chitwood, P0049, (M/W/35), CPD Hire Date 12/01/2019, Zachary Mitchell, P0522, (M/W/28), CPD Hire Date 08/07/2022, and Grant Perry, P0382, (M/W/44), CPD Hire Date 12/04/2016. 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.

Ms. Gunn alleged that on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 1:10pm Officer Chitwood stopped in front of her residence and asked "if her three grandsons that were there were ok, she stated that one of her grandsons told him yes, then Officer Chitwood proceeded to pull into and out of her driveway. She stated approximately 10-15 minutes later, Officer Chitwood along with unmarked vehicles followed her grandsons down the street and "jumped out" on them with guns drawn ordering them on the ground. During the stop the officers threatened her 16-year-old grandson with taking him to 20/20 (Hamilton County Juvenile Justice Center), for no reason. She also stated an officer was laughing at them saying that is why you are dirty now because they had the kids in the mud."

Ms. Gunn stated Officer Chitwood had a previous run in with the driver of the vehicle, Ty Westlake, which led her to believe that is why the officer stopped by her residence in the first place.

CCA interviewed Ms. Gunn, Officers Chitwood, Mitchell and Perry. CCA made attempts to interview the other individuals in the vehicle but was unsuccessful. CCA also reviewed relevant body worn camera (BWC) recordings, relevant police records, records from the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts and computer aided dispatch (CAD) records.

Credible evidence, specifically, relevant BWC footage, proves that despite the action taken, the actions of Officers Chitwood, Mitchell and Perry were justified. Specifically, the evidence establishes the following:

- The officers had reasonable suspicion to stop the vehicle due to the vehicle running stop signs and driving erratically.
- The officers frisked all occupants of the vehicle in accordance with a lawful exception to the general rule that a search warrant is required under the U.S. Constitution. Multiple firearms, marijuana over the legal limit packaged for sale, a scale and large amount of U.S. currency was recovered.

Collateral Allegation

During the investigation, CCA added a collateral allegation of Improper Pointing of a Firearm from the complaints of the individuals after reviewing the BWC. The officers drew their firearms for safety only after the occupants of the vehicle opened all the doors and ran towards the officers, fearing their safety when the traffic stop was initiated.

Therefore, the actions of Officers Chitwood, Mitchell and Perry were 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	Improper Stop	Jermey Chitwood	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
2	Improper Stop	Zachary Mitchell	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
3	Improper Stop	Grant Perry	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
4	Improper Search	Jermey Chitwood	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
5	Improper Search	Zachary Mitchell	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
6	Improper Search	Grant Perry	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated

Collateral Allegation

No.	Allegation	Involved Officer	Involved Citizen	Finding
7	Improper Pointing of a Firearm	Jeremy Chitwood	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
8	Improper Pointing of a Firearm	Zachary Mitchell	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated
9	Improper Pointing of a Firearm	Grant Perry	Shelia Gunn	Exonerated

RONALD PUGH

21 Apr 2025, 14:02:10, EDT

Ronald Pugh, Investigator

DENA BROWN

21 Apr 2025, 13:31:15, EDT

Dena Brown, Interim Director