

**Date:** April 25, 2025

**Case:** 25024

**Investigator:** Robert Stephens

**Complaint Received:** February 11, 2025

**Complainant:** Christopher Carson

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CCA completed an investigation of CCA Complaint No. 25024 by Christopher Carson. 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: January 29, 2025

Time: 5:38 pm

Location: 3400 Victory Parkway

Mr. Carson alleged he was improperly stopped by Cincinnati police officers, handcuffed and his vehicle was searched. He stated that in the handcuffing, he was "slammed" against his vehicle. Furthermore, Mr. Carson attests that his fourth amendment rights were violated.

**Allegations:**

Improper Stop  
Excessive Force  
Improper Search

**Persons Involved:**

Officer Nicholas Treinen, P0566, M/W/24, CPD Hire date 8/7/2022, (Involved)  
Officer Austin Watson, P0169, M/W/25, CPD Hire date 7/25/2021, (Involved)  
Officer Grant Perry, P0382, M/W/43, CPD Hire date 12/4/2016, (Witness)  
Officer Nicholas Dezarn, P0002, M/W/28, CPD Hire date 1/13/2019, (Witness)  
Christopher Carson, M/B/42, (Complainant)

**Evidence Reviewed:**

Hamilton County Clerk of Courts  
CPD Records Management System (Axon)  
CPD Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)  
Body-Worn Camera (BWC) of Officers Treinen, Watson, Perry and Dezarn.  
Statements by officers, complainant, and relevant witnesses

### Significant Discrepancies or Clarifications:

Mr. Carson was cited with Cincinnati Municipal Code (CMC) §506-80 Improper Signal or Turn. The citation was dismissed on March 27, 2025.

### Authorities:

CPD Procedure § 12.205 Traffic Enforcement (Revised 08/02/2024)

CPD Procedure § 12.545 Use of Force (Revised 04/12/2024)

### Analysis:

#### **Allegation: Improper Stop**

Credible evidence, specifically, consistent statements provided by the officers, proved that Officers Treinen and Watson did stop Mr. Carson for a traffic stop. However, despite the action taken, CPD Procedure Manual § 12.205 permitted the conduct that occurred. Specifically, the evidence establishes the following:

- The officers had reasonable suspicion to stop Mr. Carson for IMPROPER SIGNAL OR TURN 506-80 CMCN<sup>1</sup>. CPD Procedure Manual 12.205 Traffic enforcement states, “Take appropriate enforcement action whenever a violation is detected.” Officers Perry and Dezarn were in plain clothes and were operating an unmarked police vehicle. During their observation of Mr. Carson, they noted a traffic violation. They observed Mr. Carson driving on Reading Rd changing lanes without using a turn signal. This violation of CMCN 506-80 was relayed to uniformed Officers Treinen and Watson that performed the traffic stop.

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

#### **Allegation: Excessive Force**

Mr. Carson alleged the officers used excessive force when placing him into handcuffs and when he was slammed against the vehicle. BWC footage contradicted the complainant’s version of what occurred. BWC shows that Mr. Carson was asked to step out of the vehicle several times. Officers Treinen and Watson took ahold of Mr. Carson’s wrists and escorted<sup>2</sup> Mr. Carson out of the vehicle to the standing position. Mr. Carson was instructed to turn and face the vehicle by Officer Treinen. BWC showed Mr. Carson turned toward the vehicle and handcuffed. BWC does not show any force by CPD in the detention of Mr. Carson. Mr. Carson was placed in the back of the police cruiser during the remainder of the investigation.

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<sup>1</sup>Sec. 506-80. - Changing Course of or Stopping Vehicle - No person shall turn a vehicle in an intersection unless the vehicle is in proper position upon the roadway as required in Section 506-84 or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety. No person shall so turn any vehicle without giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided in the event any other traffic may be affected by such movement.

<sup>2</sup> CPD Procedure Manual 12.545 Use of Force defines Escorting as “The use of light pressure to guide a person or keep a person in place.”

Officers used light pressure to guide Mr. Carson, which is defined by CPD to be “escorting,” and is not considered by CPD policy to be “Use of Force<sup>3</sup>,” and does not rise to the level of objectively unreasonable force. There is no information establishing that Officers Treinen and Watson used excessive force as alleged.

### **Allegation: Improper Search**

Credible evidence, specifically, relevant BWC footage, proves that Officers Treinen and Watson searched Mr. Carson’s vehicle. However, despite the action taken, Mr. Carson’s consent permitted the conduct that occurred.

Therefore, the actions of Officers Treinen and Watson were consistent with CPD’s policy, procedure, and training.

### **Findings:**

#### **Original Allegations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Involved Officer</b>	<b>Involved Citizen</b>	<b>Finding</b>
1	Improper Stop	Nicholas Treinen	Christopher Carson	Exonerated
2	Improper Stop	Austin Watson	Christopher Carson	Exonerated
3	Excessive Force	Nicholas Treinen	Christopher Carson	Unfounded
4	Excessive Force	Austin Watson	Christopher Carson	Unfounded
5	Improper Search	Nicholas Treinen	Christopher Carson	Exonerated
6	Improper Search	Austin Watson	Christopher Carson	Exonerated



21 Apr 2025, 13:32:55, EDT

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**Robert Stephens, Investigator**



21 Apr 2025, 13:00:43, EDT

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**Dena Brown, Interim Director**

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<sup>3</sup> CPD Procedure Manual 12.545 Use of Force defines Force as “Any physical strike, instrumental contact with a person, or any significant physical contact that restricts movement of a person. The term includes, but is not limited to, the use of firearms, Conducted Energy Weapons (Pregnant), chemical irritant, choke holds or hard hands, the taking of a subject to the ground, or the deployment of a canine. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person with no or minimal resistance.”