

**Case:** #21102

**Investigator:** Robert Stephens

**Complaint Received:** June 7, 2021

**Complainant:** Robin Hawkins

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**Complaint Summary:**

Date: June 5, 2021

Time: 10:10 pm

Location: 2700 block of Vine Street

Per CPD: *Complainant was travelling north on Short Vine when off duty officer now identified as Police Officer Amir Uruci made a U-turn in front of her. She stopped but didn't believe she has struck his personal vehicle. Officer Uruci was in civilian clothes, and she became scared when he began to yell at her about damage to his car. Ms. Hawkins stated she didn't get out of the car because she felt threatened by Officer Uruci's behavior. She didn't believe she struck Officer Uruci's car, so she left the scene to return to her mother's residence.*

*While driving to her mother's residence, PO Uruci followed Ms. Hawkins. Once Ms. Hawkins was parked Officer Uruci blocked her in and approached her vehicle. He identified himself as a police officer (gun and badge visible on his waist) and took Ms. Hawkins car keys. Ms. Hawkins was not free to leave and was ordered to stay in the car until police arrived. Ms. Hawkins called her mother to meet her in the parking lot where Officer Uruci had her detained. Additional officers then arrived.*

**Allegations:**

Improper Stop

**Persons Involved:**

Officer Amir Uruci, #P0487, M/W/34 (CPD, Involved)  
Officer Eric Wolf, #P0488, M/W/34 (CPD, Witness)  
Officer Eric Bley, #P0114, M/W/23 (CPD, Witness)  
Sergeant Olivia Greer, #S0144, F/B/52 (CPD, Witness)  
Robin Hawkins, F/B/38 (Citizen, Complainant)  
Witness A, F/B/Unknown (Citizen, Witness)  
Witness B, F/W/Unknown (Citizen, Witness)

**Evidence Reviewed:**

CPD Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)  
Emergency Communication Center (ECC) audio logs  
Body-Worn Camera (BWC)  
CPD Internal Investigation Section (IIS) Report  
Statements by officers, complainant, and relevant witnesses

### Authorities:

CPD Procedure § 12.554 Investigatory Stops (Revised 08/01/2019)  
CPD Procedure § 12.205 Traffic Enforcement (Revised 08/01/2019)  
CPD Manual of Rules and Regulations – Section One – Failure of Good Behavior  
CPD Manual of Rules and Regulations – Section Two – Neglect of Duty

### Analysis:

Per statements made to CCA and recorded on responding officer BWCs, there was a traffic incident that occurred between Officer Uruci and Ms. Hawkins. Officer Uruci was driving his personal vehicle and was off duty at the time of this incident. Upon allegedly getting his car struck by Ms. Hawkins' car, Officer Uruci exited his vehicle to observe the damage and to confront Ms. Hawkins, the other driver. Both Officer Uruci and Ms. Hawkins stated to responding officers on the BWC footage that Officer Uruci had no visible gun or badge at this time. Ms. Hawkins remained inside her vehicle then proceeded to drive away due to fear she had from the other driver, later identified as a CPD officer, Officer Uruci.

### **Allegation: Improper Stop**

Officer Uruci observed Ms. Hawkins strike his vehicle and leave the scene of the accident. Such action implicates Ohio Revised Code ("ORC") Section 4549.02 (Stopping after accident on public roads or highways), which makes it a crime to knowingly leave the scene of an accident. Officer Uruci stated that the impact resulted in no apparent injuries to himself or others. If Officer Uruci's observations of Ms. Hawkins' conduct were true, then in the absence of injuries, Ms. Hawkins might have been in violation of Section 4549.02, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

CPD Procedure Manual § 12.554 Investigatory Stops provides the levels of permissible police/citizen contact. One of the levels is the "Terry stop." Describing the test for when an officer may conduct a Terry stop, the Manual states, "Here the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the citizen is committing or has committed a crime. Based on this reasonable suspicion, the officer may forcibly stop and detain the citizen for a brief investigatory period." In this case, Officer Uruci had reasonable suspicion to believe Ms. Hawkins committed a crime, for he observed both the traffic accident and the failure to stop due to him being an involved party. The existence of a crash, and his claim regarding Ms. Hawkins' role in it, is corroborated by statements ultimately made by her, where she admitted to having crashed into Officer Uruci's car with her own. Provided that CPD policy approved him to act on that reasonable suspicion while off-duty, any such stop of Ms. Hawkins made by him was permissible.

Officer Uruci followed Ms. Hawkins once she drove away, calling ECC while following Ms. Hawkins. CPD Procedure Manual § 12.205 Traffic Enforcement outlines off-duty enforcement guidelines. "Off-duty officers who determine enforcement action is appropriate will contact ECC to request an on-duty police officer and supervisor to respond to the scene to conduct the investigation." According to his statement, due to Officer Uruci's observation of a driver committing a hit and run, he believed that enforcement action was necessary and contacted ECC.

CPD Procedure Manual continues, "Officers will not try to stop *vehicles* while off duty unless it is a serious life-threatening situation" (emphasis added). Officer Uruci followed Ms. Hawkins using his personal vehicle that does not have lights or sirens on it. An attempt to stop Ms. Hawkins'

vehicle did not transpire. However, Officer Uruci followed Ms. Hawkins until she pulled into a parking space at her mother's residence.

Once Ms. Hawkins arrived at her mother's residence, she exited her vehicle and proceeded to walk away. Officer Uruci exited his vehicle and informed Ms. Hawkins that he was an officer and that she was not free to leave. Officer Uruci stated in his CCA interview, "She knew I was a police officer at this time, but she didn't know initially, I'm assuming." While following Ms. Hawkins, Officer Uruci equipped both his badge and firearm to his belt. At the point of the second interaction, Officer Uruci had both his badge and firearm visible to Ms. Hawkins. Officer Uruci stopped Ms. Hawkins and detained her for approximately six minutes until uniformed officers arrived.

Clearly, Officer Uruci transitioned from acting solely as a citizen to acting as a law enforcement agent. This transition was evidenced by his display of a badge and firearm; his seizure of Ms. Hawkins' person, and later her property; the giving of verbal commands; and his statement to Ms. Hawkins that he was a law enforcement officer.

CPD Rules and Regulations 2.07 states, "Members are obligated to take action in any criminal or emergency situation coming to their attention, whether on or off-duty, in accordance with City ordinances, State law, and Department policy."

CPD Procedure Manual § 12.555 Arrest/Citation: Processing of Adult Misdemeanor and Felony Offenders, notes that when officers are outside of Cincinnati city limits, taking immediate enforcement action is only allowed when the action is in response to a felony violation. However, this interaction between Officer Uruci and Ms. Hawkins transpired inside the City of Cincinnati, thus not limiting the actions of Officer Uruci to the threshold of a felony.

Officer Uruci stated in his interview that Ms. Hawkins requested to get items from her vehicle. Officer Uruci allowed Ms. Hawkins to enter the car; however, he subsequently took Ms. Hawkins' keys and placed them on the hood of his vehicle. Officer Uruci stated he took her keys from Ms. Hawkins to prevent her from driving away, again. Officer Uruci was authorized to detain Ms. Hawkins, therefore, his temporary removal of her keys was more likely than not, a permissible extension of his detention. Therefore, Officer Uruci was within CPD's policy, procedure, and training.

**Note:**

According to BWC, interviews, and Hamilton County court records, a crash report was made, but Ms. Hawkins was never arrested, cited, or charged.

Both the location of the accident and Ms. Hawkins mother's residence was within Cincinnati city limits.

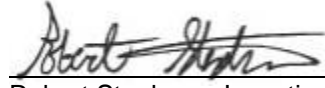
No BWC footage of the accident or Officer Uruci's interaction with Ms. Hawkins were available due to the fact that Officer Uruci was off-duty.

**Findings:**

Officer Amir Uruci

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

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Robert Stephens, Investigator



Gabriel Davis, Director

July 15, 2022

Date

**Previous Contacts and Commendations:**

**Officer Amir Uruci**

**Previous Contacts with CCA**

Officer Uruci had two previous contacts with CCA in the past three years.

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Finding</b>
21077	Discourtesy	Referred
20219	Lack of Service	Referred

**Previous Contact with IIS**

Officer Uruci had one previous contact with IIS in the past three years.

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Finding</b>
2020-054	Excessive Force	Unfounded

**Commendations**

Officer Uruci received one commendation in the past three years.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Source of Commendation Received</b>
01/22/2020	Civilian