



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony W. Rosa
Chief of Police

10440 West Oakland Park Blvd.
Sunrise, Florida 33351
(954) 746-3600



Internal Affairs Investigation

Subject Officer:

Officer Allen Stotler

IA Case No. 21-10-01

Incident Date: August 30, 2021

Complainant

Jamean Anderson

Internal Affairs Investigator

Lt. P. Brian Katz



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Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

I. INTRODUCTION:

Subject Employee: Officer Allen Stotler

Complainant: Jamean Anderson

Witnesses: Officer Morgan Mosher, Officer Mark Krumenaker,
Detective David McCann, PSA Abby Jantzen

On August 30, 2021, at approximately 6:33am, Ofc. Stotler conducted a traffic stop at the 10100 block of W. Oakland Park Blvd on a black 2002 Nissan, bearing an expired FL tag of GEUF70 for having flashing blue/green lights on the front of the vehicle. Upon making contact with the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle (Mr. Jamean Anderson), Ofc. Stotler identified himself and explained the reason for the traffic stop. Mr. Anderson advised that he did not have his license with him and also stated that he had a firearm in his glovebox. Mr. Anderson asked if he could call his wife on his cell phone to bring his license to the location of the traffic stop. Ofc. Stotler requested that Mr. Anderson turn off the vehicle, hand him the keys, and not call anyone until he could verify who he was. Ofc. Stotler requested back-up Officers to respond and Officers Mosher and Krumenaker (Jr) arrived on scene. Mr. Anderson was issued two Florida Uniform Traffic Citations on scene for (1) "Certain Lights Prohibited" (F.S.S. – 316.2397) and (2) "Expired Tag" (F.S.S. – 320.07-3a). However, a third Florida Uniform Traffic Citation was filed with the Clerk of the Court for (3) "No Driver's License Carried" (F.S.S. – 322.15-1). The entire incident lasted approximately 14 minutes and was captured on the listed Officers BWC.

On October 4, 2021, Chief Anthony W. Rosa was given a hand-written complaint by a member of the public (Ms. Peggy Krege) during a Law Enforcement Review and Advisory Board Meeting. The complaint was on Ofc. Stotler and was allegedly authored by Jamean Anderson. Chief Rosa gave this investigator the hand-written complaint, to which I made copy for Ms. Krege and retained the original with this investigative file.

On October 5, 2021, I gave the written complaint to Ofc. Stotler's immediate supervisor (Sgt. Jeremy Copas – Traffic Unit) and advised him to complete a Preliminary Complaint Report and forward to the Chief of Police via his Chain of Command.

On October 7, 2021, Chief Anthony W. Rosa authorized a formal investigation into this case.

The *Investigative Narrative* section outlines the details of my investigation into this matter and my conclusions with respect to any violations are found in the *Investigative Findings and Disposition* section.



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Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

II. INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE:

On October 5, 2021, I made contact with the complainant (Jamean Anderson) via telephone and scheduled an appointment for him to come in on 10/11/2021 to provide a sworn taped statement for this case.

On October 6, 2021, Sgt. Jeremey Copas completed a Preliminary Complaint Report and attached the hand-written complaint filed by Mr. Anderson.

On October 7, 2021, Chief Anthony W. Rosa authorized a formal investigation into this incident and the actions of Ofc. Stotler. On this date, I pulled all of the documents related to this case to include the CAD Report, and three Uniform Traffic Citations:

1. Traffic Citation # AEQGT4E – “Certain Lights Prohibited” – (via Clerk of the Court.)
2. Traffic Citation # AEQGT5E – “Expired Tag” – (via Sunrise Records Unit.)
3. Traffic Citation # AEQGT6E – “D/L Not Carried” – (via Sunrise Records Unit.)

Also, on this date, I reviewed all of the BWC of this incident to include all of the witness Officers. It was revealed that upon making contact with Mr. Anderson, Ofc. Stotler immediately identified himself and the reason for the traffic stop (flashing blue/green lights in the front of Mr. Anderson’s vehicle). Mr. Anderson does not have any identification on him and advises Ofc. Stotler that he had a firearm in the glove compartment. Mr. Anderson asks Ofc. Stotler if he can call his wife to bring his driver’s license to the location of the traffic stop. Ofc. Stotler then instructs Mr. Anderson that he is detaining him and requests him to turn off his vehicle, hand him the keys, and tells him not to call anyone until he can verify his identity. This clearly agitates Mr. Anderson, who asks Ofc. Stotler to shine his flashlight into his glove compartment, so he can show him the registration, which is also where the firearm is located. Mr. Anderson tells Ofc. Stotler that he can remove the firearm from his glove compartment. Mr. Anderson also insists that his wife can bring his driver’s license to the scene of the traffic stop.

Even though Mr. Anderson is driving a motor vehicle without any identification, he tells Ofc. Stotler that he is “*unlawfully detaining him*” and requests Ofc. Stotler’s “*name and badge number*”, which Ofc. Stotler provides.

At this point, it is only a couple minutes into the traffic stop, Ofc. Stotler is alone, Mr. Anderson has not been identified, he has an expired vehicle license plate, with flashing blue/green lights on the front of his vehicle, there is a possible firearm in glove compartment, and the interaction between Mr. Anderson and Ofc. Stotler has become contentious. Ofc. Stotler is heard asking for a back-up Officer over his police radio.

While waiting for back-up Officers to arrive, Mr. Anderson begins to “name drop” and says he knows “*Officer Hudson*” and names two City of Sunrise Commissioners, who one of which, he states that he is going to report Ofc. Stotler to. This is clearly done in an attempt to intimate Ofc. Stotler in the performance of his duties. It is clear from the BWC and in the hand-written complaint that Mr. Anderson truly believes that if he could have someone (his wife) bring his driver’s license to the scene of the traffic stop, that he should not be issued a citation. Mr. Anderson also tells Ofc. Stotler that he is in a hurry because there is a “*emergency*” at his barber’s shop. When Ofc. Stotler inquired about the nature of the “*emergency*”, Mr. Anderson advises that one of his hair stylists is “*locked out*”.

Shortly thereafter, Officers Mosher and Krumenacker (Jr.) arrive as back-up Officers. Ofc. Stotler tells the other Officers that there is a firearm in the vehicle and requests that they have Mr. Anderson step out of the vehicle. Ofc. Stotler tells them: “*No cuffs or anything, just make sure he gets out of the roadway safely*”. Ofc. Stotler removes the firearm from Mr. Anderson’s vehicle and secures it in his own police vehicle, while he attempts to verify Mr. Anderson’s identity and complete the Uniform Traffic Citations. Ofc. Stotler issues Mr. Anderson two citations: Traffic Citation # AEQGT4E – “**Certain Lights Prohibited**” and Traffic Citation # AEQGT5E – “**Expired Tag**”. Officers Mosher and Krumenacker (Jr.) allow Mr. Anderson to call his wife on his cell phone. Ofc. Stotler, places the firearm in Mr. Anderson’s trunk, closes it and advises him that he is free to leave. The traffic stop is then concluded and Mr. Anderson drives away.

After the traffic stop is concluded, Ofc. Mosher is heard asking Ofc. Stotler about writing Mr. Anderson a citation for not carrying his driver’s license while operating a motor vehicle by asking: “*You didn’t issue him a ticket for no D/L did you?*”, to which Ofc. Stotler responds: “*No, because in good faith, he said his wife was coming with it*”.

On October 11, 2021, Mr. Anderson responded to the Sunrise Police Department, where we spoke in my office. Mr. Anderson advised that he did not wish to provide a sworn taped statement and withdrew his formal complaint on Ofc. Stotler. He further advised that when he went to traffic court to pay the two citations, he realized that he was actually issued three citations and provided the receipts and stamped copies of the citations from Broward County Courthouse – West Satellite Court). The third citation provided by Mr. Anderson was: Traffic Citation # AEQGT6E – “**D/L Not Carried**”. Mr. Anderson could not understand how he was issued a third citation if Ofc. Stotler had only provided him with two on the day of the traffic stop. (***It should be noted that the BWC for this stop verified that Mr. Anderson was never issued this third citation for No D/L Carried by Ofc. Stotler during the traffic stop***). Overall, Mr. Anderson thought Ofc. Stotler could have handled the situation with all around better communication skills. I informed Mr. Anderson that this investigation will still move forward even though he withdrew his formal complaint (See attached Civilian Complainant Withdrawal and Release Form).

Also, on this date, I instructed Sgt. Copas and Ofc. Stotler to respond to my office with Ofc. Stotler's department issued laptop computer. Ofc. Stotler was not asked any questions on this date, and I seized the computer to further investigate the reason behind a third citation being issued to Mr. Anderson. Ofc. Stotler was given a property receipt, signed by this investigator for his computer. On this date, I turned over the computer to Det. David McCann of the Information and Technology Unit, to download the information on his computer relevant to these three citations. (See attached property receipt).

On October 11, 2021, I obtained a sworn taped statement from Ofc. Mosher regarding this incident. Ofc. Mosher advised that he responded to the location of the traffic stop as a back-up Officer for Ofc. Stotler. Ofc. Mosher further advised that he was training Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr), whom was riding with him on this day. I asked Ofc. Mosher if there were any Officer Safety concerns that he could remember about this traffic stop, to which he advised: *"Well, we didn't know what it was due to the person wasn't identified yet by Ofc. Stotler. Also, there was a firearm, so we were just being careful"*.

Ofc. Mosher advised that Mr. Anderson appeared to be agitated from the moment he arrived to back-up Ofc. Stotler. Ofc. Mosher stated that Mr. Anderson stated to him that he was pulled over for having flashing lights. I asked Ofc. Mosher if it appeared that Mr. Anderson disagreed with being pulled over in the first place, to which Ofc. Mosher stated: *"Yes"*.

I asked Ofc. Mosher to describe the conversation he had while standing with Mr. Anderson, as Ofc. Stotler was completing the citations, and he advised: *"He was leaving the house 'cause he said he owned a business and the, one of the people were locked out of the business and he, you know, was saying how important it was... and to appease him I got the phone for him to let him to let him call somebody so they felt better about everything"*.

Ofc. Mosher advised that Ofc. Stotler was not attempting to prolong the traffic stop any further, other than to issue Mr. Anderson the traffic citation(s). I asked Ofc. Mosher if he remembered how many citations Ofc. Stotler issued to Mr. Anderson and what they were for, to which he replied: *"He issued him two... The lights and the expired tag"*.

I asked Ofc. Mosher if he knew if Mr. Anderson was attempting to get his driver's license brought to the scene of the traffic stop, and if so, by whom, to which he stated: *"Yes, I believe it was his wife"*. Ofc. Mosher went on to state that Mr. Anderson was never placed in handcuffs during this incident.

Due to the fact that Mr. Anderson wrote in his complaint that he was placed in fear for his life, I asked Ofc. Mosher some clarifying questions, with the following answers:

Q: *"Did you ever see Officer – or - did you ever hear Ofc. Stotler threaten to shoot Mr. Anderson"?*

A: *"No"*.

Q: *"Did you ever see Ofc. Stotler draw his weapon"?*

A: *"No"*.

Q: *“Did you see Ofc. Stotler draw any of his weapons, including his intermediate or less-than-lethal weapons”?*

A: *“No”.*

Q: *“Did you or Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) ever threaten to shoot Mr. Anderson”?*

A: *“No”.*

Q: *“Did you or Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) ever draw your gun”?*

A: *“No”.*

Q: *“Did you or Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) ever draw any of your other weapons to include intermediate and less-than-lethal weapons”?*

A: *“No”.*

I concluded the interview by asking Ofc. Mosher approximately how long the entire traffic stop lasted, to which he replied: *“Ten to fifteen minutes, maybe”.* (See ofc. Mosher’s transcripts for further details).

On October 14, 2021, I obtained a sworn taped statement from Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) regarding this case. He advised that he responded, along with his Field Training Officer (F.T.O. – Ofc. Mosher) as a back-up to Ofc. Stotler’s traffic stop. Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) advised that Ofc. Stotler requested back-up more than once over the police radio, which raised his level of concern. I asked Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) why does an Officer requesting for back-up more than once raise his concerns, to which he advised: *“It could mean and the way I see it as maybe something might be going wrong or he’s in some kind of danger and needs, you know, back-up a lot faster than anticipated”.*

I asked Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) to describe what happened once he arrived on scene, to which he stated: *“When I got there, I met with Ofc. Stotler on the passenger’s side where he advised me that everything was okay and he needed the driver of the vehicle – I don’t recall his name off the top of my head – he wanted him out of the vehicle as he had a gun in the glovebox and from that point on, I had him step out of the vehicle and then conducted a pat-down on the side of the road.”*

I asked Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) if Mr. Anderson had a driver’s license on him, to which he replied: *“He did make mention that he did not, and he wanted to call his wife to have her bring the driver’s license to him”.* He further advised that Ofc. Mosher allowed Mr. Anderson to call his wife while Ofc. Stotler was trying to identify him and issue him the traffic citation(s). Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) advised that Ofc. Stotler issued Mr. Anderson two citations, stating: *“They were for flashing lights on the front of the vehicle and an expired tag”.* I asked Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) if Ofc. Stotler ever issued Mr. Anderson a citation for not carrying his driver’s license, to which he stated: *“From what I heard him state, no, but I did not – not to my knowledge”.*

Due to the fact that Mr. Anderson wrote in his complaint that he was placed in fear for his life, I asked Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) some clarifying questions, with the following answers:

Q: *"Did you ever hear Ofc. Stotler threaten to shoot Mr. Anderson"?*

A: *"No, not at all".*

Q: *"Did Ofc. Mosher ever threaten to shoot Mr. Anderson"?*

A: *"No, not at all".*

Q: *"Did you ever threaten to shoot Mr. Anderson"?*

A: *"No, I did not".*

Q: *"Did you ever witness Ofc. Stotler draw his firearm at any point"?*

A: *"I did not".*

Q: *"Did you or Ofc. Mosher ever draw your firearms"?*

A: *"No, we did not".*

Q: *"Did you ever witness Ofc. Stotler draw any of his intermediate weapons; pepper spray, ASP, taser"?*

A: *"No".*

Q: *"Did you or Ofc. Mosher ever draw any of your intermediate weapons"?*

A: *"No".*

Ofc. Krumenacker (Jr.) indicated in his statement that the entire traffic stop took no longer than fifteen to twenty minutes. (See Ofc. Krumenacker's transcripts for further details).

On December 13, 2021, I obtained a sworn taped statement regarding this incident from Det. David McCann (Sunrise Police IT Unit). On October 11, 2021, I seized Ofc. Stotler's computer and turned it over to Det. McCann for a forensic exam into OSSI and Central Square regarding the traffic citations in question. Det. McCann conducted an RMS history and was able to ascertain that the three citations were issued all on the same date, however one citation was attempted to be deleted by Ofc. Stotler. After discussing what citation Ofc. Stotler was going to void for Mr. Anderson, it appeared Ofc. Stotler attempted to delete the wrong citation. (i.e. *not the one he said he was going delete: not carrying a driver's license while operating a motor vehicle*).

Since the date of the issuance of the citations and the apparent date of the citation that was attempted to be deleted are the same, it appears as if Ofc. Stotler made an honest mistake and did not have any nefarious intentions when he did this. It also appears that Ofc. Stotler may have thought he deleted one of the citations, when in fact, he did not. It is also apparent that since three citations were in the system under this same case number, that either the Sunrise Records Unit or the Sunrise Traffic Unit PSA (Abby Jansen) filed all three citations with Broward County Court, unbeknownst to Ofc. Stotler. (See Det. McCann's transcripts and emails for further details.)

On December 14, 2021, I obtained a sworn taped statement regarding this incident from PSA Abby Jantzen. Prior to going on tape, I reviewed the Florida Uniform Traffic Citation

Transmittal form (dated 8/31/21) with her. PSA Jantzen acknowledge that this is something that she would have been responsible for completing. She further explained that on this particular transmittal form, she would have been the person who reviewed all the citations from 8/28/21 – 8/30/21 from the Traffic Unit for any errors, and then send them electronically to the Broward County Court House. This particular transmittal form contained all three citations from Ofc. Stotler for his traffic stop on Mr. Anderson:

1. Traffic Citation # AEQGT4E – “Certain Lights Prohibited” – 8/30/21
2. Traffic Citation # AEQGT5E – “Expired Tag” – 8/30/21
3. Traffic Citation # AEQGT6E – “D/L Not Carried” – 8/30/21

Unless there was a note, which instructed PSA Jantzen to void any of these citations, she would have followed procedure, reviewed them, and sent them to court. This is exactly what the documents indicate happened with these three citations. (See PSA Jantzen’s transcripts for further details).

On December 14, 2021, I issued Ofc. Stotler his 5-day notice to provide me with a statement regarding this case.

On December 29, 2021, I obtained a sworn taped statement regarding this incident from Ofc. Allen Stotler. Ofc. Stotler was issued his Non-Criminal Rights as well as his Garrity Rights prior to giving his statement. Ofc. Stotler indicated that he originally conducted a traffic stop on Mr. Anderson for having improper flashing lights on the front of his vehicle. I asked Ofc. Stotler if Mr. Anderson advised him that he had a firearm in the vehicle. Ofc. Stotler confirmed that Mr. Anderson stated he had a firearm in the glovebox, however he was unable to produce a driver’s license or any other form of identification. When questioned about whether Mr. Anderson told Ofc. Stotler about having some kind of emergency, Ofc. Stotler replied: *“He said he had an issue at his personal business where there was an employee that either couldn’t get in or out of the business”*.

Ofc. Stotler explained that this was not the kind of emergency that would require medical attention or first responders to attend to, but was more of a personal inconvenience for Mr. Anderson since he was pulled over on his way to his business.

Due to the fact that Mr. Anderson wrote in his complaint that he was placed in fear for his life, I asked Ofc. Stotler some clarifying questions, with the following answers:

Q: *“Did you, at any point in time, threaten to harm Mr. Anderson”?*

A: *“No”*.

Q: *“Do you remember if Officer Mosher or Officer Krumenacker (Junior) threatened Mr. Anderson”?*

A: *“Officer Mosher did not and Officer Krumenaker (Junior) did not”*.

Q: *“Did you draw any of your intermediate weapons during this traffic stop”?*

A: *“No, I did not”*.

Q: “*Did Officer Mosher or Krumenacker draw any of their intermediate weapons*”?

A: “*No, they did not*”.

Q: “*No pepper spray, no taser, no baton*”?

A: “*No, sir*”.

Q: “*Did you ever draw your firearm on Mr. Anderson*”?

A: “*No, sir*”

Q: “*Did Officer Krumenacker or Mosher ever draw their firearm*”?

A: “*No, sir*”.

I then questioned Ofc. Stotler about the three citations that he ultimately issued to Mr. Anderson. Ofc. Stotler clearly remembered writing three citations for: (1) Flashing lights, (2) Expired Tag and (3) Not carrying a driver’s license on his computer on the incident date, however he only physically gave Mr. Anderson citations for the first two, and he thought that he voided the third citation for not carrying a driver’s license. He believed that he forgot to void out the third citation and PSA Jantzen downloaded all of them and also transmitted all them to the Broward County Courthouse.

I asked Ofc. Stotler if he purposely tried to get Mr. Anderson’s license suspended by trying to issue him a third citation without telling him, to which he responded: “*Absolutely not*”.

In addition, I asked Ofc. Stotler if he pulled over Mr. Anderson because of his race or ethnicity, to which he replied: “*No*”. I continued and asked Ofc. Stotler Mr. Anderson’s race or ethnicity had any bearing on his decision whether or not to write him a ticket(s), and he stated: “*No*”. (See Ofc. Stotler’s transcripts for further details).



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Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS and DISPOSITION:

If Mr. Anderson's allegations are true, Officer Stotler would have violated the following Sunrise Police Policies and Procedures:

15.6.4.1. – *Officers will, as necessary and professionally appropriate, use techniques and strategies designed to prevent the perception of Biased Policing. These techniques include, but are not limited to:*

15.6.4.1.1. – *Be courteous, polite and professional.*

15.6.4.1.2. – *Provide your name and agency information along with explaining your purpose as related to specific law enforcement activities as soon as practical, unless doing so compromises the safety of officers or others.*

15.6.4.1.4. – *Provide your name and IBM number verbally or in writing, when requested.*

Based on a preponderance of evidence standard, I conclude that Officer Stotler did not violate any of the listed policies. The following is a list of factors that led me to this decision:

Ofc. Stotler conducted a traffic stop on Mr. Anderson for having illegal flashing lights in the front of his vehicle at the 10100 block of W. Oakland Park Blvd. Officer Stotler clearly stated his name and reason for the stop. Mr. Anderson advised Ofc. Stotler that he had a firearm in his glove box, however he had no driver's license or any other form of identification on him. Ofc. Stotler appropriately called for back-up Officers to respond. Mr. Anderson wanted to call his wife to bring his driver's license to the location of the traffic stop. In addition to not carrying his driver's license while operating his vehicle, Mr. Anderson also had an expired license plate. Due to Officer Safety reasons, Ofc. Stotler requested that Mr. Anderson not make any telephone calls until back-up officers arrived and he could be properly identified. Mr. Anderson was clearly agitated and felt like he was being unlawfully detained. Mr. Anderson was issued two citations on scene for (1) "Certain Lights Prohibited" (F.S.S. – 316.2397) and (2) "Expired Tag" (F.S.S. – 320.07-3a). Ofc. Stotler completed a third citation for (3) "No Driver's License Carried" (F.S.S. – 322.15-1) however, he decided to give Mr. Anderson a break and not issue it to Mr. Anderson on scene. Ofc. Stotler thought he voided the citation in his computer, however he did not void the citation correctly and it was later electronically submitted to the court by the Traffic Unit Public Service Aide (PSA Abby

Jantzen). Mr. Anderson's written complaint alleges that he was "placed in fear for his life" during this traffic stop. Neither Officer Stotler, nor either of the two back-up Officers ever threatened Mr. Anderson, or displayed any of their weapons. Mr. Anderson was not detained longer than the period of time needed to investigate the traffic infraction and properly identify him. In fact, the entire length of time from start to finish of the traffic stop approximately 15-20 minutes.

IV: CONCLUSION:

Officer Stotler had probable cause to conduct a traffic stop on Mr. Anderson for having flashing lights in the front of his vehicle. The traffic stop was not based on Mr. Anderson's race, sex, color of his skin, class, or overall appearance. Mr. Anderson was issued the appropriate traffic citations. Mr. Anderson was not detained any longer than what was reasonably necessary to issue the traffic citations and to identify him. A review of all of the BWC related to this incident did not show any support for Mr. Anderson's claims that he was either profiled, nor placed in fear for his life at any time during this traffic stop.

A review of Ofc. Stotler's tablet as well as supporting documents revealed that Mr. Anderson was issued the third citation by clerical error and was not done with any nefarious intent or purpose.

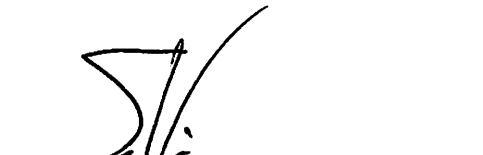
This investigation will be classified as:

EXONERATED



Lt. P. Brian Katz, Internal Affairs

2/17/22
Date



Sean Vishers, Deputy Chief

2/17/22
Date



Anthony W. Rosa, Chief of Police

2/17/22
Date