



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Daniel J. Ransone
Chief of Police

10440 W Oakland Park Blvd
Sunrise, Florida 33351
(954) 764-4357



Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

I. INTRODUCTION:

Subject Employee: [REDACTED]

Complainant: [REDACTED]

Witnesses: N/A

On November 29th, 2023, Lieutenant [REDACTED] authored a Preliminary Complaint Report, explaining that he was tasked with reviewing six randomly selected body-worn cameras. One of the videos featured Officer [REDACTED] interviewing Mr. Glenn Bakken. Through the video, Lt. [REDACTED] discovered that Mr. Bakken was a victim of a simple battery. Lt. [REDACTED] also observed that Officer [REDACTED] did not document the incident in a police report. In the PCR, Lt. [REDACTED] emphasized that Mr. Bakken was 72 years old at the time of the incident, elevating the misdemeanor battery to a felony. Lt. [REDACTED] believes that Officer [REDACTED] should have documented the incident through a police report, and his failure to do so was contrary to policy and procedure.

On December 1st, 2023 Chief Ransone received the PCR and approved an investigation into this matter.

On December 25th, 2023 I took over the investigation from Sgt. Reardon.



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II. INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE:

On December 25th, 2023 I received this case for review. The Preliminary Complaint Report form was authored by Lt. [REDACTED] after he was randomly assigned to review body worn cameras through Evidence.com. In his report, Lt. [REDACTED] explained that Glenn Bakken came to the Public Safety Building to report a battery in which he was the victim. Mr. Bakken provided details to Officer [REDACTED] including his age, which at the time of the incident, was 72.

Lt. [REDACTED] noted that because Mr. Bakken claimed to be a victim of a simple battery, and he was 72 when the crime occurred, a written report should have been generated by Ofc. [REDACTED] under FSS 784.08(2)c Battery on Person(s) 65 years of age or older; however, none was written. Two days after Mr. Bakken spoke with Officer [REDACTED] he returned to the Public Safety Building and met with Officer [REDACTED]. It was at that point a written report was generated for Mr. Bakken.

On December 1st, 2023 Chief Ransone received the PCR and approved an investigation into this matter.

On December 25th, 2023 I took over the investigation from Sgt. Reardon.

On January 15th, 2024, I reviewed all body camera footage related to this incident. I initially watched Officer [REDACTED] video, recorded when he met with Mr. Bakken at the Public Safety Building on October 3rd, 2023, around 10:30 am. The interview occurred in the interview room of the PSB lobby. The video shows Mr. Bakken reading from what seems to be prepared written notes, explaining the events between himself and the suspects.

Mr. Bakken stated that he asked a woman with two dogs to clean up after them. She then became hostile towards him and got in his face while they exchanged words. Mr. Bakken then stated he began to walk away from the woman, when she struck him in the back. At that point he

threatened to defend himself. Mr. Bakken stated the woman then called her boyfriend on the phone and told him to respond to the location. When the boyfriend arrived, he shoved Mr. Bakken in the chest. He then stated a witness stopped and helped deescalate the situation because he observed Mr. Bakken get shoved by the male. At one point, Mr. Bakken mentioned threats of gun violence, although he clarified later that he did not have nor did he observe any firearms during the altercation.

Following Mr. Bakken's account of the altercation, Officer [REDACTED] proceeded to explain misdemeanor filing procedures and inquired if Mr. Bakken possessed any identifying information on the suspects to facilitate communication with them. Mr. Bakken responded negatively, prompting Officer [REDACTED] to suggest his return home to gather more information without going to the suspects residence. Officer [REDACTED] stated that would aid officers in locating the suspects and obtaining their version of the incident. Around the nine-minute mark of the video, Officer [REDACTED] told Mr. Bakken "but we are going to need the information of the other party, or at least try to meet with them because I just can't do a report, some lady with two dogs hit you and you want to file a police report." Officer [REDACTED] then instructed Mr. Bakken to call officers to his residence once he had more information, so that the zone officer can respond to draft a report. It is not clear from the video footage if Ofc. [REDACTED] was aware of Mr. Bakken's age.

I then reviewed Officer [REDACTED] videos from October 5th, 2023 around 9:47am. This interview also took place in the lobby interview room. This video captured the entirety of Mr. Bakken's statement to the officer. He explained that he confronted a female after she did not curb her dog. After the confrontation, he walked north on Nob Hill Road, when the female punched him from behind. After being struck, he warned her that if she hit him again, he would defend himself. He further explained that she then called someone on the phone and reported the incident. Shortly after, a male arrived and confronted Mr. Bakken further, eventually physically pushing him. Fortunately, a passerby arrived and successfully separated all parties.

In both instances where Mr. Bakken spoke with officers, it is clear that he did not wish to pursue charges nor explicitly expressed a desire for the incident to be documented. He only wanted officers to find the suspects and speak with them so they would be aware that officers were informed of the incident.

On January 29th, I attempted to provide Officer [REDACTED] with his five-day notice by coordinating with his supervisor; however, I was informed that he was not at work and it was unknown when he would return.

On February 12th, I left Officer [REDACTED] a message asking him to contact me regarding this investigation.

The following day, on February 13th, I sent Officer [REDACTED] an email requesting that he contact me.

On February 26th, I was able to communicate with Officer [REDACTED] over the phone and explained that I needed to obtain his statement for this investigation. After we concluded the call, I sent Officer [REDACTED] an email with a digital copy of a five-day notice, explaining that I was expecting a reply with a date he wanted to provide his statement.

On February 27th, Officer [REDACTED] sent me a text letting me know he was at a physical therapy appointment and that he was available to meet at 4 pm. Unfortunately, I was unavailable at that time and asked if he was available for Wednesday the 28th or Friday the 1st of March. He responded, "Most likely Friday we'll link up Thursday." On Thursday, February 29th, I sent Officer [REDACTED] a text asking if he had a date in mind for our meeting. I provided Officer [REDACTED] with several dates when I was available to assist in his decision. Later that day, he responded advising me that he was available to meet at Quarterdeck in Plantation, FL.

When I arrived to obtain his statement, he told me he believed we were meeting so that I could give him the five-day notice in person. I apologized for the confusion and provided him with a copy of the notice. Upon my return to my office, I sent Officer [REDACTED] a follow-up email about our meeting, further explaining the five-day deadline.

On Wednesday, March 6th, I sent Officer [REDACTED] an email informing him of the upcoming deadline of March 7th to provide me with a date.

I did not hear back from Officer [REDACTED] or his representative until Friday, March 8th. The Union Representative sent me an email providing me with a date of March 15th for Officer [REDACTED] to provide his statement.

On Friday, March 15th, I met with Officer [REDACTED] and his Union Representative. Officer [REDACTED] was provided with his Garrity Rights, Non-Criminal Rights, and Civil Suit Disclosure forms prior to providing me with his sworn taped statement.

In his statement, Officer [REDACTED] stated that a gentleman, Mr. Bakken, came into the police department to report a possible crime. The crime revolved around an altercation that occurred between Mr. Bakken and a female on the side of the road over dogs using the bathroom on a public thoroughfare. Officer [REDACTED] explained that he was told that both parties alleged they had weapons, but neither party observed any. Officer [REDACTED] remembered Mr. Bakken saying there was some shoving between the arguing parties.

I asked Officer [REDACTED] if he had obtained Mr. Bakken's information, and he responded that he did not physically get his driver's license but that he provided his name. I then asked if he was aware of Mr. Bakken's age. Officer [REDACTED] said, "No, I was not aware of his age at the time."

When I asked Officer [REDACTED] why he did not draft a report, he told me that he provided Mr. Bakken with several options, one of which was misdemeanor filing procedures for battery. Another reason Officer [REDACTED] provided was the fact that Mr. Bakken did not want to pursue charges and that he only wanted somebody (an officer) to speak with the female and her partner. Officer [REDACTED] then stated that he explained to Mr. Bakken that because of the time delay and lack of information as to where they were located, officers would not be able to speak with them without more information.

I then asked Officer [REDACTED] if it was a requirement to have complete information in order to draft a police report. Officer [REDACTED] responded that although you did not need all of the information to complete a report, it is also the discretion of the officer to write one. Officer [REDACTED] also told me that he did not intentionally use his body camera as a substitute for completing a report.

I then asked Officer [REDACTED] had he known that Mr. Bakken was over the age of 65, would he have drafted a written report. Officer [REDACTED] responded, "Understanding now that it's saying 65, it would have been a mandatory report."



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III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS and DISPOSITION:

If Lieutenant [REDACTED] allegations are true, Officer [REDACTED] would have violated the following policy:

Policy & Procedure: 19.6.3.4 – In serving the public, members will be attentive and take suitable action in all situations where some official action would reasonably be believed appropriate, to include reports, complaints, inquiries, and other requests for service.

IV: CONCLUSION

On October 3rd, 2023 Mr. Bakken met with Ofc [REDACTED] at the Public Safety Building to report a physical altercation he had with two individuals, over their failure to curb their dogs. Mr. Bakken expressed a desire for an officer to find the individuals in order to speak with them. Ofc. [REDACTED] suggested Mr. Bakken return home, gather more information, and refrain from approaching or seeking out the suspects. Ofc. [REDACTED] told Mr. Bakken to call the police department once he gathered more information to facilitate the drafting of a report for misdemeanor filing procedures.

On October 5th, 2023 Mr. Bakken returned to the Public Safety Building and met with Officer [REDACTED]. Mr. Bakken reiterated his original complaint and provided further details that he believed would help in locating the individuals. Ofc. [REDACTED] determined the information was still insufficient to locate the individuals, therefore she drafted the police report documenting the incident.

Throughout both interactions, Mr. Bakken's primary concern was for officers to find the individuals and inform them that the police had been made aware. He did not express a particular interest in pursuing charges nor insisted on formal documentation of the incident.

Notably, Officer [REDACTED] was not aware of Mr. Bakken's age at the time of their interaction. This is a significant detail since he is aware that a battery on a person 65 years of age or older is a felony, requiring a written report.

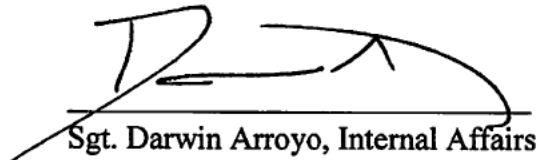
In Summary:

I find the following concerning the allegations of:

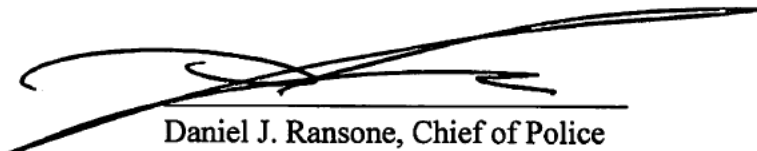
Policy & Procedure: 19.6.3.4 – In serving the public, members will be attentive and take suitable action in all situations where some official action would reasonably be believed appropriate, to include reports, complaints, inquiries, and other requests for service.

Officer [REDACTED] spent a considerable amount of time in the interview room with Mr. Bakken, who appeared to be an older gentleman living in an area designated as a community for senior citizens. During their meeting, Mr. Bakken clearly described an incident of battery and expressed a sincere desire for the officers to locate the individuals involved, ensuring they were aware that the police had been informed of the physical confrontation. Although he did not formally request a police report, it was evident that Mr. Bakken expected some form of action from the police. Officer [REDACTED] however, never obtained Mr. Bakken's identification, which would have revealed his age and necessitated the writing of a report. Therefore, based on the totality of the circumstances, this investigator finds a listed policy violation:

SUSTAINED


Sgt. Darwin Arroyo, Internal Affairs


Dana Swisher, Deputy Chief


Daniel J. Ransone, Chief of Police

4/10/24
Date

4/11/24
Date

4/16/24.
Date