

580 BROAD STREET CENTRAL FALLS, RI 02863

OFFICE: (401) 727-7490 FAX: (401) 727-7422

February 29, 2016



Re: Access to Public Records Act Request

Dear Ms.

This Department's review of your February 2, 2016 Access to Public Records Act ("APRA") request is complete after the initial response period and an extension for cause. Specifically, you seek the following:

"The last 10 Internal Affairs Reports from Investigations after a Complaint against Police Officer(s) in Central Falls"

Upon a review of the files maintained and possessed by the Central Falls Police Department, we have determined that this Department does possess records to your request. Please find enclosed the said records. This Department is withholding personally identifiable information for the complainants and the police officers subject to the complaints pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(A)(I)(b) and the balancing test recognized in Direct Action for Rights and Equality v. Gannon, 713 A.2d 218 (R.I. 1998).

As you will see in the records, certain identifying information has been redacted pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(A)(I)(b), and the balancing test recognized in <u>Direct Action for Rights and Equality v. Gannon</u>, 713 A.2d 218 (R.I. 1998). The nature of the redactions should be self-evident, but are the following: personally identifiable of complainants and the police officers subject to the complaint, the day and month of birth, telephone numbers, employer information and ID numbers. In addition to guarding against identity theft, the relevant privacy interests outweigh the public's right to access this information.

The decision of this Department can be appealed pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-8 by appealing this decision to the Mayor of the City of Central Falls, James A. Diossa, City of Central Falls, 580 Broad Street, Central Falls, RI 02863.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Matthew T. Jerzyk

cc: Mayor James A. Diossa Colonel James Mendonca

Page: 1

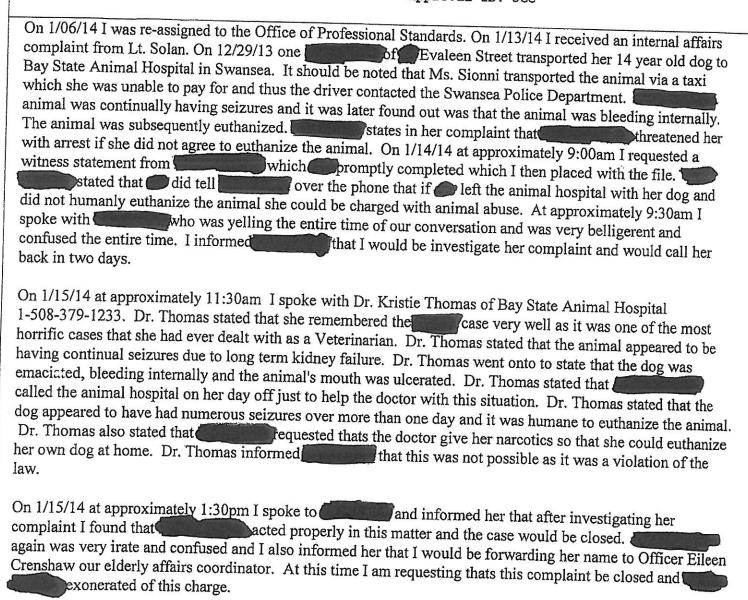
Ref: 16-1-IA

On 01/06/2016, I received a Citizen Complain/Compliment form that was dated 12/28/2015. The form was completed by who in the form, states and complains that he was pushed by a police officer and was treated in an aggressive manner. This IA number was assigned to this case. On 01/06/2016, I called and spoke to him on the phone. explained that on the report date he had been placed under arrest because someone had used his name back in 2008. Due to this a warrant had been issued in his name, but that information was inaccurate. Secondly, after he was released he was served with a protection order and not allowed to return to his home at Crossman Street. officer rushed him to get whatever belongings who could and would not answer his questions. It was while he was gathering his belonging that he alleged the officer pushed him and threatened to arrest him. also explains that later on during that night he responded to the station and planned on staying in the lobby until the morning. Due to the fact that he did not have a place to stay and his car had been towed. The tow shop would not open until morning and needed his vehicle to leave. In addition, it was sleeting outside and being that he is from the Boston area he did not have any friends or family to go to in the states he was approached by another officer in the lobby of the police station who yelled at him and told him he could not sleep in the lobby, the officer made him leave and threw him out into the street. After speaking with in depth about this incident, he agreed that there were a lot of emotions that played into how things resulted. He stated that he was very upset and could not believe that he was not allowed to go into his house and that made him very upset. Then stated that he did not wish to pursue the complaint any further and wished for it to be closed out. His only request is that perhaps the officers should try to be a bit more compassionate. He felt mistreated for something he did not do and although his attitude might have contributed to it, he felt his attitude was negative because he felt that he had no place to turn and the police weren't there for him either. I informed that I could document the incident and our conversation and informed him to call me if he has any further issues. was satisfied and thanked the police department for calling him back. This matter will be closed per the request of the complainant.

Page: 1

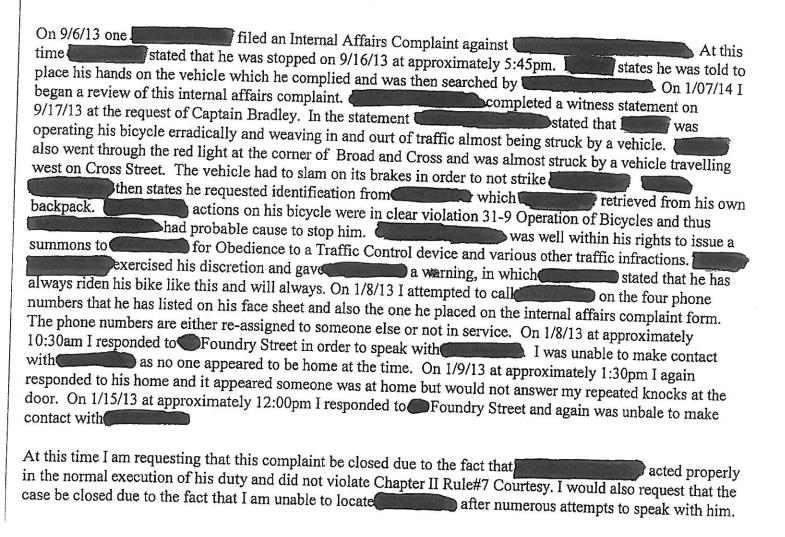
Ref: 14-1-IA

Entered: 01/14/2014 @ 1054 Entry ID: JCC Modified: 08/25/2014 @ 1031 Modified ID: JCC Approved: 01/15/2014 @ 1347 Approval ID: JCC



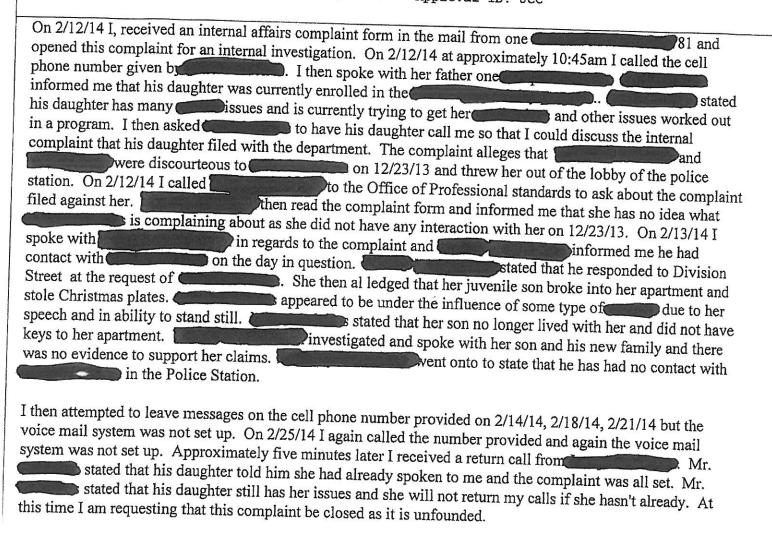
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Ref: 14-2-IA



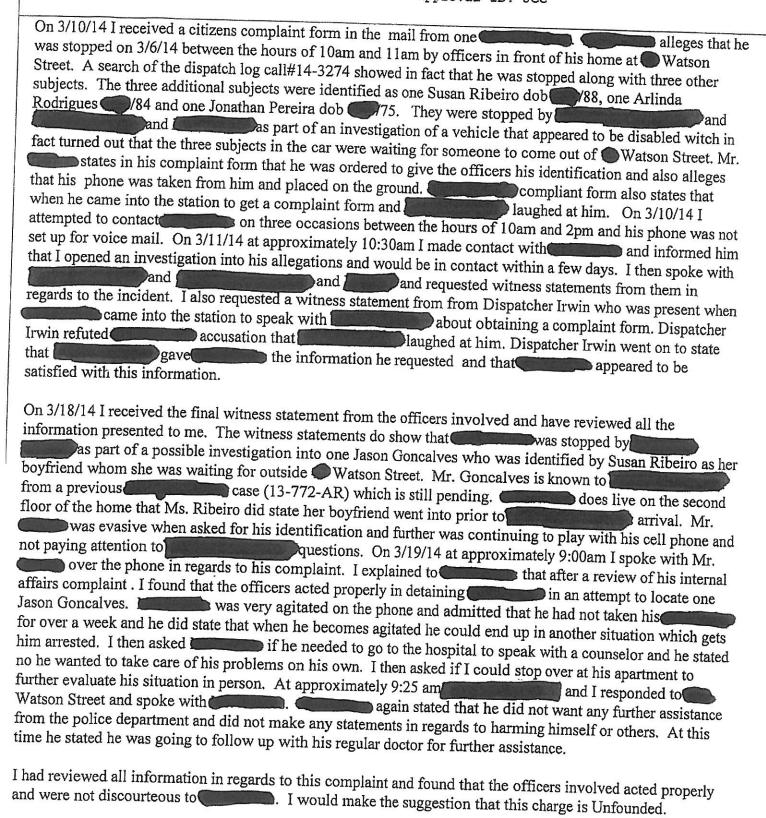
Page:

Ref: 14-3-IA



Page: 1

Ref: 14-5-IA



### Central Falls Police Department

Page: 1

NARRATIVE FOR SERGEANT DERRICK V LEVASSEUR

Ref: 14-9-IA

On 5/19/14 I was re-assigned to the Office of Professional Standards. Later that day, I received an internal affairs complaint from Major Barzykowski. The complaint was from a is claiming that on 5/14/14, officers entered her apartment without consent and then proceeded to use profanity and abusive language towards her and her son, who is autistic. My investigation in regards to the incident was as 5/21/14 9:33am: I contacte at phone number (401) answered and I explained that I would be investigating the matter. Upon asking what had happened, she stated the following: On 5/14/14 at approximately 9:30 am, officers responded to her apartment and stated that they had received a call for a possible domestic dispute taking place in her apartment. stated that she was arguing on the phone with someone but no one other than her son was in the apartment. She then stated that the officer proceeded to place her foot in the door, keeping her from being able to shut the door. Eventually, the two male officers and the female officers entered the apartment and searched for any additional subjects. stated that during the search, the officer with "badge number continuously swore at her, making comments such as "There better not fucking be anyone else in this apartment.", "Stop acting like a fucking animal.", and "If you don't like our rules, get the fuck out." went on to state that while making that last statement,, the officer with "badge number pointed at her and then touched her nose. He then went on to say "Get over it and go kill yourself." During that time, was still contesting the fact the that officers were in her home and that was when the officer stated that if she going to "lock her up if she didn't shut her fucking mouth.". Before leaving, the officer then stated that if she didn't like it, report it because nothing was going to happen to him. At that point, all officers left the apartment. stated that he son had come out of the room at one point and began yelling at the officers because of the way they were treating her but they told him to go back in the room and they left. now feels like she is being targeted and feels that the officers our following her when they see her. I advised that after I had spoken with all parties, I would call her back with my findings. She stated that she understood and would be waiting for my call. 5/21/14 10:00 am: I checked the dispatch log and learned that on the date of the alleged incident at approximately 9:28 am, officers did respond to address in regards to a possible domestic assault. The officers that responded were and cleared the call and stated that the female was "highly agitated but stated that she was on the phone and there was no one in the house."

I contacted the listed witness, Janet Rodriguez dob 86 at phone number (401) answer but I did leave a voice message advising her to contact me at her earliest convenience.

5/22/14 11:10 am:

## Central Falls Police Department

NARRATIVE FOR SERGEANT DERRICK V LEVASSEUR

Ref: 14-9-IA

Entered: 05/22/2014 @ 1043

Entry ID: DL

Page: 2

Modified: 05/29/2014 @ 1340 Modified ID: DL I received a call from at phone number (401) stated they following: During the day of the incident, she was in the first floor apartment of Fletcher Street with her friend "Elisa". When the cops arrived, she could hear everything through the floor. stated that she heard ask the officers numerous times to leave but they refused. She then stated that she heard one specific officer make numerous disrespectful comments to such as "Your stupid, shut up.", "Shut the fuck up." He also told her to "Make a complaint because she couldn't do nothing about it." She also heard at the cops, telling them not to talk to her like that and they told him to go to his room. went on to state that she has known for five years and considers her to be like "family". I then thanked her for her cooperation and told her I would be in touch if I had any further questions. 5/27/14 9:00 am: I spoke with both and requested that both officers write written statements in regards to their encounter with on 5/14/14. Both agreed to do so. 5/27/14 12:30 pm: I received a written witness statement from , describing the events that transpired on did explain upon arrival, it was the first floor apartment tenant who actually directed them to the second floor. Due to the nature of the call and behavior when she answered the door, it was decided to search the apartment to ensure that no one had been injured and there were no other individuals inside any of the rooms. stated that was uncooperative and confrontational the entire time they were stated numerous times that she knew the Mayor and was going to "Facebook him" as soon as they left. did state that there was a point when son came out of one of the bedrooms, and instructed all officers not to "touch her son". stated that no officer touched son at any point and time did acknowledge at one point she did inform that if she did not calm down, she may be placed under arrest. Before leaving, did ask all officers for their badge numbers, which they gave before leaving the premises. 5/28/14 2:30 pm: I received a written witness statement from describing the events that transpired on corroborated story, adding that while speaking with they asked her if there was anyone else in the apartment and she refused to answer. A few moments later, they saw a small child exit one of the rooms and that was when the decision was made to enter. elaborated on Ms. comments towards them, stating that in addition to threatening them about contacting the Mayor, she also used obscenities towards them, stating that they "don't do shit to anyone else in the building." At that point, officers cleared the apartment, gave her their badge numbers, and left the area in attempt to diffuse the situation. 5/28/14 3:00 pm: I received a written witness statement from describing the events that transpired on 5/14/14. gave a similar story to both

y and

on to state that at one point, said to him, "Don't treat me like a child! I'm an adult!" and that is when

### Central Falls Police Department NARRATIVE FOR SERGEANT DERRICK V LEVASSEUR

Ref: 14-9-IA

Entered: 05/22/2014 @ 1043 Modified: 05/29/2014 @ 1340

Entry ID: DL Modified ID: DL

Page: 3

responded by saying, "OK, then please stop yelling and act like and adult." He also confirmed that made multiple allegations and threats, stating that she felt violated and she intended on calling both the Mayor and her lawyer. All officers gave their badge numbers and then cleared the call.

#### Finding:

Based on the both the statements from and the officers, it became evident that there was in fact a verbal confrontation between and the officers on scene confrontational and non-cooperative behavior was indicative of someone who may have been protecting herself or someone else from the officers' preliminary investigation.

Due to the nature of the initial call, the first floor tenants affirmation upon arrival that it was the second floor apartment, and the visual observation by the officers of a small child being in the apartment, it was appropriate to enter and ensure that everyone, including was safe.

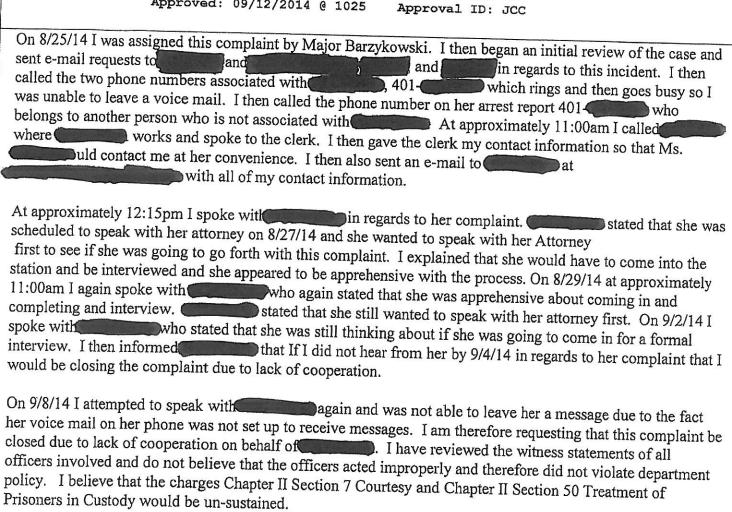
In regards to the verbal confrontation and the words allegedly used by both sides, it appears that Ms. was extremely irate over the fact that officers entered her apartment against her wishes and proceeded to threaten the officers with both political and legal ramifications. The officers remained calm and although their voices may have been elevated, they conducted themselves in a profession manner and in line with our policies and procedures.

Based on these facts and circumstances, I find the accusations of unsubstantiated.

Page: 1

Ref: 14-11-IA

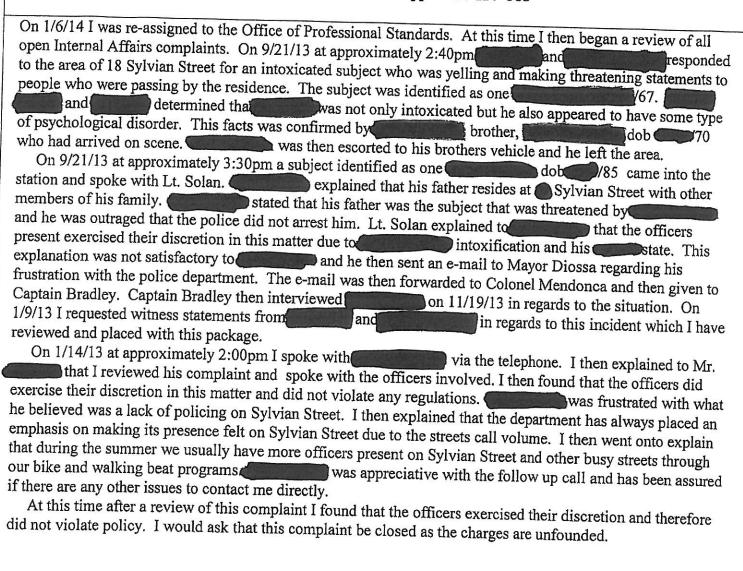
Entered: 08/25/2014 @ 1048 Entry ID: JCC Modified: 09/12/2014 @ 1025 Modified ID: JCC Approved: 09/12/2014 @ 1025 Approval ID: JCC



Page: 1

Ref: 13-20-IA

\*\*\*\*\*\*It should also be noted that



passed away on 2013\*\*\*\*\*

Page: 1

Ref: 14-14-IA

Entered: 11/12/2014 @ 1020 Entry ID: DRR Modified: 11/13/2014 @ 1423 Modified ID: DRR

On 10/03/14, I received notification from Colonel James Mendonca that he had received a letter from an anonymous source expressing discontent with the behavior shown by participating in the 16th season of a known r. The anonymous letter was sent to the Providence Police Department which was then later forwarded to this agency. The content of the letter explained that had engaged in a sexually motivated conversation while on the which the complainant found disturbing and conduct not becoming of a police officer. The complainant did not leave any identifying information or any form of getting in touch with her. Background on In order to explain the nature of the complaint it would only be appropriate to further describe the show involvement in the show. In June of 2014, took time off from the Central Falls Police Department to participate in this show. was allowed to take his vacation time and other accumulated time; as well as an unpaid leave of absence until his return from the show. is a reality game show franchise created by and was originally based on a The show show from the Netherlands of the same name. The premise of the show is that there is a group of people, dubbed as "housemates" or "houseguests", living together in a specially constructed large house. During their time in the house they are isolated from the outside world and are not commonly aware of outside events. Contestants are continuously monitored by in-house television cameras as well as personal audio microphones during their stay. Each series lasts for more than three months, with at least ten contestants entering the house. To win the final cash prize, a contestant must survive periodic (usually weekly) evictions and be the last housemate or houseguest remaining in the compound by the series' conclusion. During the time that the show is on, people may subscribe to view the "live feed" cameras that are constantly monitoring the House. Subscription to unlimited access to view the contestants' everyday activity cost approximately \$9.99 per month or \$26.99 for the full season. The content of the "live feeds" is not censored and does not normally appear on live television. Complaint Background Based on the limited information that was provided by the complainant, I was only able to assume that the complainant was speaking about a "live feed" clip that lasted approximately three minutes. During the "live and four other "house guests" were involved in a conversation in which several of feed" video, the "house guest" made reference to getting another fellow "house guest" by the name of drunk and taking away her virginity. I was able to find the video that I believe the complainant might have been talking about and observed it's content. The video segment last approximately two minutes and twelve seconds on youtube.com. I observed a

group of people to include engaged in a conversation. During the course of the video clip, it is apparent that they are speaking about consuming alcohol and then making sexual gestures while laughing about certain things that appear to be "inside jokes". It is appears that everyone who is in the "live feed" is actively engaged in the conversation, but it is apparent that the main protagonist of the conversation appears to be the

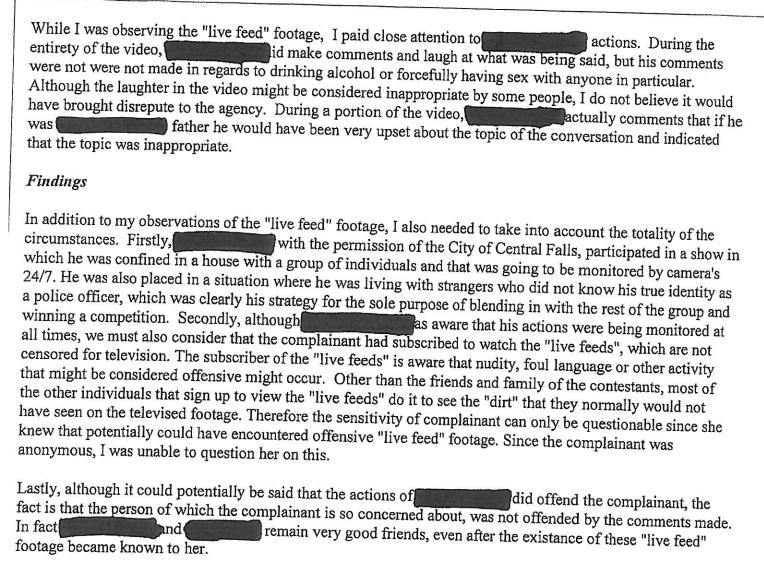
"house guest" identified as

Page: 2

Ref: 14-14-IA

Entered: 11/12/2014 @ 1020

Entry ID: DRR Modified: 11/13/2014 @ 1423 Modified ID: DRR



Based on the aforementioned observations I conclude this investigation and find that Charge of Conduct Unbecoming can not be sustained.

Conclusion: Exonerated.

Page: 1

Ref: 14-11-IA

Entered: 12/09/2014 @ 0906 Entry ID: DRR Modified: 12/09/2014 @ 1052 Modified ID: DRR

On 12/09/14, I reviewed this case and agree with Lt. Carroll's findings. Furthermore, the court has provided a disposition for DUI Case. On December 3rd, 2014, failed to appear for a scheduled pre-trial conference. As a result of these actions, a default judgment sustaining the charge of "Refusal to Submit to Chemical Test" was entered. Case Review This case was assigned to Lieutenant Carroll on 02/25/14. The complainant, (88) sent an email to Colonel James Mendonca, indicating that on July 28th, she was stopped and subsequently placed under arrest by two officers who were later identified as and officers were partnered up and were working a DUI patrol detail. . Both states that during the course of the night her interaction with these two officers was unpleasant. complains that she was never read her rights and that she was not told what she was being charged with. further states that later on when she was given a ride home, the officer who provided the ride to her became upset with her and intentionally started to speed which caused her to smash the left side of her face on the window. Ms. claims that the next day the whole left side of her face was bruised and that she had a black eye. As a result of the complaint, Colonel Mendonca initiated an internal investigation on this matter. The case was assigned to Lieutenant Carroll. Case Findings: During the course of his investigation, Lt. Carroll obtained witness statements from On 08/25/14, Lt. Carroll spoke to regarding her complaint. was going to talk to her attorney on 08/27/14 first to see if she wanted to go forward with the complaint. On 08/29/14, Lt. Carroll stated that he spoke with again and that she was still apprehensive about making the complaint. stated that she still needed to speak with her lawyer about the matter. On 09/02/14, again told Lt. Carroll that she was still thinking whether or not she was still coming in to make a complaint. Lt. Carroll explained that she needed to notify him by 09/04/14, if she wanted to make a complaint or he would be closing the case for lack of cooperation. Lt. Carroll did not hear from 09/04/14. Lt. Carroll attempted to call on 09/08/14, at which time he did not get an answer from her. He was unable to leave a message due to the voicemail not being set up. Lt. Carroll reviewed the basic information provided by initial complaint and the witness statements provided by the officers' involved. In addition, a witness statement was gathered from Lt. Wayne Solan who on the day after the incident when she responded to the station to get a release form for her vehicle. Lt. Solan assisted with the matter. Lt. Solan explains in his statement that express to him that she had an "issue" with one of the officers from the night before, but at no time did indicate to Lt. Solan that she had been assaulted. Furthermore, Lt. Solan got a good view of Ms. face while speaking to her and he did not observe any injuries to her face whatsoever. Based on failure to cooperate, this case could only be reviewed with the information that Lt. Carroll was able to gather. The witness statements and observations from the officers involved indicate that Ms.

was intoxicated and belligerent. She failed to comply with the officers orders and as a result was charged with obstruction. The officers state that although she was not being cooperative at all, there was no

who gave

physical altercation at all with at any point.

Ref: 14-11-IA

placed in the rear seat of cruiser and secured her seat belt. States that although Ms. appear agitated about the situation there was not interaction between them except for when she mentioned that she wanted of the officers badge numbers. All of the officers indicate that was visibly and verbally clear about her discontent with her interaction with them, but at no time was there any physical force used against her. explains that even when they had to physically remove her from her vehicle because she refused to get out, there was actually no force necessary. was completely passive agressive with the officers. The officers explain that when was released she did not have any injuries and she did not complain of any.

#### Conclusion:

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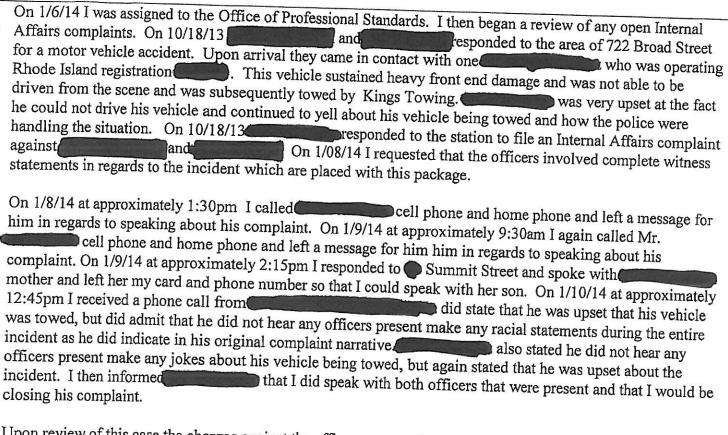
The information gathered during the course of this investigation was reviewed. Based on the facts and findings I concur with Lt. Carroll's findings indicating that the charges against the officers for violating Chapter II Section 7 "Courtesy" and Chapter II Section 50 "Treatment of Persons in custody" are Not Sustained. As a result, this case will be closed.

Page: 2

Page: 1

Ref: 13-21-IA

Entered: 01/15/2014 @ 1027 Entry ID: JCC Modified: 01/15/2014 @ 1402 Modified ID: JCC Approved: 01/15/2014 @ 1114 Approval ID: JCC



Upon review of this case the charges against the officers are unsubstantiated and therefore I am requesting that the case be closed.