



## Police Department

810 East Tenth Street, Suite 100 • Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 667-2151 • Fax (970) 962-2916 • TDD (970) 663-5144  
[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)

**TO:** Assistant Chief Ray Butler  
**FROM:** Sergeant Amy Wheeler, PSU  
**DATE:** June 22, 2020  
**RE:** CI 2020-11 Officer Austin Hopp

On June 15, 2020, Chief Ticer directed a complaint investigation into an anonymous complaint originating with Mayor Marsh's office. She contacted a constituent regarding an allegation of an officer drinking alcohol on duty. Mayor Marsh said she read a post regarding the allegation and directly contacted the person directly. The person gave a brief description of a marked unit and unmarked unit in the Downtown area after the "Night On The Town" event on June 12, 2020. There was no indication the individual contacted any supervisor for immediate intervention despite her comment that the incident "alarmed" her.

The anonymous complaint described the uniformed officer in the marked patrol unit (856SWQ) as the one she witnessed drinking alcohol from his trunk. Through CAD information, I discovered Officer Austin Hopp and Officer Tim Nye were the involved personnel. Officer Hopp drives a marked Caprice with the identified license plate. On June 15, 2020, Officer Hopp worked Municipal Court Security, so he was at the office when I began my investigation.

I went to the courtroom and asked for Officer Hopp's patrol car keys, which he immediately handed to me. I took a photographed inventory (beginning 0932 hours) of Officer Hopp's marked unit, prior to his knowledge of any complaint against him. In the trunk I noticed a 24-pack of bottled water among other department issued and personal equipment related to law enforcement functions. There was a tackle box in the trunk, which contained DNA collection material. Setting on top of the box, I located and photographed an empty single use packet of Goody's headache powder. I am familiar with this over-the-counter medication; it is a powdered acetaminophen for fast acting pain relief and a common Southern remedy. The taste of the powder is very bitter and requires most people to take a gulp of liquid to fully swallow the powder. I checked the rest of the vehicle and located hand sanitizer bottles and a bottle of Listerine mouthwash in the passenger seat organizer. There was no indication of an alcoholic beverage in the vehicle, and I did not smell an odor of alcoholic beverage in the trunk.

I asked Officer Hopp to see me on a court break after I handed him his keys back. He met with me at my office at approximately 0950 hours. I asked him if he remembered a call with Officer Nye on June





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12, 2020. Officer Hopp remembered a walking patrol with Officer Nye. I asked him to describe for me what he was doing at the back of his patrol car. I specifically asked him about getting anything from his trunk. Officer Hopp said he took a drink of water for his Goody's powder because he had a headache. He said he put the bottle back in the trunk. He mentioned telling Officer Nye about the headache. I told him about the allegation and he assured me the liquid was water and it was for headache medicine.

I called Officer Nye about the incident. Officer Nye told me he saw Officer Hopp take a drink from a bottle of water. He mentioned he thought Officer Hopp used an electrolyte single use packet. I explained what Goody's powder was and Officer Nye mentioned Officer Hopp saying he needed to take something for a headache coming on, which is why they went to Officer Hopp's trunk.

The information provided and the physical evidence I saw corroborate Officer Hopp's assertion, he was merely talking medicine with water. It is important to note that when taking a drink of water very quickly it can have the same appearance as taking a "shot from a bottle."

This concludes the investigation into this complaint forwarded through City Manager Steve Adams from Mayor Marsh.



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