



WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Case Number: IA #2022-02

Complainant: [REDACTED]

Complaint: Truthfulness

Subject Officer(s): Colton Tennyson

Investigator: Sgt. R. DeHerrera

Supervisor: [REDACTED]

Incident Summary

On January 6, 2022 Officer Colton Tennyson received and responded to a burglary investigation of a home located in the City of Westminster. Officer Tennyson contacted the victim of this burglary and completed an on-scene investigation. Officer Tennyson spoke with the victim/home owner of the burglary. During the course of Officer Tennyson's investigation, he collected descriptions, values and information about the items stolen.

The victim/home owner also reported information about a suspect who he believes was responsible for stealing the items from his residence. The victim indicated that he personally knew the suspect, knew where the suspect lived and received text messages from the suspect about the items taken. The victim reported the suspect's description, address and phone number to Officer Tennyson. Officer Tennyson confirmed these reported details indicating her would add the items and these details to his report. Officer Tennyson also informed the victim that he would attempt contact with the suspect.

Officer Tennyson completed an offense report documenting his interaction and the information reported, by the victim. Officer Tennyson completed an offense report but failed to report the suspect information. Officer Tennyson indicated in his written report that he did not have suspect information and the suspect was unknown to the victim. Officer Tennyson did report the items taken in the burglary, but did not attempt contact with the suspect. Officer Tennyson then submitted his report for approval

Sergeant [REDACTED] received Officer Tennyson's offense report for review and approval. Reviewing this offense report is a normal part of Sergeant [REDACTED] daily responsibilities. During the review process Sergeant [REDACTED] read about the stolen items and their locations prior to being taken. Sergeant [REDACTED] also reviewed photographs of the scene, taken and submitted by Officer Tennyson. In the process of reviewing the report and photographs Sergeant [REDACTED] discovered several text message pictures, listing information about the suspect and the items taken during the burglary. Sergeant [REDACTED] felt that Officer Tennyson's report was not accurate, as it did not document the suspect information reported by the victim.

Sergeant [REDACTED] had a conversation with Officer Tennyson about his report and the discrepancies he documented in his report. During this conversation Sergeant [REDACTED] felt that Officer Tennyson was not being truthful about the details of his report and therefore initiated a supervisor investigation into Officer Tennyson's actions

Complaint

Sergeant [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] filed a complaint alleging that Colton Tennyson violated the following (summary):

- Westminster Police Department Policy 102.3.5 Code of Ethics, Unprofessional Conduct.
- Westminster Police Department Policy 102.4.2 Rules of Conduct, Integrity
- Westminster Police Department Policy 102.3.7 Code of Ethics, Attention to Duty
- City of Westminster personnel Policies and Rules-X(J) (10) Reasons for Dismissal or Disciplinary Actions:
 - o Dishonesty
 - o Failure to demonstrate behavior consistent with the city's commitment to service, pride, integrity, responsibility, innovation and teamwork.
- City of Westminster Personnel Policies and Rules-X(J)(1) Violation of the provisions of the city charter, city code, these rules or other written city or department policies and regulations.

Investigation

On January 13, 2022 Officer Tennyson was placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of this Internal Affairs Investigation.

The initial supervisory investigation completed by Sgt. [REDACTED] alleged that Officer Tennyson had been untruthful when completing and documenting a burglary report. The initial offense report completed and submitted by Officer Tennyson was reviewed. This report was found to be inaccurate as it relates to the information collected during the burglary investigation.

During the investigation Officer Tennyson did contact and had a conversation with the victim of the burglary. Officer Tennyson documented items that were taken from the victim's residence. Officer Tennyson asked the victim if he knew or had an idea of who may have taken the items from his residence. Officer Tennyson did not document any suspect information and did indicate that the suspect was "unknown" to the victim.

Officer Tennyson was wearing a body camera (BWC) during this burglary investigation. The BWC was reviewed and found to be in contradiction of what Officer Tennyson documented in his report. The BWC recorded Officer Tennyson asking the victim if he knew the suspect, or if he had an idea of who the suspect might be. The victim reports, in detail who he believes the suspect is. In addition, the victim shows Officer Tennyson several text messages he received from the reported suspect. Officer Tennyson gathers the suspect information. Officer Tennyson also reads and records the text message sent from the suspect to the victim of the burglary. Officer Tennyson offers his opinion about the text messages, indicating that he believes the sender of the text messages is in fact the suspect.

This was the information Sgt. [REDACTED] reviewed and had concerns with; as Officer Tennyson did not add this information to his report, indicating that the victim did not know who the suspect was and did not have suspect information to report.

During the Internal Affairs Investigation Officer Tennyson was interviewed and answered questions about his report, his conversation with Sgt. [REDACTED] and his failure to document suspect information in his offense report. Officer Tennyson verbally admitted to completing the burglary offense report and failing to add the suspect information.

Disposition

The investigation was reviewed by Westminster Police Department Chain of Command and the Citizen Review Team. The actions of Officer Colton Tennyson were found to be in violation of the listed Westminster Police Department policies. Colton Tennyson's actions lead to his termination from the Westminster Police Department. Both Adams

and Jefferson Count District Attorneys were notified of Officer Tennyson's status as a potential brady witness.