

City of Dacono Police Advisory Board
Complaint No. 2025-04

The Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act provides that upon completion of an internal investigation ("IA"), including any appeals process, related to an incident of alleged misconduct involving a member of the public, the investigation file is open for public inspection upon request; except that the custodian may first provide the requester with a summary of the investigation file. In accordance with C.R.S. § 24-72-303(4)(a), the following is a summary of the above-referenced investigation file.

The IA investigated a complaint of arrest without probable cause for the offenses of impersonating a peace officer and attempting to influence a public servant; that the arrest was within the curtilage of the complainant's residence and therefore required an arrest and search warrant; that officers misrepresented their purpose for contacting the complainant to induce him to step outside his residence to avoid the need for an arrest warrant; that police reports, the warrantless arrest affidavit, and intake forms at the Weld County jail were insufficient or inaccurate; disparate treatment; and allegations regarding complainant's treatment following arrest and during transport. Pursuant to Section 2-75(b)(4) of the Dacono Municipal Code, the Police Advisory Board referred investigation of the complaint to an outside agency.

On July 4, 2025, officers from the Dacono Police Department responded to complaints of illegal fireworks within the subdivision where the complainant resides. Officers had issued numerous warnings in several parts of the City earlier in the evening, including issuing a warning to the complainant. When officers returned to complainant's subdivision, they spoke with several residents who were not complying with the warnings that officers had previously issued. Officers had been there three or four times that evening, and the residents were argumentative.

The complainant approached the officers and displayed a police badge in his right hand. [REDACTED] asked the complainant who he was with [what department he worked for] and complainant responded Louisville. Investigation conducted by [REDACTED] and others with the Dacono Police Department in the week following this contact revealed complainant was not a police officer with Louisville and had not worked for the Louisville Police Department since 2018. On July 12, 2025, officers returned to complainant's residence, asked him to come outside to speak with them, and arrested him in a landing area near the driveway.

The IA determined allegations regarding arrest without probable cause, a deficient warrantless arrest affidavit, unequal treatment, post-arrest and transport, and deficient intake forms at the Weld County jail were NOT SUSTAINED.

Violations of Dacono Police Department Policies were SUSTAINED with regard to report preparation, report review, and supervision by Sgt. Dan Ferris and investigation and report preparation by [REDACTED]. The investigator found these sustained policy violations did not invalidate probable cause or otherwise render the arrest unlawful;

however, they resulted in an investigative record that required subsequent clarification through external documentation and interviews and unnecessarily extended the investigation.

The Police Advisory Board recommended Sgt. Dan Ferris be terminated and that [REDACTED] be issued a verbal reprimand. Sgt. Dan Ferris resigned while under investigation.

After reviewing this summary, please advise if access to the entire investigation file is desired. Access will be subject to appropriate redactions as provided by law.

City of Dacono Police Advisory Board

Complaint No. 2025-02

The Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act provides that upon completion of an internal investigation ("IA"), including any appeals process, related to an incident of alleged misconduct involving a member of the public, the investigation file is open for public inspection upon request; except that the custodian may first provide the requester with a summary of the investigation file. In accordance with C.R.S. § 24-72-303(4)(a), the following is a summary of the above-referenced investigation file.

The IA investigated whether Sergeant Daniel Ferris properly investigated a citizen complaint. Pursuant to Section 2-75(b)(4) of the Dacono Municipal Code, the Police Advisory Board referred investigation of the complaint to an outside agency.

On September 5, 2024, Sergeant Ferris took a verbal complaint in the lobby of the Police station from a member of the public (the "Complainant"). The Complainant alleged that officers of the Department were unprofessional, used excessive force, and inappropriately touched him during a search incident to arrest. Sergeant Ferris informed the Complainant that the investigation would take a couple of weeks, and said that he would call the Complainant regarding the investigation.

Sergeant Ferris completed an investigation into the Complainant's allegations by reviewing body-worn camera footage and officer reports. Sergeant Ferris determined that the arresting officers' actions were within Department policy. However, Sergeant Ferris did not take any notes, prepare a written report, or follow-up with the Complainant. He also did not classify the complaint as formal or informal; did not log the complaint into the Department's tracking system; did not provide the Complainant with a complaint number; and did not review the Dacono Police Department Policy Manual for the required procedure when investigating a complaint.

On October 10, 2024, the Complainant returned to the Police Department because he had received no follow-up from Sergeant Ferris. He met with a Commander, who instructed Sergeant Ferris to email the complainant with his results. Segreant Ferris emailed the Complainant, advising that he had reviewed the bodycam footage and found no violations.

On March 3, 2025, the Complainant came again to the Police station and complained to the Commander about the lack of follow-up on his complaint. At the Commander's direction, Sergeant Ferris re-sent his original October 10, 2024 to the Complainant. Sergeant Ferris did not call the Complainant to ensure he received the email.

After March 3, 2025, the Complainant submitted written complaints to City Hall alleging that he was not notified of his results of the complaint made to Segreant Ferris and alleging that Sergeant Ferris was covering up for the arresting officers.

The IA determined that the evidence did not support the Complainant's allegation of a cover-up. The arresting officers had probable cause to arrest the Complainant, and their actions were within Department policy.

However, as to the timeliness and adequacy of the investigation into the complaint, the IA found that Sergeant Ferris failed to follow through on his responsibilities, failed to provide timely communication, and did not adhere to required complaint-handling procedures. Specifically, Sergeant Ferris was found to have violated the following provisions of the Dacono Police Department Policy Manual:

- **Policy 1007.6.1 (Complaint Classification)**, requires that personnel complaints be classified into one of three categories: informal, formal, or incomplete.
- **Policy 1007.8 (Documentation, Logging, and Auditing of Complaints)**, requires all complaints and inquiries shall be documented in a log that records and tracks complaints, including the nature of the complaint and actions taken.
- **Policy 1007.9.2 (Notification to Complainant)**, requires that supervisors should periodically communicate the status of an investigation to the complainant and, upon final disposition, provide the complainant with written notification of the outcome.

As a result of this IA, Sergeant Ferris was suspended without pay for two days. In addition, Sergeant Ferris was required to complete training related to ethics, complaint tracking, investigative practices, and report writing.

After reviewing this summary, please advise if access to the entire investigation file is desired. Access will be subject to appropriate redactions as provided by law.

Complainant: [REDACTED]

H: [REDACTED]

C: [REDACTED]

Date of complaint: June 26, 2014

Driver: No, I thought I stopped. I was trying to make a...."

Ferris: "You didn't....." (Raised voice)"Don't even start. Okay, because you did not even hit the brakes"

Driver: "Yes I did"

Ferris: requested drivers' license, registration, and proof of insurance. Ferris advised the driver she was getting a ticket.

Driver: "I swear to god I stopped"

Ferris: "20 Miles per hour through a stop sign and you didn't even hit the brakes"

Driver did not have her information on her and Ferris had asked her for her personal information. As she was giving her date of birth, there was a pause and she appeared to have to think about her date of birth. She then gave Ferris a DOB.

Ferris: "You sure about that?"

Driver raised her voice and abruptly states to Ferris her date of birth.

Ferris told her that she need to lose her attitude.

Driver then replied that it was because Ferris was giving her attitude.

Ferris responds that it was because she was lying to him. (Ferris never stated, "You're a liar")

Driver was still upset and replied: "Are you serious".. driver explained to Officer Ferris that she was thinking of her daughters date of birth at the same time as her date of birth.

Ferris returns to his patrol car and CopVu is still activated.

Runs clearance and DOR through Weld County Communications.

Ferris make a call on his cell phone to verify fine and points.

Returns to drivers' vehicle;

Gets a phone number for her.

Ferris: "First of all, I want to apologize if I yelled at you okay"

Driver: "You were being so frickin rude"

Ferris: "Okay well, I don't appreciate it when people tell me one thing when I see something totally different.

Driver: "I swear my foot slipped off the brake. That's what I was trying to tell you"

Ferris: "Going 20 MPH?"

Driver: "Yes. It slipped off the brake"

Ferris: "Okay" "Alright" and he started to explain the summons.

Driver:"Please just give me a break, it slipped off the brake I swear to god I even told her I'd slipped, my foot slipped off the brake and there was a cop"

Ferris: "Okay"

Driver: "I'm not going to lie in front of my daughters"

Ferris stated that he had already signed the ticket so he has to give her the ticket. Ferris explained that she has the opportunity to go into court.

Driver: But why can't you believe me, that my foot slipped off the brake, that's what I tried telling you"

Ferris: Interrupted and spoke over her towards the end of her sentence and stated, "Because what I saw was something different than what you're telling me. Okay, that's why."

Driver: "My foot, seriously my foot slipped out of my sandal"

Ferris: "I'm not going to sit here and argue with you, Okay."

Ferris: Explained ticket

Driver interrupted after Officer Ferris advised it was a 4 point violation stating, "Four points? Are you serious? Oh god" and appeared to be crying.

Officer Ferris asked her if she was going to listen to him. Officer Ferris explained the ticket and the fines and early payment to the driver and asked if she understood.

Driver refused to sign the ticket stating, "Not signing it".

Ferris: "You're not signing it?"

Driver: "Nope"

Ferris: "Okay"

Driver: "I don't know why you couldn't just give me a break". "Why couldn't you have given me a break"

As Officer Ferris was explaining the back of the ticket and contact information, driver stated louder, "Why couldn't you have given me a break"

As Officer Ferris was explaining the back of the summons, driver spoke over him asking for his supervisor's number. Officer Ferris advised to call the number on the back. She again repeated that she wanted his supervisor's number and Officer Ferris again told her to call the number on the back and ask. Officer Ferris then went back to his patrol car.

I spoke with [REDACTED] on the phone at 1545 hours:

She stated that her foot slipped off the pedal. She told her 9year old daughter that there was a police officer there. She stated that the officer was very rude with her and called her a liar. I explained to her why an Officer would tell her she was lying and she seemed to understand. She stated that the Officer came back up and apologized to her about being rude and she refused to sign the ticket and drove away angry. She did state that the Officer went back to his patrol car and took 20 minutes to write the ticket before coming back to her car. I advised her that the contact showed only 14 minutes total.

I explained to her that I will finish reviewing the video and speak with the Officer reference his conduct and call her back letting her know that I have spoken with the Officer. I advised her that I cannot discuss any disciplinary actions taken as it is administrative.

I explained to her on the phone that I will review the ticket and her statements and the video and if the officer stated he would have given her a warning, I will relay that to the court. I advised her that I cannot void the ticket as that is done only by the court.

I advised her that I would call her back reference the Officer but the ticket she may receive a call from the court clerk and not me.

She was very quiet on the phone and I asked if she had any other questions, comments, or concerns, and she stated that she did not.

I thanked her for calling and disconnected.

07-02-2014:

I contacted [REDACTED] on her cell and advised her that I had spoken with the officer reference the traffic stop. I advised her that the Officer had spoke with me and admitted to yelling at her. [REDACTED] was advised that the officer was spoken to reference his conduct and how he could deal with something like this better in the future.

[REDACTED] asked about if the ticket was going to be dropped. I advised her that the Officer only said that he signed the ticket and that he had to issue it to her. I advised her again that I cannot void the ticket and it has to be done by the court. She asked me if it would be dropped and I told her that I cannot make her promises but she can speak with the city Attorney and there can be a decision made by him based on her driving record. I told her that hopefully she does not have a bad contact with an officer again with our agency.

No further information