



CITY OF  
**ARVADA**  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FACSIMILE: 720-898-6661 ▲ TDD: 720-898-7869  
ADMINISTRATION: 720-898-6650 ▲ PATROL: 720-898-6800

01/23/2023

Via electronic mail

Brittany Freeman  
Rocky Mountain PBS  
2101 Arapahoe Street  
Denver, CO, 80205  
brittanyfreeman@RMPBS.org

Re: CCJRA Request for Internal Affairs Records

Ms. Freeman,

On behalf of the Chief of Police, I am the official custodian of internal affairs records for the Arvada Police Department (APD). I have reviewed your request pursuant to the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act, C.R.S. §§ 24-72-301 *et. seq.*, for certain APD internal affairs records involving **Mark Nazaryk, Katherine Tafoya and Zachary Jones**

Pursuant to the requirements of C.R.S. § 24-72-303(4)(a-h), I am providing the following records responsive to your request:

**Tafoya:**  
CIR 22-10 (Summary)

Regarding Mark Nazaryk and Zachary Jones, The APD holds no records responsive to your request.

Please contact me for any questions or clarifications. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amity Losey'.

Sergeant Amity Losey  
Internal Affairs

cc: File



ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

**DATE:** 01/20/2023  
**TO:** Brittany Freeman- Rocky Mountain PBS, IA File  
**FROM:** Arvada Police Department Internal Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** Investigation Summary CIR 22-10

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**DATE OF INTERNAL INVESTIGATION:** 03/24/2022

**RELATED ARVADA CASE(S):** 01282022-0046302

**SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION:** Citizen Inquire Report  
Incident #01282022-0046302

On January 28, 2022 at 1924 Officers were dispatched to [REDACTED] to a suspicious vehicle report. The reporting party told Jeffcom dispatch that a vehicle had used her driveway to turn around and was currently parked in front of her home occupied.

Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene and contacted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who would not fully communicate with him and requested a female officer. Sgt. [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] responded and Officer Tafoya, who was the only female available, responded. Officers were able to discern that [REDACTED] had come to the area to help her partner who was reported to be going through a mental breakdown. Officer [REDACTED] requested the name and phone number of that person to call them to offer aid. [REDACTED] would not provide that information. Officers were told that she would not talk to male police officers and their presence would escalate the situation. Officers proceed to the residence at 6117 Depew St. and contacted the woman who was verbally resistant to having officers there. Officer Tafoya was with [REDACTED] who became escalated due to male officers contacting her partner. Officer Tafoya attempted to keep [REDACTED] from interacting with officers and the woman as they were now yelling at each other. Office Tafoya gave verbal commands to have [REDACTED] stop who cursed at Officer Tafoya. It was evident that the woman would not accept officer's assistance and she currently was not injured so Sgt. [REDACTED] told officers to return to their cars. Officer Tafoya was still engaged with [REDACTED] who was now yelling at her and officers on scene. Officer Tafoya was told again by Sgt. [REDACTED] to leave the area and return to her car.

On 2/2/22, I learned that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had reported a complaint to Sgt. Schneider regarding the contact. Sgt. Schneider reported the complaint to me and gave me contact information for her. He relayed a basic summary of the complaint saying [REDACTED] was unhappy with the professionalism displayed by officers who responded to include their contact with the woman at [REDACTED] with information that she would be upset with police contact. I relayed the complaint to Sgt. Losey who also received notice of the complaint. I attempted phone contact with [REDACTED] on 2/3/22 at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and left a voice message with my contact number, name and told her I would be investigating the complaint. As of 2/16/22, I have not received a phone call.

Supervisor Investigation:

Sgt [REDACTED] On 2/3/22, I contacted Sgt. [REDACTED] to inform him of the complaint and asked him if

anything had happened. He advised that Ofc. Tafoya had a verbal interaction which became heated. I asked him to send me a memo of the incident. The following is that statement:

On January 28, 2022, at 1924 hours Officers responded to [REDACTED] with regard to a suspicious vehicle. Someone pulled up to the neighbor's driveway and pulled out real quick and parked with their lights off. Officer [REDACTED] established contact with the driver of the vehicle, [REDACTED] (DOB:07/25/88). Officer [REDACTED] requested a female officer reference a mental health assist. Officer Tafoya arrived and began conversing with [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] was seated in the driver's seat of her vehicle. Officer Tafoya relayed to officers on scene that a female inside [REDACTED] was having a mental breakdown. Officer [REDACTED] and Sergeant [REDACTED] went to talk with the female subject. She answered the door and began a tirade of vulgarities at officers and yelling she had COVID. She demanded officers, "Get the fuck away" and, "Fuck you guys." As Officer [REDACTED] was trying to determine if medical assistance was needed, [REDACTED] was quickly walking up behind Officer [REDACTED] also yelling profanities. Officer Tafoya was walking quickly behind and was able to get her to stop in the driveway. Officer Tafoya was yelling back at [REDACTED] "You need to shut the fuck up" and "You need to calm the fuck down." Sergeant [REDACTED] intervened and told Officer [REDACTED] we were not needed and needed to leave the scene. Sergeant [REDACTED] told Officer Tafoya it was time to leave and Officer Tafoya and [REDACTED] continued to yell back and forth at each other. Sergeant [REDACTED] told Officer Tafoya to leave based on the interaction they were having but continued to scream at each other until Sergeant [REDACTED] told Officer Tafoya two more occasions to leave. Officers returned to their patrol vehicles, followed by [REDACTED] who appeared to be taking photographs of the police vehicles officers were driving.

Sergeant [REDACTED] spoke with Officer Tafoya during a car-to-car conversation about professionalism and maintaining composure while performing her duties. Officer Tafoya advised she was frustrated with the way [REDACTED] was acting and was trying to get her to listen to her by using the language she did. She was receptive to the counseling and advised she will try to not let it happen again.

Officer [REDACTED] was interviewed and told me he was first to arrive on scene and contact [REDACTED]. She was difficult to talk to and would not roll down her window stating she had been sexually assaulted by a man or a male police officer. She requested a female officer and Ofc. [REDACTED] requested one. When it was learned that the resident in [REDACTED] was her partner and was in mental crisis, Ofc. [REDACTED] requested her name and phone number to check on her and [REDACTED] would not provide it. Without that information, Officers decide to check the welfare of the resident at [REDACTED]. She answered the door and was verbally combative. She told officers to leave and during that interaction she and [REDACTED] began yelling at each other. It was understood that Officers were not welcome of need and they went to their cars. Ofc. [REDACTED] did see Ofc. Tafoya giving commands to [REDACTED] not to go to the residence and her partner was yelling at her. Ofc. [REDACTED] did not see anything that was alarming in Ofc. Tafoya's performance or manner in which she spoke to [REDACTED].

Officer [REDACTED] - was interviewed and provided the same information regarding the summary of the call and how it developed. He had little contact with [REDACTED]. He did see Ofc. Tafoya engaged with [REDACTED] but did not see or hear anything said that would concern him.

Officer Tafoya- was interviewed on 2/11/22 at 1445 hrs. I explained that a complaint was made by [REDACTED] and reminded her of the call for service. I told her that the complaint as I was aware did not specifically focus on her. When inquiring with Sgt. [REDACTED] he told me there was an issue with Katie's performance with [REDACTED]. Ofc. Tafoya asked me what was reported to me. I relayed the information provided in Sgt. [REDACTED] account. Ofc. Tafoya relayed that she was called to the location as the female ([REDACTED] contacted would only talk to a female officer. When she arrived she spoke to [REDACTED]. Officers learned that the resident at [REDACTED] was in mental health crisis and [REDACTED] told Officers that their presence was going to escalate the situation. Ofc. Tafoya offered to contact the woman as long as [REDACTED] was fine staying with a male officer. [REDACTED] was not helpful and began walking toward the house where Officers were in contact with the woman. She

yelled at officers and Ofc. Tafoya. Ofc. Tafoya said she gave commands for the woman to stop and [REDACTED] was yelling and cursing her. She said she told [REDACTED] to “calm the fuck down”. When asked why she used that language, Ofc. Tafoya regretted having to use it, but she said it one time to get attention in effort to get her to comply. She did not use any physical force and did not touch [REDACTED]. She later spoke to Sgt. [REDACTED] about the interaction. She did not provide further information about that conversation.

Ofc. Tafoya was calm and appropriate but appeared defensive in relaying the information of the call to me and accepting of my feedback. I returned to the information about her performance as reported by Sgt. [REDACTED]. She told me that her interaction with [REDACTED] was not to the extent of a yelling match between her and [REDACTED] although she had to yell to communicate over [REDACTED]. She did agree that Sgt. [REDACTED] did tell her that Officers were leaving and were no longer needed at the scene. She then asked if other officers on scene were interviewed and was told that they hadn't at that time. She asked that those interviews be done. I told Katie that I was aware of the troubling week she had in which she made the decision to euthanize her pet dog who she was very attached to due to aggressiveness and subsequent biting of another person. She became emotional and her eyes teared. I sympathized with her as I had made the same decision. She acknowledged that it was emotional time for her but it had no bearing on her engagement with [REDACTED]. She relayed that she did not need time away from work and found work as a time in which she could focus on her job and duties instead of that situation. I offered her strategies and assistance in management of difficult people. I would note Katie is CIT trained and has experience numerous verbally combative people. I pressed the need to remain calm and under control in order to be professional and if that could not be maintained, she would be better to call for assistance and removed herself from engagements that might lead to similar outcomes. She was advised that the use of course language may have a positive tactical effect in getting another's attention, but rarely has a positive effect in building rapport and fostering dialog. I gave her examples of both good and bad use and the outcomes. Once again Katie was accepting of that advice. Katie was aware that the incident would be investigated and documented.

Analysis:

Policy Reviewed:

RPM 101.1.4 Code Conduct

Founded:

In reviewing this complaint I was unable to contact the involved party but the engagement was witnessed and reported by Sgt. [REDACTED]. His evaluation would found a violation of this policy in which the use of language was disrespectful and the frustration and emotion exhibited by Ofc. Tafoya was outside the performance expectations of our agency. As of 3/24/21, Ofc. Tafoya's performance and attitude has been an issue that has been documented in CIR complaints and Sgt. [REDACTED] has been active in addressing those. The resulting supervisor counseling appeared to be reasonable and appropriate for this instance.

Supervisor Actions:

During the follow-up meeting with Katie, further verbal counseling was provided. Supervisors on Team 4 have been instructed to observe Ofc. Tafoya and document any further issues. This action has taken place.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS DETERMINATION:** *Substantiated*. The supervisor determined the actions of Officer Tafoya were *not* within City and APD Policies.