

**Pueblo, Colorado Police Department
Intra-Department Communication**

TO: Interim Chief Chris Noeller
FROM: Sgt. [REDACTED] Internal Affairs Section
SUBJECT: I.A. Investigation # 2021-0002
DATE: 09/03/21

Sir,

I have finished the investigation of IA 2021-0002. Below are the names of all persons interviewed, synopsis and the narrative of the investigation.

Officers Involved: Manuel Pedraza

Other Officers on Scene:

Complainant/Witness

NAME: LAST FIRST MIDDLE			ADDRESS: (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
DOB	RELATIONSHIP to complaint		BUSINESS: ADDRESS, NAME	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
NAME: LAST FIRST MIDDLE			ADDRESS: (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
DOB	RELATIONSHIP to complaint		BUSINESS: ADDRESS, NAME	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
NAME: LAST FIRST MIDDLE			ADDRESS: (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
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[REDACTED]				
DOB	RELATIONSHIP to complaint		BUSINESS: ADDRESS, NAME	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
NAME: LAST FIRST MIDDLE			ADDRESS: (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				
DOB	RELATIONSHIP to complaint		BUSINESS: ADDRESS, NAME	TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]				

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SYNOPSIS:

On [REDACTED] the Internal Affairs section received a handwritten complaint from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] documented that on [REDACTED] she was at the [REDACTED] getting gas on pump #1. She stated an officer, who was later identified as Officer Manuel Pedraza, was in his patrol car which was across from her and parked facing the side of the Loaf-N-Jug. She said after getting her gas, she pulled out of the parking lot and turned towards Pueblo BLVD and then turned onto Pueblo BLVD to go to I-25. She stated the officer had left the Loaf-N-Jug before her, but he must have done a U-turn because he was now behind her in traffic. She said the officer pulled her over and told her the reason he pulled her over was her license plates were expired. She said during the stop, the officer told her the insurance on the vehicle was expired. She said the officer did not give her a citation and she left and drove to Cracker Barrel. She stated about two hours later, she received text messages from the officer. She said the officer was asking really personal questions in his text messages and asked her if she thought he was a creep. [REDACTED] stated she felt this was very unprofessional.

REPORT:

On Wednesday, [REDACTED] I called [REDACTED] and informed her Internal Affairs received her complaint, and I would be investigating this case. I told her I would arrange an interview with her in the near future but in the meantime, I asked her to forward me the text messages Officer Pedraza sent her. [REDACTED] forwarded the messages to my cell phone. I received the text messages at 2:39pm on [REDACTED]. The text messages she received came from phone number [REDACTED] and the following is the text conversation:

[REDACTED] @ 1:47pm
Pedraza: Hello is this [REDACTED]

29 [REDACTED]: Ya

30 **Pedraza:** This is Officer Pedraza. The handsome officer that stopped you. I found a copy
31 of your old insurance card in my car. It was expired. Can I have your permission to throw
32 it away?

33 **At 4:12pm [REDACTED] responds:**

34 Yeah

35 Sorry I've been in a work meeting and driving

36 **Pedraza:** Thank you. It's ok. I understand. Thank you so much for responding. Thought
37 you got creeped out for a sec. Ha

38 [REDACTED] No I didn't haha just busy but thank you for asking

39 **Pedraza:** You're welcome. I tried to call but you didn't answer. That's why I text you.
40 Just fyi. Ha

41 [REDACTED]: oh okay ha sorry

42 **Pedraza:** Its ok. No worries.

43 [REDACTED]: Okay well have a good rest of your night:)

44 **Pedraza:** You and your friend probably think I'm a creep huh

45 [REDACTED] No I figured I'd get a text or something you don't give me creep vibes haha

46 **Pedraza:** You figured you get a text? Haha. What do you mean?

47 [REDACTED] Like you had written my number down so I thought I'd get ha message of call about
48 something because of that I don't really know it's the first time I've ever been pulled over
49 and involved with law enforcement I guess.

50 **Pedraza:** I can see that. I'm actually required to get your address and phone number. Haha

51 [REDACTED] Ya that's what I thought haha

52 **Pedraza:** Was that your friend or sister with you?

53 [REDACTED] My friend

54 **Pedraza:** I see. Well I guess if you ever want to talk just hit me up.

55 [REDACTED]: Okay will do

56 **Pedraza:** Have a good night. Thanks again. How old are you?

57 [REDACTED] Well I was 18 but now I'm 19 haha

58 **Pedraza:** Interesting. When was your birthday?

59 [REDACTED] In [REDACTED]

60 **Pedraza:** Very nice. You live with your parents?

61 [REDACTED] Yes

62 **Pedraza:** You like it

63 [REDACTED]: Yeah don't have to pay as much rent and I mean there family so ya

64 **Pedraza:** That's good

65 [REDACTED]: Yeah it's nice

66

67 On Tuesday [REDACTED] the day after the traffic stop, Officer Pedraza sends another text to
68 [REDACTED] at 11:59am.

69 **Pedraza:** Where do you work?

70 [REDACTED] I have two jobs actually

71 **Pedraza:** Where at

72 [REDACTED] did not respond any further.

73

74 On [REDACTED] at approximately 3:15pm I spoke to [REDACTED] and her mother,
75 [REDACTED] in training room #2. The following is a summary of the information I
76 received during the interview.

77

78 [REDACTED] Interview

79

80 I confirmed with [REDACTED] that she was pulled over by a Pueblo Police Officer on
81 [REDACTED] and she said that was correct. I asked her to explain how the traffic stop occurred.
82 She said She said she and her friend worked out that morning and then drove to the Loaf-
83 N-Jug on [REDACTED] She said she pulled into gas pump #1 and was
84 facing the Loaf-N-Jug. She said the Officer was parked by the Loaf-N-Jug on the side of
85 the Loaf-N-Jug. I had printed off a google earth photograph of the Loaf-N-Jug located at
86 [REDACTED] I showed [REDACTED] the photograph and she and [REDACTED] pointed out
87 where she was parked at the gas pumps and where Officer Pedraza was parked. She pointed
88 out him being parked on the east side of the Loaf-N-Jug facing the Loaf-N-Jug. I put an
89 'X' where [REDACTED] said she was at and an 'X' where she said the officer was parked.

90

91 I asked if she went into the store and she said she did. She said she went in and
92 paid and then came back out to her car and pumped her gas. She said they sat at the pumps
93 for a minute because they were discussing where they wanted to go to breakfast. She said
94 the Officer Pedraza pulled out and she thought he went the other way. She said she thought
95 she went the opposite way of the Officer but when she stopped at the light, Officer Pedraza
96 was behind her. She said she is not sure how he ended up behind her.

97

98 She said she turned onto Pueblo BLVD going towards I-25 and Officer Pedraza
99 pulled her over. [REDACTED] also did not understand how the officer got behind her in traffic. I
100 asked if Officer Pedraza was talking to anyone else at the store like he was there doing his
101 job. [REDACTED] stated he was just sitting in his car.

102

103 I confirmed Officer Pedraza told her he pulled her over for expired license plates
104 and she stated that was correct. She said the plates expired December 31. [REDACTED] stated she
105 forgot to renew the plates because of Christmas, and they had COVID cases in their house.
106 [REDACTED] stated she was concerned because in her opinion, Officer Pedraza could not have seen
107 the plate in the parking lot and there is a decorative cover on the plate that covers the
108 expiration date so he could not have seen it was expired. She said she believes Officer
109 Pedraza was going to pull [REDACTED] over no matter what and that freaks her out.

110

111 I asked [REDACTED] if Officer Pedraza acted appropriately during the traffic stop and she
112 said he did. She said she has never been pulled over before, but she felt he acted
113 professional. She said she gave Pedraza her paperwork and he went to his car. She said
114 she called her dad and he asked about the grace period for the plates, so he wanted [REDACTED]
115 to ask Officer Pedraza about it. She said when Officer Pedraza returned, he told her he was
116 not going to give her a ticket. She said he also told her she needed to get her insurance
117 fixed and make an appointment to get license plates. She said he provided her with his
118 business card. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] when Officer Pedraza asked for her phone number. She
119 said he asked for her number right before he gave her his business card. She said he wrote
120 down her number and address, gave her his card and concluded the traffic stop. I asked if
121 they had valid insurance and [REDACTED] said they did but the paper showed it was expired. [REDACTED]

122 also added that [REDACTED] did not have her driver license with her so she thought [REDACTED] should
123 have gotten a ticket.

124

125 I told her I read the text messages Officer Pedraza sent her. I asked if he forgot to
126 give her the insurance paperwork. She said she did not look at the time if he handed her
127 everything back. She said he handed her papers and she put them in a cubby hole beneath
128 her steering wheel. She said she did not understand how some of the paperwork would
129 have ended up in his car because he handed paperwork back to her. [REDACTED] asked if she
130 looked to see if all the paperwork was in the car after he texted her and she said she did
131 not. I asked [REDACTED] to check if he gave her all the paperwork back.

132

133 I asked her how it made her feel when Officer Pedraza started texting her. She said
134 what he first texted her and identified himself as the handsome Officer who pulled her over,
135 she thought it was weird and conceded. She said she told him she was sorry she didn't
136 answer for about four hours because she was on a work meeting. She said he told her it
137 was no problem and was saying "Haha", and "Lol" like it was not him as an officer texting
138 her, it was him as a person texting her. She said then he started asking personal questions
139 like, is that your sister, and do you live with your mom and dad. She said she thought at
140 this point it was getting creepy and she wished he would stop texting her and asking her
141 questions. I told her I read where Officer Pedraza actually asked her if she was creeped
142 out in the texts. She said he did. [REDACTED] stated, you don't tell a creepy person that they are
143 creepy!

144

145 [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] tried to end the message by saying, have a good night. [REDACTED]
146 stated that's when he stated something like, "you think I'm creepy don't you". [REDACTED]
147 thought to herself, "now I do". I told her she didn't say that on the text but is she saying
148 now that it did creep her out. She stated yeah. [REDACTED] went on to say it freaked [REDACTED] out at
149 first, but it didn't freak her totally out until [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] dad talked to her about it.
150 [REDACTED] stated she thought it was weird and when she told her parents he texted her, they
151 panicked therefore she panicked. [REDACTED] said she told [REDACTED] that it is not normal for the
152 police to text her. [REDACTED] said she thought since she did not have her driver's license or

153 insurance, she thought that is why he got her phone number and address. She said she even
154 told Officer Pedraza she expected him to call or text and he told her he is required to get
155 her number.

156

157 I told her that as we were going to the second floor in the elevator for the interview,
158 she told me she received another text from him today. She said he did text her today and
159 she did not text back. She said at 12:23pm, Officer Pedraza texted her and said, "Hey you".
160 She said she texted her mom and told her the officer texted her again. She said [REDACTED] called
161 her and told her not to answer him. I asked [REDACTED] to forward that text message to me.

162

163 I explained to [REDACTED] that it is not normal for an officer to text her. [REDACTED] explained
164 it was concerning to her because [REDACTED] is naive and when you ask question such as, "do
165 you live with your parents", that is trying to find out if you live by yourself. [REDACTED] said she
166 felt Pedraza was asking probing questions trying to figure out if [REDACTED] lived by herself
167 because after [REDACTED] told him she lived with her parents, he asked where she worked. [REDACTED]
168 stated these questions made her uncomfortable. I asked [REDACTED] if she knew Officer Pedraza
169 from any prior encounters and she said she did not.

170

171 [REDACTED] stated she could not even describe him but when she told her mom about it,
172 [REDACTED] looked Officer Pedraza up online. [REDACTED] read where Pedraza was one of the officers
173 who was cleared for a shooting. [REDACTED] stated she still did not recognize him because he
174 had a black mask on and black sunglasses.

175

176 I told [REDACTED] I just wanted her opinion about how the traffic stop occurred as well
177 as her perception and how this incident made her feel. I asked her again if she was creeped
178 out by the Officers texts even though she told him in the text he did not creep her out. She
179 stated she was creeped out, but you don't tell someone they are creepy.

180

181 I explained to them how the investigation would be handled. I explained that he
182 would be notified on this date that he was being investigated for something but then I will
183 interview him at a later date. [REDACTED] stated she did not want to make it sound like he was a

184 horrible person because she was sure he is not a horrible person. [REDACTED] interjected and told
185 [REDACTED] that Officer Pedraza is a person in a position of power, and he got her cellphone
186 number during something that was supposed to be professional. I explained to [REDACTED] that
187 it is our job as police officers to build the trust of the community. I explained she did
188 nothing wrong and she did the right thing by telling her parents about the incident. I told
189 her it was my job to hold our officers accountable to build your trust. I also asked if Officer
190 Pedraza returned all the paperwork, she had given him and she said she thought so, but she
191 would check. Nothing else was discussed and this interview concluded. [REDACTED] did in fact
192 forward the new text message from Officer Pedraza and it is attached to this case. I also
193 received photographs from her that depicted the insurance card that Officer Pedraza had
194 written her date of birth and address on.

195

196 **Officer Manuel Pedraza Interview**

197

198 On [REDACTED] at approximately 9:59 am, Sgt. [REDACTED] and I [REDACTED]
199 interviewed Officer Manuel Pedraza. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, the
200 interview was held in the Training Room #2 at the Pueblo Police Department. Present
201 during the interview was [REDACTED]. I began by clarifying on the record
202 that Officer Pedraza waived Garrity Advisement and [REDACTED] confirmed Officer Pedraza
203 was voluntarily present and participating in the interview. I confirmed with Officer
204 Pedraza that Sgt. [REDACTED] served him with a 48-hour notice, and I attached the complaint to
205 the notice. Officer Pedraza confirmed this was correct. I asked him if he read the
206 complaint that was attached to the 48-hour notice and he stated he did.

207

208 I told him, according to the complaint, he made a traffic stop somewhere in the
209 area of [REDACTED]. I asked him if he could explain what occurred on
210 that traffic stop. He stated the story goes back further than the traffic stop. He went on to
211 say he was at the Loaf N Jug because he had to use the restroom. He stated he was
212 parked in the parking lot minding his own business and was warming up his breakfast
213 and getting his coffee. He stated he was also keeping an eye on his surroundings and he
214 happened to look over and he observed a vehicle which he later conducted a traffic stop

215 on. He stated he noticed there was a passenger in the vehicle. He stated the passenger
216 was a female and she kept looking at him and then looking at the door to the Loaf N Jug.
217 He stated he thought the passenger's actions were "funky", so he was going to keep an
218 eye on it. He said he continued to eat his breakfast and drink his coffee and he saw the
219 person who filed the complaint ([REDACTED]) walk out of the Loaf N Jug and she was
220 not holding anything in her hand like she purchased something from the store. He stated
221 he started to wonder if there was a possible shoplifting occurring because the female
222 passenger was acting nervous, and the other female came out of the store without
223 anything in her hands.

224

225 He said he watched the female walk over to the vehicle he conducted the traffic
226 stop with and he did not see her put gas in the vehicle. He stated it is possible she did
227 pump gas and he did not see it. He stated he finished his breakfast and coffee. He also
228 described how he was parked in the first parking spot by Loaf N Jug facing west and he
229 backed his vehicle out of the parking spot and went around the building. He said he came
230 out to Lake Avenue and made a righthand turn to go to Pueblo BLVD. He stated when
231 he was at the light, the vehicle that he was watching in the Loaf N Jug parking lot was in
232 front of him in traffic, so he ran the license plate. He stated he got a response that the
233 license plate was expired, therefore he made a traffic stop. He stated the license plate
234 was expired in 12/2020. He stated the expired plate was the probable cause to stop the
235 vehicle, but he wanted to dig a little further and make sure there was not something in the
236 vehicle regarding a possible Theft from the Loaf N Jug.

237

238 He said he went back to his car and ran the driver. He said the driver was unable
239 to provide him with a valid insurance card and she also called her father and he wanted to
240 know about the grace period on the license plates. He said he explained the grace period
241 to her and provided her with his contact card and then sent her on her way.

242

243 I told Officer Pedraza he explained to us where he was parked but I asked him
244 where the female was parked at the Loaf N Jug. He stated they were parked in the gas
245 pump area, to his left. I confirmed he was not at the Loaf N Jug on a call for service, he

246 was just there using the restroom and fixing his breakfast and he stated that was correct. I
247 told him he mentioned the expired plate was his probable cause for making the traffic
248 stop. I asked him what Patrol's protocol has been in 2020 because of the COVID
249 pandemic. I told him I had been told officers were not necessarily ignoring expired plates
250 but using discretion and I asked him what protocol they had been using. He stated it was
251 his belief that they could still stop vehicles for expired plates but the only grace period
252 you could give somebody due to the COVID is if they had temporary tags that they could
253 not get permanent tags for. He stated the regular license plates can be done through the
254 mail or at the kiosk and temporary plates must be done in person and that it is the
255 discretion for expired temporary plates.

256

257 I confirmed with him that when he was watching the vehicle, there was a female
258 in the passenger seat that was acting weird, and he stated that was correct. He again
259 described how the female was looking at him and then looking at the door and appeared
260 to be nervous. He stated he had a little "tingling" sensation going off which told him to
261 pay attention.

262

263 I asked him when he made the traffic stop, since he said he was investigating a
264 possible Shoplifting, I asked if he observed anything regarding that during the traffic
265 stop. He stated he did not. He stated the vehicle's windows were not tinted so he was
266 able to look inside and could see there was nothing there that he would have thought was
267 stolen. He stated that is why he went to the car and ran her. He said she was valid, and
268 he gave her a break on the proof of insurance and then sent her on her way. I asked him
269 if he asked any questions to the driver, such as what you were doing at the Loaf N Jug,
270 since that is what he was telling us he was looking into. He stated he did not. He stated
271 the female could have put gas in her car, but he did not see it, so he did not ask anything
272 like that. He stated he did not feel he needed to push the issue regarding the possible
273 Shoplifting.

274

275 I asked him what occurred after the traffic stop. He stated a few hours later, he
276 looked down in the floorboard of his car and saw a piece of paper and he picked it up.

277 He stated it was one of the expired insurance cards from the driver in the traffic stop. He
278 stated he had recently spoken to [REDACTED] about making correct and right
279 decisions. He also stated he recently got in trouble for holding onto somebody's driver's
280 license and Social Security Card in his cubby (mailbox) overnight. He said he did not
281 want that to occur again, and he could have just thrown it in the trash however he was
282 trying to use his brain and acknowledged it was not his property, so he was trying to do
283 the right thing. He said he tried to call the female three to five times. He stated he called
284 from a blocked number because if he did not, citizens would get his personal cell number.
285 He stated he did not want to have to pull a case report number to tag a piece of paper. He
286 stated that is why he texted her and identified who he was. I asked him, at what point
287 during the traffic stop did he obtain her phone number. He stated after watching his body
288 camera footage, he believes he initially got her name, and then when he went back to her
289 vehicle, he got her phone number before letting her go.

290

291 I informed him I also watched his body worn camera and when he approached
292 her, he told her he was not going to give a citation and he stated that was correct. I asked
293 him why at that point he got a phone number if he was not going to issue a citation. He
294 stated he is still required to get everybody's phone number and address and he keeps it in
295 his notebook. He stated it is his belief you have to do that per our department policy. He
296 stated when he went back to the vehicle, all the documentation matched, therefore he did
297 not have to do a field contact card.

298

299 I asked him if when he was watching his body worn camera, did he see where he
300 handed her the registration and insurance and other documents and he stated he did. He
301 stated there were multiple proofs of insurance. He stated he did hand her the top proof of
302 insurance and the registration. I confirmed that he tried to call her prior to texting and
303 asked how many times. He stated he thought it was four or five times he attempted to
304 call her. I also confirmed it was from his personal phone and that is why he blocked the
305 number and he stated that was correct. I asked him if there was a recording to leave a
306 voice mail and he said he does not recall. I asked him if he was saying he did not leave a
307 voice mail. He stated he did not leave a voice mail, and he did not recall if there was a

308 voice mail set up. I asked him what he texted her. He stated he was sure we had the text,
309 but he said something to the effect of, this is Officer Pedraza the handsome police officer
310 that did a traffic stop on you. He stated he used the word handsome in his text.

311

312 I asked him to explain how this conversation through text messages went. He
313 stated he would explain the handsome part first. He stated on the east side, he is known
314 as the handsome officer. He stated [REDACTED] used to be the handsome officer on
315 the east side, but he took that torch after [REDACTED] left. He stated he uses that term all the
316 time and gave an example saying if he is in contact with people and they tell him a police
317 officer had been there, he will tell them he is the handsome officer and he has not been
318 there. He said he normally uses it as a joke to break the ice. He stated he also used it this
319 time to also kind of break the ice so the female would not be scared.

320

321 Pedraza stated he thought it was an hour or two after he texted her that she
322 responded back, and she told him he could throw the expired proof of insurance away.
323 He said he thought he sent her something along the lines of, he hoped he did not creep
324 her out because with the totality of the circumstances he could understand how awkward
325 it could be for a police officer to text you. He said she responded and stated he was not
326 creeping her out. He said the female texted him saying she figured she would get a text
327 from him or a call from him. He asked why she thought this, and she stated because he
328 asked her for her phone number. He said he texted her back and told her he is required to
329 get everyone's phone number and address. He said she responded something to the effect
330 of okay have a great day and she attached a smiley face emoji.

331

332 He said he does not recall how the conversation went after that, but he recalls
333 asking her who the girl was in the passenger seat. He also stated he asked the female
334 driver who she lived with and where she worked. He stated that was pretty much all they
335 texted. He stated in his opinion, nothing went outside the realm of professionalism other
336 than he probably could have used something other than describing himself as handsome.
337 He said other than that, he did not ask her anything that he would not have asked anyone

338 else if he was working a call on the street. He stated he never hit on her, sent anything
339 inappropriate, or attached any kind of emoji that would suggest he was hitting on her.
340

341 I told him, in my opinion, the text messages did go into personal business. I told
342 him after the fact he gave somebody a warning and got the answer to his question of
343 whether you could throw the insurance card away, why does it matter if she lives with her
344 parents? He stated, it is still him "digging". He said he may not have found anything,
345 but it does not mean she did not steal anything. He said he does not know who she is, but
346 he does know the girl that was next to her was acting really suspicious. Therefore, the
347 cop in him was still trying to figure it out and put the puzzle together. He said he saw her
348 walk out of the store with nothing in her hands and did not see her put gas in so, in his
349 opinion, there were still questions in his head as to what happened at the Loaf N Jug. He
350 said he kept checking the computer screen to make sure there were no Thefts that were
351 coming in from the Loaf N Jug, and he stated there never was a call for Thefts at the Loaf
352 N Jug.

353

354 I asked him if that was his main reason for the communication, why did he not
355 ask one question regarding what she was doing at Loaf N Jug, when he was in contact
356 with her and he felt he had probable cause to check into something that might have
357 occurred at the Loaf N Jug. I told him I watched the body worn camera and he did not
358 ask one question regarding a possible Theft. He stated at that time he did not see
359 anything in the car that justified getting them stirred up about. He stated he did not feel
360 right since he did not see anything in the car asking them why they were at a public Loaf
361 N Jug. He said he did not see anything in particular at that time that would indicate he
362 should ask, "hey, I am making sure you did not steal anything from the Loaf N Jug". He
363 said he did not feel like he needed to let them know he was looking into them for possibly
364 stealing something because it could have made things worse. He said just because it did
365 not, in his opinion, need to be addressed immediately, it does not mean he is not going to
366 continue digging around.

367

368 I told him, based on his response to that question, if he is telling me now that
369 when he texted her, he felt somehow her living with her parents connected to the possible
370 Theft at Loaf N Jug. I asked him why he did not ask her who she lived with when he was
371 on the traffic stop with her. He stated he did not think about it, to be honest. He again
372 stated he did not see anything on the traffic stop that would make him think he needed to
373 “dig” in that bad during the traffic stop.

374

375 I confirmed the text messages were sent approximately an hour or two after the
376 traffic stop and he stated that was correct. I asked him if he was aware of a Theft from
377 Loaf N Jug that came in between the time he texted her and the time he had the traffic
378 stop and he stated, not to his knowledge. I asked him if he had stated earlier that her
379 name and the registration on the car matched and came back good, and he stated he did
380 not believe the car was registered to her. He stated he thought he recalled the car was
381 registered to the mom and dad, but not to her. He also stated he did not know if the car
382 was registered to the correct address, but other than that it matched. I confirmed that he
383 got her address when he was in contact with her on the traffic stop and he stated that was
384 correct. I asked him again, because I was having trouble understanding why it mattered
385 who she lived with at that address, whether it was her parents or anyone else. He stated,
386 in his opinion, a good cop just continues digging around when you have information. He
387 stated just because she is a 19-year-old girl does not mean she is not living with some
388 hardened criminal. He stated the female next to her could have had felony warrants. He
389 said he just never knows and that is why he continually digs, being the good cop.

390

391 Sgt. ██████ asked him if he had probable cause to continue his investigation.
392 Officer Pedraza asked what he was referring to. Sgt. ██████ asked if he had probable
393 cause to ask questions like who she lives with, how many jobs she has, and where are
394 those jobs at. Officer Pedraza stated he felt he had reasonable suspicion to ask those
395 questions based on the initial contact. Sgt. ██████ asked him if he ever notified either one
396 of them at the gas pumps that he was investigating them and he stated he did not. Sgt.
397 ██████ asked Officer Pedraza if this is his mode of operation when he conducts traffic
398 stops. Sgt. ██████ asked him to estimate how many traffic stops he conducted last year.

399 He stated until they were ordered to stop due to the COVID outbreak, he was probably
400 towing two to three cars a day because of expired plates, registration and proof of
401 insurance. Sgt. [REDACTED] again asked how many traffic stops he does during a shift or
402 during a week and he stated since COVID, not many. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked why he did not
403 question the female passenger since she was the one who drew his suspicion. He stated
404 he could have because is in his opinion, he had reasonable suspicion to ask her about
405 what was going on at the Loaf N Jug but on a traffic stop, he can't order her to give him
406 her ID. He said he could have asked some simple questions, but he did not see anything
407 in the car in plain view in order to push the issue. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated he did not ask any
408 questions in general as to why he stopped them, and he did not even ask who the female
409 passenger was. Officer Pedraza agreed.

410

411 Sgt. [REDACTED] went on to say, if he would have asked for her name, she possibly
412 would have given it and then he could have run her name, but he did not. Sgt. [REDACTED]
413 stated he feels the contact was over at that point and then the last time he texted the
414 driver, he was done with the contact. Sgt. [REDACTED] told Officer Pedraza if he was such a
415 digging officer, he should have been digging into the car and all of it from the very
416 beginning but none of it was done, and then later the first words out of Officer Pedroza's
417 mouth were, I hope I did not creep you out. Officer Pedraza stated he could totally
418 understand because it is not normal. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated he is aware it is not normal and
419 asked him if he does this normally. Officer Pedraza stated he does not. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked
420 him why he did it this time and Officer Pedraza stated because he did not want to get in
421 trouble for having an expired proof of insurance. He again referred to how he had
422 somebody's property overnight in his possession and he got a [REDACTED] for
423 it. He said he was trying to do everything by the book, and he wanted her authorization
424 to throw the insurance document away. He stated if he did not get in contact with her by
425 the end of his shift, he would have pulled a case number and tagged it into evidence.

426

427 Sgt. [REDACTED] said, even after she gave you permission to throw it away, you
428 continued to ask questions, correct? Officer Pedraza stated that was correct. Sgt. [REDACTED]
429 confirmed that Officer Pedraza asked her in the text where she worked and he stated he

430 did, and she did not respond. Sgt. ██████ asked if he thought that was suspicious, that she
431 did not respond. Officer Pedraza stated it had taken her many hours to respond to that
432 point, therefore, he knows she might have thought he was becoming a creep. He stated
433 once she did not text back, he was not going to push the issue for the reason of the Theft.
434 Sgt. ██████ again confirmed this is not something he normally does, and Officer Pedraza
435 stated, that is correct. Sgt. ██████ stated this began because he observed suspicious
436 activity. Sgt. ██████ stated that Officer Pedraza was aware of where the female lived, and
437 he agreed.

438

439 I asked Officer Pedraza to explain one more time why he felt the female might
440 think he is a creep. He stated, it is not every day that a police officer stops you, gives you
441 a warning, and then a few hours later, "hey this is so and so". He said that does not
442 happen very often and he tried to call her several times. He stated he would have rather
443 spoken to her by calling and saying this is Officer Pedraza, I have your insurance card, do
444 you want it back or can I throw it away. He said she obviously did not answer, and he
445 did not want to pull a CR# for found property so that is why he text her.

446

447 I told him again that I had watched his body worn camera and I saw him hand
448 documents back to her. I asked him if he was saying that one piece of paper got
449 separated and fell in his car and he stated that was correct. I told him since I saw that on
450 the camera, I called her and asked her if the officer gave her back all the documentation
451 that she had given him, and she stated she did. I asked him how he ended up with her
452 paperwork if she was saying that everything, she handed him he brought back to her car
453 and handed it back. Officer Pedraza stated there were several pieces of paper folded
454 together so he does not know if a third piece of paper fell out at that point. He also said
455 he watched his camera and saw him hand the documents back to her. He stated, later on,
456 he observed there was a proof of insurance piece of paper on the floor of his car.

457

458 I asked him what he did with that piece of paper. He stated he threw it in the
459 trash. I asked him what trash and he stated his personal trash at his home. I confirmed
460 and asked him if he took the document home and threw it in his personal trash, and he

461 stated yes. He stated he has a routine at the end of the day, he collects all of his stuff and
462 puts it in his bag and his duty bag goes into his truck. He stated when he gets home, he
463 takes everything out and throws it in the trash. He stated he believes it is frowned upon
464 to throw personal information or these types of things in a normal trash can at the station.
465 I asked him if there is a shredding room two doors down from the roll call room, and he
466 stated there was. I asked him if the shredding room is locked and he stated it is not. I
467 confirmed that there are locked bins in the shredding room that have slots in them that
468 you could slide documents you don't want to put in a normal trashcan, and they will be
469 shredded. He agreed. I asked him if there was a reason, he did not use the shredding
470 room for this document and he stated he honestly did not think about it. He said he
471 normally just wads up papers and throws them on the other side of his car and at the end
472 of the day, collects them. He said he throws them in his duty bag and throws his duty bag
473 in his truck and when he gets home, he parks right next to the trash can and he pulls all
474 the stuff out and throws it away.

475

476 I told him if the female told me that she got back every piece of paper she handed
477 him, I asked if she would be lying. He stated he cannot say she is lying; all he is saying
478 is it is plausible there was a third document that fell. He stated you cannot rule this
479 scenario out because that is exactly what happened. He stated he understands the totality
480 of everything and how it looks, but he was trying to do the right thing. He stated he has
481 gotten in trouble for something similar to this in the past and he was trying to avoid
482 getting in any more trouble.

483

484 I told Officer Pedraza, one problem I am having with this is in one hand he is
485 telling me he is trying to avoid getting in trouble because he has a piece of property that
486 belongs to her and he attempts to call her, and then he texts her and asked her if he could
487 throw this away. Officer Pedraza said yes, that was correct. I told him that should be the
488 end of the discussion and you are not in trouble. Officer Pedraza stated that looking back
489 in hindsight, that is obvious. I told him then, on the other hand, he is saying the reason he
490 kept talking to her was because he was so suspicious of the first incident where he never
491 even questioned anything about the suspicious behavior at the Loaf N Jug. But now, two

492 hours later, he was digging through text messages and was asking how old she is, telling
493 her I hope you don't think I'm a creeper, who do you live with, and where do you work.
494 I told him I agreed with Sgt. [REDACTED] that he missed his opportunity regarding probable
495 cause to ask these questions. I stated, as a 19-year-old girl, - Officer Pedraza interrupted
496 me and stated, "woman". I told him as a 19-year-old woman, I believe in her eyes this
497 would be pretty creepy. Officer Pedraza stated that is why he felt if he explained who he
498 was and what his business was, he stated he understood if after this contact he would
499 have gone and added her on Instagram and Facebook and liked her photos, then
500 absolutely he would agree with this 100%.

501

502 He went on to say, without being disrespectful, he did not know how to say it, but
503 that 19-year-old girl was not attractive to him. He stated he has a wonderful and
504 beautiful fiancé at home, and he gets hit on all the time while he is at work. He stated if
505 he wanted to hit on somebody or hook up with somebody, there are plenty of
506 opportunities and he would not go force an opportunity with a 19-year-old girl who was
507 not attractive. Officer Pedraza went on to say that the female's breath stunk, and she had
508 yellow teeth. He stated he has a beautiful fiancé that he would not jeopardize for this
509 female. He stated if he was going to do this, he would be with somebody a heck of a lot
510 better than that. He stated that was all he was trying to say, and he gets hit on all the time
511 and he knows the barrier and he stops it all the time. He stated this is something he does
512 not actively do, and he has not been doing it for seven years. He stated this is just one
513 circumstance that looks terrible and he understands why. He stated if he was a father
514 who had a 19-year-old daughter and she received these text messages, he would be
515 absolutely pissed off.

516

517 Sgt. [REDACTED] asked him if he thought the female could have felt harassed from this
518 incident. He stated in his opinion, he felt she might have been forced to come in and file
519 a complaint. He stated if the female was so harassed, she would not have sent the smiley
520 face emoji. He stated she is not obligated to send a text message back. He stated when
521 she did not text back originally, he did not text her and that was the end of it. He again
522 stated, she is not obligated to text back. He explained that he did not have her detained

523 and he was not forcing her to give him information. He stated a text message is voluntary
524 and it works both ways and she did not have to text back. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked, what if she
525 would have text back and said, hey, what's going on, let's hook up. Officer Pedraza said
526 no, absolutely not. He stated in the seven years he has worked here; he has never had a
527 complaint like that before. He stated his MO is not to go out and meet women on his job.
528 He said it is not that hard to do if you wanted to because people hit on you all the time,
529 but that is not what this is about.

530

531 Sgt. [REDACTED] told him to go back regarding his comment that he is known as the
532 handsome officer on the east side. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked him who calls him the handsome
533 officer on the east side. He stated a female named [REDACTED] whom he refers to as "[REDACTED]
534 [REDACTED]". He also stated the people at the 7-Eleven call him the handsome officer. And he
535 said a lot of the lower east side people. Sgt. [REDACTED] explained that he worked the lower
536 east side for approximately 11 years and was never hit on once and was never known one
537 time as the handsome officer. Officer Pedraza stated he understood. He continued to try
538 to think of [REDACTED] last name but didn't. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated, so two people know you as
539 the handsome officer, and Officer Pedraza stated that was right. Sgt. [REDACTED] told him that
540 this was the first time he had ever heard Officer Pedraza was known as the handsome
541 officer. He stated he gets called that a lot and he also stated that Officer [REDACTED] used to
542 get called it a lot.

543

544 Sgt. [REDACTED] asked him if he had ever done this before with any other female, and
545 he stated no. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked if there would be any reason why another female would
546 come forward and tell us that he has done it before, and he again stated no. He stated it is
547 not his MO and if he had done it, he would have been in our office prior to this. He went
548 on to state he is not a good liar and when he tries to lie to his fiancé he gets caught. He
549 stated if this had happened prior, there is no way he would have been able to hide lies for
550 seven years during his career. He stated if he was doing this prior, he would have got
551 caught a long time ago. He said he has a fiancé who he has worked very hard to fix his
552 relationship with her in the last couple of years and that is what he is doing. Sgt. [REDACTED]

553 asked if they were having marital problems now and he stated no, they were getting
554 married in May.

555

556 Sgt. ██████ told him we were going to discuss a little bit more about the
557 suspicious activity he was so concerned about. He told Officer Pedraza he is a “common
558 sense” type of person and Officer Pedraza agreed. Sgt. ██████ told him, that is why none
559 of this makes sense when you have common sense. Sgt. ██████ said none of it makes
560 sense to him because none of it fits, from the first time he contacted these girls to the end
561 when he was contacting them. He stated if he truly thought something was happening at
562 the Loaf N Jug, why did he wait to make a traffic stop, why didn't he contact them at the
563 gas pump. Sgt. ██████ went on to explain that even though he waited until the traffic
564 stop, then he did not ask them any questions regarding the Loaf N Jug, and Officer
565 Pedraza agreed. Sgt. ██████ stated that he obtained her address and phone number and
566 asked if he even went by her address, and Officer Pedraza stated he did not. Sgt. ██████
567 stated he could have run license plates on cars at the address and asked him why he did
568 not follow up any further with his suspicion. Officer Pedraza stated, in his opinion, that
569 would have been even more creepy. Sgt. ██████ stated he had all these suspicions, so
570 what would be the next step, running the license plates at her house, she could be living
571 with drug dealers. Officer Pedraza stated that was correct, he had mentioned that. Sgt.
572 ██████ stated, well, you failed to follow up any further on your supposed suspicion.

573

574 Sgt. ██████ told Officer Pedraza he was not trying to come down on him, just
575 none of it made sense to him. Sgt. ██████ told him what does make sense is he made the
576 traffic stop and then he followed it up with inappropriate texts when it was not needed,
577 and it does make this department look bad. Sgt. ██████ told him you need to put yourself
578 in other people's shoes. For instance, if another officer did this to your wife and when
579 she came down to complain, that officer said I never did this before, and this was a one-
580 off. Sgt. ██████ went on to say that Officer Pedraza had all these suspicions about these
581 females and never asked one question regarding his suspicions. Officer Pedraza stated he
582 is being honest and that is what occurred, from the beginning.

583

584 Officer Pedraza stated the dash cam shows everything as well as his body worn
585 camera. He said on the traffic stop, you can see he never flirts with her or anything and it
586 is all professional during the traffic stop. Sgt. ██████ told him he keeps contradicting
587 himself because he keeps saying that all he does is want to dig because that is what good
588 cops do. Officer Pedraza agreed and stated that was correct. Sgt. ██████ told him, no it is
589 not, good cops dig when they have the opportunity to dig but once they break that contact
590 and there is no probable cause, they move on. Sgt. ██████ said, well, why did you
591 continue to dig on this when you say you have never done it before, and this is not my
592 MO. Sgt. ██████ told him this woman felt harassed and felt creeped out and that is why
593 she came down and complained. Sgt. ██████ asked him if her complaint was valid, and
594 Officer Pedraza stated he would say “No” because she voluntarily texted back. Sgt.
595 ██████ asked if this was the female’s fault. Officer Pedraza stated he did not say that.
596 Sgt. ██████ told him he was basically not taking any responsibility for what he did and
597 since she is the one who texted him back and gave him a smiley face, everything is cool.
598 Officer Pedraza stated all he is saying is he is being completely honest with us. He stated
599 if he did this, he would take his spanking like he is going to take it for the last thing he
600 messed up on.

601

602 Sgt. ██████ informed him, our job is to make sure he does not get into trouble and
603 mess up over and over and over, and Pedraza stated he agreed. Sgt. ██████ told him that
604 he acknowledged a red flag was going up when he told her he hoped he did not creep her
605 out, and Officer Pedraza stated he agreed. Sgt. ██████ told him, there is your red flag,
606 that should tell you, you should not be doing it. Sgt. ██████ told him we do have policy
607 and procedures and if you have documents at the end of the day, you should have tagged
608 them into Property and avoided this situation. Officer Pedraza stated he agreed.

609

610 Sgt. ██████ asked him again if her complaint was valid and he again stated, in his
611 opinion, “No”. He stated he is aware of other officers who have added people on
612 Instagram or Facebook after contact with them and then creeped on them, and he did not
613 do that with her. He said if he was that interested in her, he would have added her on
614 Instagram or looked her up on Facebook or something. Officer Pedraza again stated he

615 knows it looks weird and the totality of it appears weird, but it is not his MO. But in his
616 opinion, he never went outside of the professional realm. He stated it was not like he
617 said, hey, what are you doing this weekend, or do you have a boyfriend. Sgt. [REDACTED]
618 asked, what if she would have taken him up on it and said, let's have a cup of coffee or
619 something. Again, Officer Pedraza stated he has been hit on before, but he is engaged,
620 and second of all he can't do that with his job.

621

622 Sgt. [REDACTED] asked him what he could have done differently. Officer Pedraza said
623 he could have had dispatch call her. He stated he does not recall if there was a voice mail
624 set up but if there was, he could have left a voice mail. He also said he could have tagged
625 the paper into Property and left it alone.

626

627 I told him I needed to make it clear that the reason he texted her was because he
628 had an expired insurance card of hers in his car, and he stated that was correct. I also told
629 him that just to clarify, the reason he did this is because he had gotten in trouble prior to
630 this incident for having people's documents, and he stated that was correct. I asked him,
631 when he got the answer that he could throw it away, why go down the path of asking
632 questions like he asked and how does those questions even remotely fit into a possible
633 Theft from the Loaf N Jug earlier that day. Officer Pedraza again stated you just dig. He
634 said he would assume that the plates came back to her mom or dad but he did not get
635 their names, so he did not know. He said he did not look to see if the insurance cards
636 matched the registration. He went on to say he just digs and that is what he does, and he
637 understands looking back on it, how he should have stopped. But he was just digging,
638 and his "Spidey" senses were going off because something was not right.

639

640 I told him he mentioned if he was interested in her he would have got on
641 Instagram or Facebook or something like that. He stated he does not have a Facebook
642 account, but he does have Instagram and Snapchat and, yes, he would have looked her up
643 if he was interested in her. I asked him if after this day (the day he stopped her) he had
644 contact with her, if he ever drove by her house or tried to contact her through Facebook

645 or anything else, or if he ever tried to contact her again, and he said, "No sir". He said he
646 never went by her house and never did any of that and he is not worried about that.

647

648 Sgt. ██████ asked him if he gave her his business card that day and he said he did.
649 Sgt. ██████ asked if he did a field contact card and he said he did not. Sgt. ██████ asked
650 him why he did not, and he stated again that he thought everything matched up and if it
651 matches up, he does not have to do it. Sgt. ██████ told him again, he said he is digging on
652 everything and he had all these suspicious feelings about her. Sgt. ██████ asked what she
653 could have. Officer Pedraza said possibly stolen stuff in the car. Sgt. ██████ told him he
654 had an opportunity to dig in a lot of ways if he was really wanting to dig, but it was never
655 done from the start. Officer Pedraza stated he knows sending a text as a police officer is
656 unorthodox, but if he would have gone by her house, his GPS being by her house would
657 make it even more weird and that would even be harder to explain. He said if she would
658 have looked out her window and saw his patrol car out there, that would have been
659 worse.

660

661 Sgt. ██████ said, in his opinion, it is harder to explain that he is saying he is
662 digging but he never digs. Sgt. ██████ told him his suspicions were in his mind, but they
663 were never projected in any conversation with these ladies. Officer Pedraza said again he
664 knows it looks weird, but it is not his MO. Sgt. ██████ asked him if he was ever trained
665 by the Pueblo Police Department to text women after a traffic stop, and he stated he was
666 not. Sgt. ██████ asked him if any other officers at the Pueblo Police Department showed
667 him how to do that and he stated no.

668

669 I told Officer Pedraza I was aware you could block your number to call
670 somebody, but I asked him if that was possible on a text. He stated the text is an app that
671 he has on his phone. He stated it is not his number that shows up. He said he uses it for
672 work when people have to send him video or something. He said he can have people
673 send it to his Text Now app number and then he can send it to his email from his Text
674 Now app number. He said he does not want people to have his personal cell phone
675 number. He said the Text Now app is a tool he uses at work. I asked him if he texted the

676 female through that app and he said yes. I asked him if a different number shows up than
677 his true cell phone number and he said that is correct. I asked him what his personal cell
678 phone number is, and he said [REDACTED] I asked him if the Text Now app always
679 attaches the same false number. He stated it changes periodically, that way people cannot
680 constantly reach out to you. I asked him if every text is from a different number or how
681 often it changes the number. He said he does not know how often it changes the number.
682 I confirmed that if he gets video from a store during an investigation, it comes to this
683 Text Now app, and then he can forward it to his email and he stated that was correct, or
684 he could send it to his normal phone number.

685

686 Sgt. [REDACTED] asked him if he had told anyone about this incident and he stated he
687 has not. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked if he had told his wife and he said he has not. Sgt. [REDACTED] told
688 Officer Pedraza if he does not think he did anything wrong, how is this going to be
689 prevented in the future. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked him if he thought there would be anyone else
690 that would come forward and say this officer did the same thing to them and he said
691 absolutely not.

692

693 I told him, just so I had my facts in order, the reason for the stop was because of
694 suspicious activity at the gas pumps and then he got behind the vehicle and the plates
695 were expired. He said, just to be clear, he was not planning on stopping the vehicle but
696 when he came around to Lake Ave., the vehicle had already left the parking lot and was
697 in front of him and that is when he saw the plates were expired and gave him the PC to
698 stop the car. I told him she did not have insurance and the plates were expired, but he
699 gave her a warning and did not ask any questions about the suspicious activity at the Loaf
700 N Jug. He stated that was correct. A couple of hours later, he saw the insurance card in
701 his car, and he stated that is correct. He tried to call her four to five times, and he stated
702 that is correct. He did not get any response from the call so that is when he sent the text.
703 He again said, yes sir. The reason for reaching out to her is because he did not want to
704 get in trouble for having the expired insurance card. He again stated yes sir. From that, it
705 went into him digging about the possible Theft at the Loaf N Jug, and that is when he got
706 into the conversation about who was with her in the car, do you live with your parents,

707 how old are you, and where do you work, and he stated that is correct. She did not
708 respond to him when he asked where she worked and then I confirmed he threw the
709 insurance card away at home, and he stated that was correct. I confirmed he threw it in
710 his personal trash can, and he said correct. And this was an isolated incident, and he has
711 never seen her again, or reached out to her in any way again, and he said, "No sir".

712

713 Officer Pedraza asked if he could say in his closing statements that he understands
714 how it looks on the totality of the circumstances, especially being in our shoes. He said,
715 in his shoes, he always gets accused of a lot of things. He said he is not trying to build
716 himself up, but he always gets accused of flirting with women by other police officers
717 and rumors go around. He said he does not know how else to put it but, when you are a
718 good-looking dude there are always rumors. He said it happens all the time and it is
719 frustrating. He said if was 250 pounds, would we "be here" (in Internal Affairs), and he
720 stated I don't know, but he does not think so. He stated, is it because he is young and he
721 is good looking, he does not know, but it is frustrating. He said it is not just him but there
722 are other young, good looking cops that are talking to a female and people assume they
723 are flirting. He again stated he knows how it looks, but he did not go beyond
724 professional. He stated he did not add her on social media or go by her address or ask
725 what her Snapchat username is and stuff like that. He stated he did not feel he went over
726 the hump to be unprofessional, but he understands the totality of the circumstances looks
727 weird. There was a pause, and then he went on to say that in no way was she attractive at
728 all.

729

730 I told him I appreciate his closing statement, but I pointed out that this incident is
731 not a rumor, this is fact, and it happened. He stated, sure. I told him that is why it is
732 before us at this point, and he stated he understands. I asked him if he answered our
733 questions truthfully today and he stated he did. I asked him if he felt like he violated any
734 Pueblo Police Department policies during this incident and he stated he did not.

735

736 ██████████ stated he had a couple of comments before the interview ended. ██████████
737 ██████████ told Officer Pedraza he was asked why he did not stop her for the expired plates

738 prior to her leaving the pumps and asked him if he could see that the plates were expired
739 when she was at the pumps. Officer Pedraza said he could not. ██████ asked him if he
740 felt he did not have enough reasonable suspicion or probable cause to ask her and her
741 friend about his suspicions of their behavior, and he stated that was correct. ██████
742 said that is why you did not get in their face and ask what they stole, and he would have
743 violated her rights if he had done that, and Officer Pedraza stated that was correct. ██████
744 ██████ asked if the female had a license and Officer Pedraza stated she did not have one on
745 her person. ██████ asked him if when she provided her registration and proof of
746 insurance, if the documents were in a bundle and he stated they were. ██████ asked if
747 when she provided the documents, she pulled them apart and inventoried them and said
748 here you go, four documents. Officer Pedraza stated she did not. ██████ asked him if
749 he pulled them apart and inventoried them and he said he did not. ██████ clarified that
750 she gave Officer Pedraza a bundle of paper and he gave her a bundle of paper back, and
751 he stated that was correct. ██████ asked him if he believed something slipped out or
752 fell out of the bundle and he stated that is correct. And that document is what he ended
753 up trying to contact her about, and he stated that was correct. ██████ asked if the
754 female's gender had anything to do with Officer Pedraza's actions after the stop and he
755 stated no. ██████ asked if this had been a male and he had the expired insurance card,
756 would he have still contacted that person, even though it was a male, and Pedraza stated
757 absolutely. ██████ asked if he was aware now that there are other tools he could use
758 and he stated absolutely. ██████ asked if he would abide by those other resources in
759 the future and he stated he would. ██████ asked him if he was aware now that there is a
760 shredder bin that can be utilized at the police department. Officer Pedraza stated he was
761 aware of it then, but he is more aware now that is the proper way to do it. ██████ stated
762 he would just make a comment that he would recommend Officer Pedraza use the
763 shredder bin in the future and not throw someone's personal property away at his own
764 house.

765
766 Sgt. ██████ stated he had another question based off ██████ comments. He
767 stated that if you are saying you did not have probable cause to question them further
768 about the possible theft when you were in contact with them, the follow up texts were

769 about following up on the expired plates? Officer Pedraza stated, with all due respect,
770 that was just voluntary information, she is not required to answer a text. He stated he is
771 not interviewing her, and he does not have her detained, and all the information she was
772 providing was voluntary. He went on to say, but the reason for the texts was to find out
773 more about this person because the “tingling sensation” was going off.

774

775 I told him I had a couple of questions based on the other questions [REDACTED] had.
776 I told him a lot of times, insurance cards are small and sometimes they are a full page. I
777 asked if these were a full page and he stated they were. I confirmed it was not a little
778 card that fell out of the bundle of paper, and he stated that is correct, it was a full page. I
779 asked him if he was saying he did not notice the full page on his floorboard of his car
780 until two hours later and he stated that was correct. He stated it was stuck in between the
781 floorboard and the seat where the center console is.

782

783 I told him [REDACTED] brought up the point that the gender of the person did not have
784 anything to do with this incident. I asked him if it was a male, would he have asked how
785 old he was and if he lived with his parents, and he stated sure, absolutely.

786

787 Nobody had any further statements or questions and the interview ended at this
788 time.

789

790 Based on the information learned during this interview, I contacted Sgt. [REDACTED]
791 [REDACTED] regarding the Text Now app Officer Pedraza said he used to text [REDACTED]
792 Sgt. [REDACTED] was assigned to the high-tech crime unit prior to being promoted to Sergeant.
793 I explained to Sgt. [REDACTED] that Officer Pedraza admitted he texted [REDACTED] through his Text
794 Now app on [REDACTED] later in the day after the traffic stop. During his interview when
795 asked on two separate occasions, Officer Pedraza stated he never contacted or attempted
796 to contact [REDACTED] in any way after [REDACTED] Officer Pedraza also stated he believes his
797 Text Now app changes phone numbers randomly, but he did not know how often or
798 when. I explained to Sgt. [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] provided me copies of the text messages and
799 it showed Officer Pedraza texted her from phone number [REDACTED] on the day of

800 the traffic stop [REDACTED]. I observed in the same text "string" from the same number, on
801 [REDACTED] he texted her again stating "Hey you". I asked Sgt. [REDACTED] how
802 Text Now works and if it was possible the text on [REDACTED] could have been sent from
803 someone else.

804
805 Sgt. [REDACTED] informed me he was familiar with the Text Now app but stated he
806 would research it further to ensure he would provide accurate information. Sgt. [REDACTED]
807 later informed me his research revealed you can change the number that appears when
808 you use a Text Now app every 15 days. He stated a person would have to request the
809 change because the Text Now app will not change the random number unless requested.
810 As for my question regarding if it was possible the last text on [REDACTED] could have come
811 from someone other than Officer Pedraza. Sgt. [REDACTED] explained for this to occur, Officer
812 Pedraza would have had to request a number change, therefore dropping phone number
813 [REDACTED]. Someone else would have had to get assigned this number through their
814 Text Now account. That person would have had to have [REDACTED] number and then texted
815 her something that flowed with the conversation in the text "string" such as "Hey you".

816
817 I wanted to recontact [REDACTED] and clarify if she missed any calls the day Officer
818 Pedraza stopped her because he said he attempted to call her three to five times. He
819 stated he blocked his number when he tried to call her. I called [REDACTED] and she did not
820 answer. I did hear that she had a voice message set up which identified herself and
821 requested people calling leave her a message. I left [REDACTED] a message requesting she call
822 me back. It should be noted I recalled Officer Pedraza stated he could not remember if
823 [REDACTED] had a voice message set up.

824
825 Due to the fact when this incident occurred, Patrol Officers were working four
826 days on and four days off because of the COVID Pandemic, I emailed payroll
827 [REDACTED] and asked her to confirm the days officer Pedraza worked. She
828 informed me Officer Pedraza worked **01/10/21 through 01/13/21**, was off **01/14/21**
829 **through 01/17/21**. She stated he worked **01/18/21 through 01/21/21**. Officer Pedraza
830 pulled [REDACTED] over on [REDACTED] and text messaged her later in the evening on [REDACTED]

831 [REDACTED] forwarded me the messages and I observed Officer Pedraza began texting her at
832 [REDACTED] I interviewed [REDACTED] on **01/18/21** and during that interview, she
833 informed me Officer Pedraza texted her again earlier on **01/18/21**. I asked her to forward
834 that message to me and I observed he did message her at 12:23pm on **01/18/21**. The
835 message said, "Hey you". When [REDACTED] sent me this message, I observed Officer Pedraza
836 also texted her on **01/12/21** at 11:59am which was the day after the traffic stop and that
837 text stated, "where do you work". [REDACTED] responded, "I have two jobs actually", Officer
838 Pedraza texted, "Where at" and [REDACTED] did not respond. Based on the text messages
839 [REDACTED] sent me as well as her statements, I determined Officer Pedraza texted her the day
840 of the traffic stop (**01/11/21**), the day after the traffic stop (**01/12/21**) and then again after
841 his days off (**01/18/21**).

842

843 [REDACTED] **phone Interview**

844

845 [REDACTED] returned my call and I asked her if she had her voice message set up and
846 activated on [REDACTED] when she was pulled over by Officer Pedraza and she said she did.
847 She went on to say she has had the voice message set up ever since she got her phone. I
848 asked her if she missed three to five calls from any number prior to Officer Pedraza
849 texting her. She stated she had no missed calls that day. I confirmed she did not have
850 any missed calls or voice messages from a blocked phone number, and she again stated
851 she did not have any missed calls. I asked her to look at the packet of paperwork she
852 handed Officer Pedraza and he handed back to her. I asked her to try to confirm she got
853 it all back when he handed it to her.

854

855 [REDACTED] sent me four photographs. The first photo is of the bundle of papers in an
856 envelope. The second photo is of her work permission slip from [REDACTED] allowing
857 her to be out after curfew during the COVID pandemic. She told me she did not know if
858 she handed Officer Pedraza the permission slip from [REDACTED] but it was in the
859 envelope with the other papers in the "Bundle". The third photo she sent showed the
860 vehicle registration. The fourth photo showed two copies of her insurance cards.

861

862

863 Officer Pedraza BWC

864

865 I re-watched Officer Pedraza's BWC closely and observed the following. He
866 contacts [REDACTED] at her driver side window at 11:27:28 and he explains to her that her
867 plates are expired. He asks for her driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.
868 At 11:27:35 she reaches to the cubby underneath her steering wheel and grabs a packet of
869 paperwork. At 11:27:39 [REDACTED] is holding an envelope the vehicle registration came in
870 and a packet or bundle of papers are folded up and sticking out the top of the envelope.
871 [REDACTED] pulls the bundle of papers out of the envelope and then pulls the registration out of
872 the envelope. She hands the registration to Officer Pedraza at 11:27:47. Officer Pedraza
873 shows her and verbally explains the registration expired on December 31 which is 11
874 days prior to this stop. [REDACTED] unfolds the bundle of papers she took from the envelope.

875

876 At 11:28:00 she shows Officer Pedraza the full page (11x7) insurance. At this
877 point, [REDACTED] and Officer Pedraza both have their hand on the insurance page. At
878 11:27:05 Officer Pedraza has the insurance page and explains it is expired. Also, at this
879 time, you can see in the bottom right-hand corner of the insurance paper, there is a second
880 piece of paper behind the copy Officer Pedraza is looking at. [REDACTED] begins looking for
881 another insurance card and looks in the same envelope she was holding and there is no
882 other paperwork in the envelope. At 11:28:13, the wind blows the top insurance paper
883 Officer Pedraza is holding and exposes a second insurance card. At 11:28:26, Officer
884 Pedraza is holding the vehicle registration in his left hand and the two insurance cards in
885 his right hand and is discussing valid insurance with [REDACTED] as she is looking for a valid
886 insurance. At 11:28:32, Officer Pedraza uses his finger to flip the first insurance card he
887 is holding and looks at the second insurance card.

888

889 At 11:28:44 Officer Pedraza folds the two insurance cards together in 1/4th, the
890 same way they were when [REDACTED] took them out of the envelope. Officer Pedraza asks for
891 her name and then her date of birth. He then writes her DOB on the folded insurance

892 papers. He puts his pen away and then asks for her address and at 11:29:10 he writes her
893 address on the insurance paperwork. Officer Pedraza returns to his patrol vehicle.

894

895 Once seated in his patrol vehicle, you can see at 11:29:30 Officer Pedraza has the
896 vehicle registration in his left hand and the two insurance cards in his right hand. I could
897 see [REDACTED] DOB and address on the insurance card where Officer Pedraza wrote it.
898 Officer Pedraza sets the paperwork down on his console area and then types on his
899 computer. At 11:29:51, Officer Pedraza unfolds the two copies of insurance. As he does
900 this, I could clearly see he used his thumb to flip through two pieces of paper. He views
901 the insurance information and types on his computer. At 11:30:01 he folds the two
902 copies of insurance in half and then turns them to see [REDACTED] DOB he wrote down.
903 After seeing her information, he finishes folding the two copies of insurance into 1/4th
904 and moves them to his left hand and he continues to use his computer with his right hand.

905

906 At 11:31:09 Officer Pedraza grabs his cell phone from the pocket of his duty bag
907 that was sitting on the passenger seat. Officer Pedraza sits in his car and his hands cannot
908 be seen until 11:33:47 you can see his hands moving and you can briefly see the vehicle
909 registration. At 11:33:58 takes his notebook out of his uniform pocket. He writes stuff
910 down in his notebook. At 11:34:32 he opens his door and then exits his patrol vehicle.

911

912 At 11:34:42 he re-contacts [REDACTED] and asks if she found an up to date insurance
913 card. She tells him she did not. At 11:34:45, Officer Pedraza reaches out to hand [REDACTED]
914 the paperwork he had. In his right hand I could see his ink pen and the folded insurance
915 cards. I could tell they were the same insurance cards because I could see his writing on
916 them where he wrote [REDACTED] DOB and Address. I could see the folded insurance cards
917 were folded around the vehicle registration. Officer Pedraza held on to the paperwork
918 and [REDACTED] continued to explain her dad did not realize the insurance was expired. She
919 also said her dad wanted her to ask about the grace period for expired license plates.
920 Officer Pedraza explained the grace period to not pay a late fee, but law enforcement can
921 stop you during the grace period. He explained he was not going to write her a ticket, but
922 she needs to get insurance. At 11:25:21 Officer Pedraza hands her the bundle of

923 paperwork back. I could still see the insurance cards with her DOB and address were
924 folded over the registration. After she has the paperwork, they continue to talk for a short
925 time about the grace period for license plates. At 11:35:36 Officer Pedraza asks for her
926 address again and writes it in his notebook. He then asks for a good phone number to
927 reach her and she provides [REDACTED] Officer Pedraza writes the number in his
928 notebook. He again tells her to get valid insurance and license plates. At 11:36:33
929 Officer Pedraza provides her with his business card and then ends the contact and walks
930 back to his vehicle. As Officer Pedraza is getting into his vehicle at 11:36:43, I can see a
931 majority of the driver side floorboard, the entire center console, and the entire driver's
932 seat and I did not observe any paper that may have dropped out of the bundle.

933

934 I decided to interview Officer Pedraza again regarding the inconsistencies in his
935 statements regarding finding an insurance card in his car, throwing it away, and the text
936 messages to [REDACTED] I completed another 48-hour notice and scheduled an interview with
937 Officer Pedraza on 03/26/21 at 2:00pm. I served the notice on Officer Pedraza on
938 03/19/21 and he signed it.

939

940 On 03/23/21 [REDACTED] contacted me and informed me Officer Pedraza gave him
941 an [REDACTED]
942 [REDACTED] stated this time off would obviously conflict with the interview
943 that was scheduled for 03/26/21. He also stated this note was not from Pedraza's [REDACTED]
944 [REDACTED] but Pedraza was going to [REDACTED] I
945 requested [REDACTED] send me the note. I received the note form [REDACTED] via email on
946 03/23/21. The note was dated 03/23/21 and in the remarks column simply stated,

947

To whom it may concern,

948

[REDACTED]

949

950

Thank you,

951

[REDACTED]

952

953 I completed a google search on [REDACTED] and learned he is based out
954 of Mountain View California. According to the website, he is licensed in approximately
955 18 states. I contacted Human Resources and was informed the police department (City of
956 Pueblo) must honor the [REDACTED] from California because [REDACTED]
957 [REDACTED]

958

959 I completed another 48-hour notice re-scheduling the interview with Pedraza. I
960 scheduled the interview for 04/02/21 at 8:00am. I emailed the new 48-hour notice to [REDACTED]
961 [REDACTED] and he acknowledged he received it and excepted it for Pedraza. Shortly after this I
962 learned Officer Pedraza [REDACTED] and the follow-up interview has
963 not been conducted at this point.

964

965 I learned Officer Pedraza's [REDACTED] expired on 08/25/21. Per discussions
966 with [REDACTED] I authored another 48-hour notice that scheduled an interview in the
967 Internal Affairs section on 09/06/21 at 8:00am. I contacted Sgt. [REDACTED] in the property
968 section and he filled out a priority mail request for FedEx to send the 48-hour notice to
969 Officer Pedraza's residence at [REDACTED] The tracking number on the receipt
970 is [REDACTED] Sgt. [REDACTED] accompanied me to the FedEx location on 08/30/21 at
971 9:11am and sent the 48-hour notice to Officer Pedraza.

972

973 On 08/31/21 I ran the tracking number for you 48-hour notice through FedEx and
974 observed the package was delivered to you on 08/31/21 at 10:30am. On 09/02/21 I
975 received an email from [REDACTED] Attached to the email was a signed
976 resignation letter from Manuel Pedraza. The letter stated he was resigning from the
977 Pueblo Police Department effective 09/03/21. The resignation letter is attached to this
978 case. This is a summary of my investigation.

979

980 **Respectfully,**

981 **Sgt. [REDACTED]**

982

983